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2 **BRINGING THE WONDERFUL LIFE HOME**

Where your real spirituality shows

3 **Colossians 3:16-21**

- 3:16-19 -- *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.*
- 3:20-21 -- *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

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4 **Review – Positive intentional Christian living**

- Remember your position in Christ
- Reflect the grace of Christ (put on the graces)
- Rely on the peace of Christ (to umpire)
- Ruminant in the Word of Christ
 - in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - avoid worldly substitutes for God’s music
 - sing with grace
- Remember to glorify Christ
 - in speech, in actions, with gratitude

5 **Now Paul gets personal...**

- If we have put off the old man and put on the new man
- If we have clothed ourselves with the graces earlier mentioned in this chapter
- If we’re the real deal
- THEN it should show first at home
 - The wife should be happy and at peace
 - The children should be orderly
 - Even the dog should be better!

6 **So what is submission?**

- Not blind obedience
- It is *entrusting oneself to the leadership of another to accomplish a task.*
 - Wife, trust that God is leading you through your husband. Trust your husband, but also:
 - encourage him to follow the Lord
 - gently warn him when he is about to suffer the Lord’s chastening
 - Husband, trust your wife to do you good and not evil.

7 **Obedient children and loving fathers**


God’s Principles for Parenting

8 **WHAT WISE CHILDREN DO**

9 **First: the one under authority**

- Scripture always addresses the ones under authority first:
 - Wives always addressed before husbands

- Children addressed before parents
- Why?
 - Because what is said last is most important and most remembered
 - The responsibility lies heaviest on the one vested with authority

10  **1. Listen**

- 1 • LISTEN to your parents; HEAR your parents
- 2 • Obey = ὑπακούω (*hupakouō*)
 - to hear under (as a subordinate)
 - listen attentively
 - to heed
 - conform to a command or authority, obey
- Habitual and ongoing

11  **Listen (continued)**

- Listening is the prerequisite to obedience
 - 1 Samuel 15:22 – “*And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*”
- Tips to listening to parents’ instructions
 - Ask questions to clarify instructions
 - Write down what they said (especially guys)
 - Understanding usually follows obedience; obey first, then ask for reasons

12  **2. Obey**

- Exodus 20:12 (#5): *Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
- Ephesians 6:2-3 -- *Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

13  **Rebellion is like witchcraft**

- 1 Samuel 15:23a -- *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*
 - Witchcraft is being out from under God’s protection and directly exposed to the influence and power of Satan
 - When we rebel, we remove ourselves from God’s authority and expose ourselves to the influence and power of the enemy

14  **HOW DADS DISCOURAGE**

Colossians 3:21 -- *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

15  **Singling out Dad**

- Paul singles out the fathers for this instruction.
 - Children are to obey their parents (3:20).
 - The FATHER is not to provoke his children to anger and discourage them.

16  **Singling out Dad (2)**


- Why does Paul address the fathers but not the mothers with this instruction?
 - Anger is primarily a man problem.
 - As the one in authority, a father’s anger filters to the whole family.
 - If a wife has a husband that is NOT an angry man, she will be happy and content and unlikely to become angry herself.

17  **4 ways to discourage a child**

- Ignore them
 - Take no time for them
- Indulge them
 - Give them everything they want; they become restless, dissatisfied, and spoiled
- Insult them
 - Name-calling, sarcasm, ridicule
- Intimidate them
 - Threats, unfair expectations

18  **THE KIND OF MAN I NEED TO BE**

Paul lists the qualifications of a deacon and elder in 1 Timothy 3

19  **The godly man**

- 1. Overall spiritual maturity (a well-rounded man)
- 2. Above reproach (a man of good repute)
- 3. The husband of one wife (morally pure)
- 4. Temperate (balanced in words and actions)
- 5. Prudent (wise and humble)
- 6. Respectable (good role model)
- 7. Hospitable (unselfish and generous)
- 8. Able to teach (communicates sensitively in a non-threatening and non-defensive manner)
- 9. Not addicted to wine (not addicted to substances)

