

Understanding Your Family

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I. Introduction.

A. Topic: understanding your family. (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

B. Stages children go through: direct control, indirect control, no control, out of control and finally remote control.

II. Unlike Laban, we must be willing to release our children. (Genesis 22, 31)

III. Ministering to the family.

A. Basic generational differences.

1. The first: commitment. Their motive is to please God. Their priorities are to worship and then to work. Examples: David, Abraham.

2. The second: compromise. Their motive is to please God. Their priorities are to work and then to worship. Examples: Solomon, Isaac.

3. The third: conflict or the convictions do not become like we want them to. Their motive is to please themselves. Their priorities are to manipulate others for gain without worship being on the list. Examples: Rehoboam, Jacob.

B. Spouse time and family time must come first in priorities before ministry and work.

C. God wanted the men—the heads of the family to spend special time with Him. (Exodus 40:23)

II. Important questions to ask in relationship to your spouse.

A. Do I communicate with my spouse?

1. Lack of communication often results in divorce.

2. A good image for marriage is a pair of scissors—if the two pieces are not one they cannot do their job.

B. Do we pray together?

1. The husband and wife are a great prayer force. (Matthew 18:19-20)

2. This demands claiming promises together in transparency.

Application questions.

1. How is Laban a negative example in how he treated his son in law Jacob? What is the principle we can take from this?

2. What advise does the speaker offer to make one's family a priority?

3. What will you do in light of the message to make your family a priority. What is something you can do this week?
