



UPON THIS ROCK

Upon This Rock Series

Part 5

April 23, 2023

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Family

The Book of Deuteronomy 6:6-13, ⁶“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰“And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to

give you—with great and good cities that you did not build,¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full,¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word, Amen.

The Lord desires generational blessing but generational instruction must be propagated to bless the coming generation!

Healthy Churches, Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families

1. Upon This Rock We Must Build Our Families Upon The Scriptures That Instructs Us In The Raising Of Our Children!

- a. It is my belief, based upon years of observation, that one of the greatest mistakes that a parent can make is seeking to be their child’s friend versus being the child’s parent. Parenting is hard. It is complicated. It is not easy.
- b. Hebrews 12:11, “¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

- c. Parenting is hard. Disciplining is hard. Having one child is difficult enough but when you add multiple children into the mix, it only compounds what you dealt with when it was only the one child.
- d. With multiple children, you have the gender difference between boys and girls to consider along with the different personality types that comes with each child. I think that Forrest Gump wasn't just talking about a box of chocolates when he stated that you never know what you are going to get; the same can be said with children.
- e. When it comes to temperament, personality type and attitude, you simply never know what you are going to get until they are here and by that point, there's nothing you can do to change it.
- f. But apart from all of that, the Scripture is clear that how we develop, train and disciple our Children will directly affect them when they are young as well as when they are old.
- g. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."
- h. I know it may seem like you are trapped in an endless cycle of correcting, cleaning up, and disciplining but one day, the frustrations of the day will be fruitful for their future.
- i. I am reminded of the Apostle John's words found in 3 John 1...

- j. 3 John 1:2-4, “²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers^[a] came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”
- k. And church, as parents, and to include those who will be parents in the future; there is no greater joy that to hear or to personally see your children walking in the truth. Doing right. Living right. It makes the difficulties of raising them and developing them worth the struggle.
- l. And these victories are found in the fundamental teachings of Scripture noted in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”
- m. May our disciplines and principles be a matter of personal practice for ourselves in so that our children see it lived out and not just taught.

2. Upon This Rock We Must Instruct Our Families to have Boundaries and Balance!

- a. As I discussed last Sunday, the order of the Home is a biblical standard and not a societal construct and in light of our society not being in the state that it is in, the only place that your children will see marriage modeled is at home.
- b. Friends, there is no perfect marriage but the word “perfect” is a relative term; a healthy marriage is the byproduct of healthy relationships in the home thus it is our responsibility not just to discipline and develop our children but to also give them a framework to build off of when it comes to a stable home, a stable family and a stable marriage.
- c. And in light of the order of the Home, Submission and Honor must not only be taught but modeled as well. For example, notice the words of the Apostle Paul found in Ephesians 6:4...
- d. Ephesians 6:4, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- e. As parents you must be willing to be the bad guy for goodness’ sake
- f. Last Sunday conversation for example; I became the bad guy with the hopes of opening up health conversation in our marriages.

- g. Submission and Honor should never be demanded due to position but rather it is only appropriated by equity; Leadership is determined more by influence than it will ever be defined by position.
- h. Parents, you can never expect your children to model a principal that they do not see modeled within the confines of your marriage. They will learn how to honor you both by observing how you honor one another. And on that note, keep matters of the world out of your place of peace.
- i. Covenant of Marriage and Children
 - i. You are not in covenant with your children. You are in covenant with your spouse.
 - ii. Children are the byproduct of covenant; not the covenant themselves. Your children need to know their place in the home and know their boundaries clearly.
- j. Remember that we must teach our children about boundaries and balance by modeling it and living it; not by simple instruction alone.

3. Upon this Rock We Must Tend To And Guard Our Families!

- a. Job 5:24, “You shall know that your tent is at peace, and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.”

- b. Friends, some of you may not know what a healthy family looks like but you do know what an unhealth family looks like. Choose to break the **Generational Curse** and build a **Dwelling of Peace**.
- c. Your family, as a whole, needs to have a clear definition of who you are and who you are not; this establishes culture and expectation.
- d. My children know who we are and who we are not because I have rules that we live by...
 - i. **Miller Rules**
 1. Millers do nothing half way. We finish what we start.
 2. Millers do not sulk when we don't get our way.
 3. Millers don't complain; we figure it out.
 4. Millers demonstrate honor and respect.
 5. Millers are thankful for what we have and work to attain what we don't have.
 6. Millers guard our tongues and govern our opinions.
 7. Millers don't gripe and whine.
- e. Reaffirm your children's identity in the Home and in Christ
 - i. This brings:
 1. Security
 2. Peace