20  **The godly man (2)**

- 10. Not self-willed (not self-centered and controlling)
- 11. Not quick-tempered (void of anger that becomes sinful)
- 12. Not pugnacious (not abusive)
- 13. Gentle (sensitive, loving and kind)
- 14. Peaceable (non-argumentative and non-divisive)
- 15. Free from the love of money (non-materialistic)
- 16. Manages his own household well (a good husband and father) (rebuking the devil...)
 - Proverbs 6:20,23

21  **The godly man (3)**

- 17. Loving what is good (pursues godly activities)
- 18. Just (wise, discerning, non-prejudiced and fair)
- 19. Devout (holy, devoted to God)
- 20. Self-controlled (disciplined)
 - Choosing the best instead of the good
 - Not letting life fill up with junk
 - Where is your Bethel?

22  **WHAT CARING DADS DO**

23  **1. Correct with humility**

- Proverbs 14:3 -- "*In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.*"
 - This verse warns against correcting children (rod) with a spirit of pride.

- Proverbs 10:13 -- *In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.*
- Also in Proverbs 13:24, 22:8, 22:15, 23:13, 26:3, 29:15

24  **Correct with humility (continued)**

- Jesus Himself addressed this problem of correcting others while having a wrong attitude of pride (Matthew 7:3-5).
 - *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.*

25  **How do we know we are correcting in pride?**

- If we are correcting harshly because we have had our own rights violated
- If we are making unfavorable comparisons of their behavior to our own
- If prior to correcting we do not first examine our own attitude and actions to see if we are guilty of the same thing
- If we correct for a sin that irritates us without remembering that tendencies to sin are usually inherited from fathers

26  **2. Treat children as a blessing, not an inconvenience**

- Proverbs 14:4 – *Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.*
 - Easier to keep a clean house without kids
 - Fathers, from the time that the first hatchling arrives in your nest, you may never have a clean nest again without it becoming an empty nest
 - Easier to maintain schedule without kids
 - Yes there are sacrifices to being a father. You will give of your time, your schedule, your wants, your desires, your wishes – but don't give up. The rewards outweigh the sacrifices!

27  **Treat children as a blessing....**

- *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*
- Children are God's BLESSING, His REWARD, His HERITAGE.
 - They are not yours, but a gift entrusted to you for a short time from God.
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28  **Malachi 4:6**

- Malachi 4:6 – *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*
- All children are blessings from the Lord (not just ours)!

29  **3. Exchange worldly influence for godly influence**

- Proverbs 14:7 -- *Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.*
 - *Keseel* means "fool, stupid fellow, dullard, simpleton, arrogant one."
 - Knowledge – knowledge, perception, skill; discernment, understanding, wisdom.

30  **Get encouragement from**

godly men

- The wrong friends can doom you to failure as a man and as a Dad
- Read Christian biographies:
 - Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, C.T. Studd, William Carey, Borden of Yale, John Wesley, Billy Graham
- Proverbs 17:24 – *"Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth."*
 - Keep wise things in front of your eyes.

31 4. Emphasize character training

- Proverbs 14:11 – *"The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish."*

32 House or tent?

1 House

- 2 • A house seems permanent
- A house seems luxurious
- A house is expensive.
- BUT: In this verse, the house belongs to a wicked person
 - "Guilty one, hostile to God; ignores God or treats Him as relatively unimportant in the scheme of life."

3 Tent

- 4 • Tents are temporary
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- Tents are plain
- Tents are inexpensive
- BUT: In this verse, the tent belongs to the upright person
 - "Straightforward, upright, righteous; listens to God and makes Him a priority in life."

33 The house of the wicked

- The house that seemed permanent, luxurious, comfortable, but whose inhabitants ignored God and failed to glorify Him in their daily lives – that house is overthrown by the consequences of its own wickedness.
- It is devastated.

34 The tent of the upright

- The transitory nature of the tent helps them to keep their focus on the greater permanency of heavenly rewards.
- The plainness of their earthly abode helps them focus on the glory of Christ.
- The "cheap" cost of their dwelling allows them to put more riches into eternal investments through sacrificial giving.

