

Series: **Aliens 3.0**

Today's Title: "**Parental Rights and Duties**"

May 19, 2024 – *Selected passages*

Objective: To help people know what the Bible says about the role and responsibility of parents in raising their kids.

Church Plant Pastor search – update.

Praying Pelican Missions – Short term mission trips this summer.

Sam Miller: Will be serving in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Kayla Delgado: Will be serving in the New England area

(Rhode Island and Massachusetts).

Dylan Bravin: Will be serving at the Gulf coast, Florida, Kentucky, and Alaska.

Commissioning Prayer and Sermon Opening Prayer

Some modern-day threats to parents...

1. **July 2023** – the **Chino Valley, CA School Board** believed it was important for the schools in their district to notify parents if their child was struggling with their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria.

Present at this meeting was the *California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond*, who argued against the proposal to include parents in this aspect of their children's lives, claiming it might be unsafe for some LGBTQ+ kids.

Despite Superintendent Thurmond’s objection, they voted to make parental notification their policy.

The next month, *California Attorney General Rob Bonta* filed a lawsuit against the Chino school district ordering an end to the policy that requires notifying parents if their children change their gender identity.

In Sept. 2023 – and October 2023 – 2 judges blocked parts of the policy from taking effect.

March 2024 – In response to the legal decisions in the case, Chino Valley School Board voted to amend their policy by removing language from the policy requiring staff to notify parents when a student requests to use facilities or pronouns that differ from their sex at birth.

April 24, 2024, Attorney General Rob Bonta announced his plan to pursue a permanent injunction against the Chino Valley Unified School District’s parental notification policy. (<https://libertyjusticecenter.org/cases/california-v-chino-valley-unified-school-district/>)

2. Reckless Reading – On April 23rd, my Connect Video discussed the so called “Book Bans” in public schools and public libraries.

Public schools and public libraries – along with the ALA (American Library Association) and its current President Emily Drabinski, are fighting against parental notification and parental approval / authority in regard to certain books

that promote LGBTQ+ or transgender philosophies and lifestyles.

Parents – you need to be aware of what is going on and how many of the public schools, public libraries, and the ALA are trying to influence your kids.

A starting point would be to watch the Connect video from April 23rd.

3. In AZ – SB-1166 – this bill was introduced by Senator Kavanaugh, and sponsored by 4 Republican Senators (Kaiser, Carroll, Shamp, Rogers). The bill would require parental notification if a student was using a different name or pronouns that were contrary to their biological sex. The bill passed both the senate and house by party votes – it was vetoed by Gov. Hobbs on April 7, 2023.

4. In 2021, Indiana officials began investigating Jeremy and Mary Cox after receiving reports that they were abusing their 16 yr. old son. Their son, who says he wants to be a girl, was removed from the home over pronoun usage - and it was also alleged that the parents were not seeking treatment for his eating disorder. The Indiana Department of child Services have kept the child from their home due to the disagreement over the child's gender identity. Even after the state's investigation, which found the allegations of abuse were unsubstantiated, the state still argued that the

disagreement over the gender identity was distressing to their child.

In February 2024, after the case worked through the Indiana courts, Jeremy & Mary Cox made an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

5. COVID mandates – vaccine mandates – mask mandates that schools were imposing on kids, regardless of Parental input or approval.

6. Gentle Parenting – also known as “attachment parenting”, “respectful parenting”, “mindful parenting”, or “intentional parenting”.

This is a parenting philosophy which believes parents should not wield authority over their children but should be more of a peer with their children – coming alongside them.

The goal is not correcting a child's behavior but acknowledging a child's feelings and motivations.

No more ‘sticker charts’ with gold stars or ‘time-outs’ or ‘Because I said so’.

Get these ideas out of your mind!

Instead, when your child won't bring their dishes to the sink, ask them, *‘Why don't you want to bring them to the sink?’*

This is a parenting philosophy that denies – or gets rid of parental authority.

This philosophy is pervasive – throughout our society in books, seminars, podcasts, and all forms of social media.

