

Parenting for Life: Parent's Priorities Lesson 1

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Building a Solid Foundation: Commitments

- To the Lord Jesus Christ
- To your spouse
- To your family
- To others through ministry



Two Important Principles: First

- Teaching in the Bible is comprehensive
 - The sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3,4)

“Here Paul indicates that one purpose for which God caused Scripture to be written is to train us that we might ‘be equipped for every good work.’ If there is any ‘good work’ that God wants a Christian to do, this passage indicates that God has made provision in his Word for training the Christian in it. Thus, there is no ‘good work’ that God wants us to do other than those that are taught somewhere in Scripture: it can equip us for every good work.”

Wayne Grudem in *Systematic Theology*, 127-128.

Two Important Principles: Second

- Parents must look at God's truth and His work in their lives – parenting is not an entity unto itself.
 - Parenting for believers is always in the context of our faith and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 - Our parenting is an outflow of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the living out (application) of the truths of Scripture. John 7:38



The Commitments

#1: To the Lord Jesus Christ

- We are to have "no other gods before us" (Ex 20:1-17)
 - Nothing else rules over our lives
- With "all your heart, all your soul, all your mind" (Matt 22:37-40)
 - It is **total** and **intense**, total abandonment
 - We must be committed to continually learning about God and what His word teaches about you, your life and family.
- Numbers 15:39 "...not following after your own heart, your own eyes"



The Heart that Desires God

As the deer pants for
the water brooks, so
my soul pants for You,
O God.

Psalm 42:1

Scriptural Illustrations: “the heart and soul and mind”

- As the deer pants for the water “ Psa 42
- Whom have I in heaven but Thee? Psa 73:25-26
- Let him who boasts boast of this Jer 9:23-24
- Devoted to Christ Luke 10:38-42
- Cost of discipleship Luke 14:25-35
- Crucified with Christ Gal 2:20
- To live is Christ Phil 1:21, 3:8
- Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Col 1:10

The Commitments

- *The Word of God*

- 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3,4
- All sufficiency of scripture

- *The God of the Word*

- Luke 14:25-35, 2 Cor 5:9, Phil 1:21
- Costly discipleship
- Pleasing God
- To live is Christ

#2: To Your Spouse

- *Committed to the uniqueness of the marriage relationship*

- Exclusive leaving/cleaving Gen 2:24
- A covenant relationship Mal 2:13-16
- God's place for physical intimacy Prov 5:23-33
- The portrait of Christ and the Church Eph 5:22-33

No other friendship or parent-child relationship shares these characteristics



Committed to your biblical roles

- 1 Cor 11
- Eph 5:22-33
- 1 Pet 3:1-7

Biblical Roles: Husband

- *Servant leader, lover, learner*

- 1 Peter 3:7 – prayers will be hindered if he does not dwell with his wife according to knowledge
 - Biblical knowledge and wisdom to lead
 - Learn about your wife to love and lead her
 - If you don't lead, your wife or child will
 - Love her so that her submission will not be forced and joyless – she should want to submit to you

Abiding in these things brings blessing (James 1:25)

Biblical Roles: Wife

- Honor, helper, homemaker
- *Proverbs 14:1- the wise woman versus the woman of folly*
 - If you don't honor your husband by following him, your children may not learn to follow you or others
 - **Help him by giving wise input** and carrying out the course he has set, otherwise you are "tearing down your house with your own hands"

Biblical Roles: Wife

- Keep your home in a way that pleases the Lord and your husband (Titus 2:5)

“Your marriage is the greatest opportunity you will have to teach your children what you really believe about submission and authority, friendship, affection and love.”

Abiding in these things, you will be blessed (James 1:25)

#3: To Your Family

- Committed to **Stewardship** and **Discipleship**
- **Stewards** of the *truth* about the one true God and His works (Deut 6:1-9)
 - *God's design for passing the faith through generations is the family*
 - *We are to make disciples in our own families*
 - *Are we faithful and effective disciple makers in our own family?*

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- Is your faith real and sincere, or fake and hypocritical? Your children will know, and it will affect them one way or another. Your impact on them is tremendous:

It is a life on life, for a lifetime.



To Your Family – Blessing of Children

2. We are also stewards of blessings.

- Rom 8:16 - we are blessed to be children of God in Christ, as testified by the Spirit who lives in us
- 1 Pet 3:7 – husband and wife are “heirs together of the grace of God” and may be blessed by Him to raise children for His glory.
- Children are a gift of the Lord and you need a full quiver! (Psa 127: 3a, 5a)



To Your Family – Discipleship

- Christians are to be obedient to the Lord's command to make disciples (Matt 28:19-20) and this must begin in the home.
- Parents are to **faithfully deliver and model God's truth to their children, with a view towards making disciples.**
 - This includes evangelism, teaching, admonishing, exhorting and encouraging them toward godliness, while prayerfully leaving the results to God.

“Your wife will be like a fruitful vine, within your house, your children like olive plants around your table.” (Psa 128:3)

Israel's History

- The strength of the nation was in their families as they related to God.
- They would be blessed if they obeyed, but they forgot Him.
- Judges 2:7, 10 the faithful generation who served the Lord under Joshua, but the succeeding generation did not know the Lord or the work He had done.
- Judges 2:11 They did evil and served the Baals and forsook God.
- They neglected teaching their children the fear of God and His ways.
Deut 6:1-9
- Judges 21:25 “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

The Church Today

- Today as in Israel's past, the strength of the body of Christ rests upon the strength of its families.
 - We need God-fearing families
- Leaders in the church are judged and qualified in part by their proven ability to lead their families. (I Tim 3: 4,12; Titus 1:6)

#4: Commitment to Others

- **The Church**

- Ministry in the body of Christ (Gal 6:10)
- Fulfilling the “One Anothers” (Appendix 1)
- Using spiritual gifts

- **The World**

- Evangelism and making disciples (Matt 28: 19,20)
- Local and to the world (Acts 1:8)
- Our homes should communicate light to a dark world

In Summary...

- To the Lord Jesus Christ
- To your spouse
- To your family
- To others

The strength of our devotion and commitment to Christ will determine the effectiveness of the other three commitments