35 The tent of the upright (2)

- The mobility of their tent allows them to be available to serve God wherever He calls.
- This family doesn't self-destruct – it flourishes. It means "to bud, sprout, send out shoots, blossom, to cause to bud or sprout."

36 Develop character in your children

- Children of godly character are our great legacy and greatest credentials.
 - Read Proverbs daily with your family. Stress a new character theme each month.
 - Learn God's Basic Principles of life
 - Praise children for character, not achievement.

- Praise children for character, not unchangeables (flattery).
 - Learn definitions of godly character.
 - Model godly character (more caught than taught).
- 37 **5. Overcome the spirit of anger**
- Proverbs 14:16-17 -- *"A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated."*
 - "Rageth" – to pass over for notice; to ignore, to alienate; to pass quick judgment upon.
 - Confident – "secure, bold, to be careless."
 - "Soon angry" = "flare your nostrils" (Hebrew).
 - You "deal foolishly." Literally, you "make folly."
 - An angry father poses far more danger to a child than the Internet and TV.
- 38 **Anger's Sudden Destruction**
- 39 **Reactor Warning Signs**
- 40 **The Warning Signs of Anger**
- 41 **The Warning Signs of Anger (2)**
- 42 **Other Warning Signs**
- Flaring nostrils
 - Squinting eyes
 - Frowning
 - Critical look toward others
 - Aggressive posture
 - Raised voice
- 43 **What does God say about anger?**
- Psalm 37:8 lists anger as "evil." -- *Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.*
 - Proverbs 19:19 -- *A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.*
 - Ecclesiastes 7:9 -- *Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*
- 44 **What does God say about anger? (2)**
- Galatians 5:19-20 -- *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 - God takes "wrath" seriously. Look at the company of sins in which He lists it!
- 45 **What does God say about anger? (3)**
- Ephesians 4:31 -- *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*
 - Colossians 3:8 -- *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*
 - I Timothy 2:8 -- *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without*

wrath and doubting.

– Anger, wrath, etc. hinder your prayers. Is that what you want?

46 **What does God say about anger? (4)**

- James 1:20 -- *For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*
 - Men must realize that ANGER is a particular problem for them.
 - The Bible mentions 52 men and two groups of men as being angry.

47 **What does God say about anger? (5)**

- Proverbs 14:29 – *“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”*
 - Slow to wrath = WISDOM
 - Quick to anger = FOLLY
 - Which are you demonstrating?

48 **Two essentials to stopping the volcano of anger**

- Listen
 - Losing temper quickly does not give you time to listen to all the facts.
 - Proverbs 18:13 warns: *“He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”*
- Stop & drop
 - Pray before you speak
 - Send up a flare prayer!

49 **Luke 9:51-56**

- *And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 *For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.**

50 **6. Quickly reconcile with family**

- Proverbs 18:19 – *“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”*
 - 98-99% of all youth with a problem in homes where there are fathers have a father with an anger problem.
 - Just as you can't put dust back into a volcano, the results of "occasional" outbursts of anger continue to damage others for a long time.
- Man told family he'd give \$20 to children and \$50 to wife each time he showed them anger
....

51 **Our goal – Spirit-controlled reactions**

- To be so controlled by the Holy Spirit that no spirit coming from us would contradict the message or ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - Proverbs 29:22 -- *An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. The Holy Spirit does not bring "strife" but "peace." So we should not be in the business of stirring up strife by our angry spirits.*

– James 1:19-20 -- *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*

52  **Change-starters**

- Say this: "Anger is sin."
- Don't correct your children in anger.
- Ask your children to let you know when you're coming across angry.
- Ask God to set a watch at the door of your lips and in your soul to prevent you from responding in anger.
- Be prepared for an opportunity to show loving, forgiving, patience when they blow it!

53  **7. Diligently seek God's wisdom for your family**

- Proverbs 14:18 – "*The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.*"
 - With NO EFFORT you can inherit folly. Nothing has to be done to gain an inheritance of folly. It just comes to you.
 - But you can CROWN yourself by getting God's knowledge. This takes diligent effort.