These are some of the threats to parents, parental rights, and parental authority that we see in our society – in the modern western world.

But what does the Bible say about parents – parental authority?

The Bible teaches a very different philosophy than what we see in our culture today. The Bible gives us a very different model for parents and children.

The family is the foundation of human society.

Beginning with the commands to Adam and Eve – and then to Noah and his family, God has made it clear that husbands and wives are to have children, unless they are physically unable. (We discussed this last week.)

God created marriage to be a place of safety, intimacy, pleasure, and cooperation. The husband and wife were to come together in every aspect of their life and when this happened, they would “become one flesh” in the eyes of God.

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

God intended from the very beginning of human history to build society from the family.

This is why God says in Malachi “I hate divorce” (2:16 NASB), because one of the many things divorce destroys is the stability of the family, and since God created the family to be the stable foundation of human society, divorce creates great instability in the society at large!

God created the family to be the institution in which children are born and raised and instructed in how to live a God-pleasing life.

God’s design is for the family to be the foundation of human society.

As the family goes... so goes the society.

To verify that statement, just look around at our own society!

Parenting is a 24/7 job.

There are no ‘off-hours’, days off, vacations, or holiday breaks from parenting.

When you have kids, you are always and forever their parent.

You can certainly take a break – a night out – a weekend or week away – **and you should!**

You can have wonderfully capable people watching your kids while you’re gone.

But even when you’re gone – you’re still the parents.

When your kids get older and become adults – the relationship changes – your authority over them now

shifts to them – and they are now responsible and accountable to society and the Lord.

But you never stop being their parent.

God gave parents a very specific role.

A parent's job is quite expansive.

Just think of all the things parents do for their children.

We love our kids - care for them - and provide for their needs.

But in the Bible, God is very specific on the most important duty for parents.

Two things rise above all the other duties and responsibilities of parents.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (also: 4:9, 11:19; Exodus 10:12; Isaiah 38:19; Joel 1:3)

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

7 You 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.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

The primary duty of parents is to have God's “words” on your own “heart.” (vs. 6).

Your 1st primary duty is your personal faith in God and knowledge of His Word.

Your 2nd primary duty is to teach your children the “words” (vs. 6) of God. “them” (vs. 7-9) = “words” that God commands.

You are to do this – all the time – every day – in the everyday moments of life.

Notice a key word in **vs. 7**: “diligently”.

There is virtually never a time that as the parent – you are NOT teaching your children something about God.

See also Psalm 78:1-8 – *Tell the Coming Generation*

Paul tells Timothy,

2 Timothy 3:15

“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.”

You need to start teaching your kids about the Lord from day 1 – when they’re a baby – and you never stop looking for opportunities to teach them and talk with them about Jesus and the truth of God’s Word.

This is why we put a high priority on Next Gen Kids Ministry – the ministry that happens every day through BBOV – AWANA - Next Gen Students Ministry.

Mom and Dad...whether you are intentional or careless in living out your faith, know your kids are watching you!!

God has designed kids to watch their parents – especially their father – and the example of their human father will give them a framework for knowing their heavenly Father!

Talk about a humbling and impossible task!!

Parents... Never forget – your children ultimately belong to God.

Parenting is a stewardship – a sacred responsibility.

If we don't do this...

Judges 2:8-12

“Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.

They buried him in the land he had been allocated, at Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

The Israelites did evil in the LORD 's sight and served the images of Baal.

They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD.”

It only takes 1 generation of parents who don't teach their children about the Lord, to lose that next generation – and possibly many generations who follow!!

Caution!! *Don't make the mistake of thinking the church is responsible to teach your kids about Jesus.*

- The church better teach your kids about Jesus.
- We better teach what the Bible says and not our own version of what we wish the Bible said.
- If the church doesn't do this – we will be held accountable before God for our sin.

I promise you that this church will come alongside you as parents...

We will teach your kids God's Word... His love for them...

We will teach them that He died on the cross for their sins...

But - we are a supplement to your daily responsibility of passing on your faith to your kids!

