

And Then We had Kids: Parenting by Design, not Default

I. There are two approaches to parenting: by _____ or by _____.

A. Parenting by _____.

B. Parenting by _____.

II. What a family that _____ God needs:

A. Parents who have built on the foundation of a _____
with God.

B. Parents who have _____.

C. Parents with a strong _____.

1. Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her. . ."
2. Ephesians 5:33 ". . .and let the wife see that she respects her husband"

- How do we make our marriage a priority?
- How does our speech reflect love and respect?
- How do we solve problems together?
- How, men, does your job affect your marriage?
- How, ladies, does your outside activities or job affect your marriage?
- How do you get time together without the kids--after they get to bed or any planned trips away?
- How do you make sure your wife gets time to herself away from the kids?
- How do you help your husband accomplish his goals?
- How, men, do you help her with tasks around the house?
- How do we look for ways to show our love?
- How much of a priority is praying together, studying the Bible, and reading on marriage and child rearing?

III. The _____ of God's truth is about God Himself.

- A. The _____ of Old Testament revelation is.
- B. The corollary truth is about _____ to God.
- C. The first step in acting on God's truth was to _____ to their children.

IV. God's _____ for the Family

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

A. _____ of Children

- 1. Obey has to do with _____.

Proverbs 22:15a *"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child and the rod of discipline will remove it far from him."*

- 2. It is important to understand the difference between _____ and _____.

a. Foolishness means _____

It can be active as in _____.

It can be passive _____.

b. Childishness is _____.

3. There is a difference between _____ and _____.

a. Obey has to do with _____ and honor has to do with _____.

b. The first commandment with a promise.

B. _____ of Parents

1. The _____ Command

Ways parents make their children angry:

- Overprotective (domineering)
- Favoritism
- Unrealistic goals (intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally)
- Discouragement (constantly finding fault)
- Neglect or ignore them
- Condescension (not allowing them to grow up, put them down, name-calling, laugh at them)
- Withdrawing love as a tool of reward and punishment. "Mommy of Daddy, won't like you if you do that."
- Excessive Discipline (constantly holding the threat of corporal punishment over their head like an unrelenting sword. Either physically or verbally devastating a child's spirit, not his will.
- Overindulgence (permissiveness, spoiling them by giving too much freedom and therefor creating the feeling of insecurity and not being loved. Many parents today are not saying "no", but catering to every whim.
- Have double standards or changing standards (no consistency)
- Have constant marital or parental discord or conflict.

2. The _____ Command

Ten Principles from Proverbs to teach your children about wisdom:

- To fear their God (reverence, a holy, healthy sense of God's displeasure)
- To guard their minds
- Obey their parents
- Select their companions
- Control their lusts
- Enjoy their spouses
- Watch their words
- Pursue their work
- Manage their money
- Love their neighbors

Application of Scripture
(This can be used in a Quiet Time)

Passage for meditation:

How does this passage relate to the theme- if there is one?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why.

How will I apply this passage to my life with God's help in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?