

The Disciple's Relationship to the Home

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I. Introduction.

A. Christ gives meaning to the family and the home. (Genesis 2:24)

B. There are different kind of homes, but this message will be primarily concerned with the parents and children.

II. You can only love your family as you love Jesus.

III. Keys to putting together a Christian family.

A. The responsibility of the husband to the wife. (Ephesians 5:25-29)

1. A man loves his body - so too he is to love his wife.

2. He is to be longsuffering, kind, not self-seeking itself, and not provoked. (1 Corinthians 13:4, Proverbs 19:11)

3. We are to love our wives and not be bitter against them. (Matthew 22:33, Colossians 3:19, Proverbs 27:5)

4. If you are a Christian you walk a holy life. (1 John 1:9, 1 John 1:7, John 6:44)

B. The responsibility of fathers to children.

1. Fathers are to not provoke their children. (Ephesians 6:4)

2. The father sets the tone in the home. (Psalm 103:13, Proverbs 13:4)

3. Fathers must put the Lord above his children. (1 Samuel 3:13, 1 Corinthians 2:29)

4. One cannot let his children become unruly.

5. Early days can be controlled through discipline. (Malachi 4:6)

C. Tips on discipline.

1. It helps that the husband prays with his wife and leads family devotions.

2. It is better to discipline with an object and not the hands so that the hands would be seen as an object of love.

3. It is also important to show love afterwards.

4. Discipline for the immediate transgression rather than past things.

5. Kids left without discipline are harmed. (Proverbs 29:15, 29:17, 13:24, 22:15)
6. Children need boundaries. The stronger the boundaries, the happier they are. (Proverbs 23:13-14, Genesis 18:19)
7. Sit with the children when they practice things.
8. Play with your children and value the time you have before it is too late when they rebel or go their own way.

D. Do's and Don'ts.

1. Do not criticize or make fun.
2. Do not have two pairs speak at once.
3. Do not threaten. (Ephesians 6:9)
4. Do not embarrass in front of friends.
5. Select the time and place and what to correct.
6. Make the mealtime fun and short of a riot.
7. Do not correct at mealtime.
8. Be consistent in correction, promises, allowances and one's own life.
9. You have to discipline in everything you see, but you do not have to see everything.

Application questions

1. How is Jesus related to the marriage relationship?

2. In what way is the father responsible for his children?

3. What is your philosophy of discipline for your children in light of the message? How can one discipline while maintaining a loving relationship with his or her children?