54  **Crown yourself with knowledge**

- But the PRUDENT or WISE Dad is CROWNED with knowledge.
 - Knowledge doesn't just happen.
 - It is found or discovered by searching – by making diligent effort to find it. Wisdom is found by making diligent effort to study the Scriptures.
 - The word "crown" here means to be dedicated or consecrated to God for glorious service.
- Your life becomes dedicated, consecrated, useful to God ONLY as you seek His wisdom diligently and daily in the Scriptures.

55  **Collect rhemas**

- It will make your wife beautiful.
 - Ephesians 5:25-26 -- "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*"
 - The greatest thing you can do for your wife is to share your rhemas with her.
 - It will bring power to your prayers.
 - 1 John 15:7 -- "If ye abide in me, and my words (*rhemas*) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
 - If His rhemas abide in you, then your prayers will be answered.

56  **8. Minister as a family**

- Proverbs 14:22 – "*Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.*"
 - Good doesn't just happen by accident.
 - If you want to experience watching God's mercy move in someone's life, you must DEVISE or PLAN to share the Gospel with them.
 - If you want to see your children and grandchildren walk in God's truth, you must DEVISE or PLAN times of sharing with them in God's Word and in prayer.
 - Your family won't really count for God, Dad, unless you DEVISE and PLAN for good – to plan for ministry opportunities.

57  **9. Fear God**

- Proverbs 14:26-27 -- "*In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall*

have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

- There are three levels of fearing God.
 - We should FEAR GOD'S PUNISHMENT. But that isn't always good enough.
 - We Should FEAR bringing Shame on the name of God.
 - Most of all we should fear losing Intimacy with God.

58  **Jeremiah 32:40**

- *"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."*
 - The fear of the Lord keeps us from departing from Him.
 - How many families have been destroyed because of a Dad departing from the ways of the Lord?

59  **The last words of King David**


- 2 Samuel 23:3 – *"The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."*
 - For you to rule effectively over your family, you must have a proper fear of God.

60  **The rewards of fearing God**

- Proverbs 1:7 – *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
- Proverbs 10:27 – *"The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened."*
- Proverbs 14:27 – *"fountain of life"*

61  **The rewards of fearing God (2)**

- Proverbs 19:23 – *"The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."*
 - (To be appointed with a calamity – for the purpose of learning.)
- Proverbs 22:4 -- *"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life."*

62  **10. Lead your family to greater influence for Christ**

- Proverbs 14:34 – *"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."*
 - The word "exalteth" here means that God leads us to a greater influence.
 - Dad, what is your family doing for Christ?

63  **11. Teach your children how to be good parents**

- Proverbs 17:6 – *"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."*
- Teach them to listen
 - Accept and love them
 - Be shock-proof and non-judgmental
- Teach them to take time
 - Make dates & keep them

64  **Teach them to parent (2)**

- Teach them to be humble and admit failures
 - Admit your own
 - Encourage them to admit secret failures
 - Secret failures separate your child from God and from you.
 - Proverbs 28:13 – *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth*

and forsaketh them shall have mercy."


- Teach them to choose wise friends

65  **Teach them to parent (3)**

- Teach them to ask, "In addition to that, are there other things you could share with me?"
- Teach them to be givers rather than takers.
- Teach them to regularly affirm love to their child.
- Teach them to regard 1-on-1 time between parent and child as a "gift."
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66  **12. Teach your children how to cry out to God**

- Proverbs 18:10 – *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*
- Names of God that help Dads:
 - El Shaddai (only He can give everything needed)
 - El Elyon (only He can do everything)
 - Jehovah-Rophe (only He heals a broken heart)
 - Jehovah-Mkaddesh (only He can make you holy and useful to Him)
 - Jehovah-Tsidkenu (only His righteousness is good enough).

67  **How to have children who keep seeking God**

1. Have a family ministry
2. Remove and replace rock music
3. Maintain a spirit of oneness in your marriage
4. Conquer anger and bitterness
5. Listen to the heart of each son and daughter
6. Seek forgiveness when you blow it
7. Disciple your children

68  **Resource**