You – Mom and Dad – YOU are ordained by God and YOU are responsible before God to teach your children the “words” of God – the truth and grace of Christ.

I know that Kim Berko – as she has led the Next Gen Kids Ministry here – has been burdened and passionate about parents embracing their God-given duty and divine charge to teach their kids about the Lord!

I want to encourage all of you – every parent here – every grandparent here – all who are watching on-line - to embrace your God-given role and responsibility to tell the next generations about the Lord and His Word!

Parental discipline is godly, not abusive.

Of course, discipline can become abusive, **but it is not inherently abusive.**

Discipline is not primarily about punishment.

It's primary meaning is teaching, guiding, and training.

Some physical punishment may be appropriate, but discipline is much more than a timeout, a grounding, or a spanking.

Discipline is absolutely necessary because a child needs to be taught what is right and wrong.

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.”

Proverbs 22:15

“A youngster’s heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.”

Parental discipline is given with the child’s best interest in mind.

Parental discipline should never be a venting of anger.

Parental discipline must be intentional to guide and train the child away from danger and harm – to what is good, beneficial, and healthy.

Proverbs 23:12-14

“Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge.

Don’t fail to discipline your children. The rod of punishment won’t kill them.

Physical discipline may well save them from death.”

The parent's job is to raise their kids to know what is right and wrong – and to help them know that the most important thing is not just their outward actions – but their heart – their inner-self.

Our example in discipline is God Himself!

Hebrews 12:7

“As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?”

God disciplines us – because He loves us and since He loves us, He refuses to leave us as we are.

In light of God's love and discipline of us... we read this.

Proverbs 13:24

“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”

One of the ways we demonstrate our love for our kids – is through our discipline of them.

Parents – don't provoke your children to anger.

Moms and dads - we all start out wanting to be good parents.

We want the best for our kids – we want our family to be a place of joy and love.

We want to be good parents - wise parents.

Wise Parenting Pic – note to teenager:

Unload and load the dishwasher – take a pic of it.

Walk the dog and take a pic of it.

Then send me BOTH pictures – and I'll tell you where the power cord for your X-Box is!

In **Ephesians 6**, the Apostle Paul gives a very clear and direct warning to parents.

This applies to both parents, but I think it's directed more at fathers.

Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”

This command certainly applies to moms too, but Paul uses the masculine term here for “fathers”.

Not only was 1st century Greek and Roman culture patriarchal, but I believe as fathers, we have a unique position of authority and significant influence with our kids.

If we misuse this influence, we can severely damage our kids for years to come.

So, Paul tells us “...do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.”

Ways we can provoke anger in our kids:

Overprotection – *studies have shown how ‘helicopter’ or ‘hovering’ parents who avoid all risk and are always fearful of something happening to a child – actually causes psychological damage to a child.*

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9176408/>)

Favoritism – *Why aren’t you more like your brother!*

Unrealistic expectations.

Discouragement – *Belittling comments – cruel putdowns – never giving praise and expressing your unconditional love.*

Selfishness – *never making sacrifices for your kids.*

Impatience – *failing to let them be kids – to mess up.*

Neglect.

Verbal abuse.

(The War on Children, by John MacArthur, p. 61-64)

Instead, Paul says:

“Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.”

Raise your kids in light of God’s Word.

Raise them in the light of His love, grace, and truth.

God loves you unconditionally, so love your kids unconditionally.

A key aspect of parenting: work at your marriage!

I believe one of the most powerful and impactful ways to raise your kids in the light of God’s Word is to give

them an example of a godly, passionate, loving marriage.

It's not enough just to teach them God's truth.

You must live God's truth.

We see this all over the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6 – gives a picture of teaching God's Word in the activities of daily life.

1 Timothy 4:16 – Paul tells Timothy to “keep a close watch on how you live...”

Ephesians 5:1-2 Paul tells the church in Ephesus to, “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do...Live a life filled with love...”

Live out your vows in full view of your kids!!!

I cannot overstate the impact you have on your kids – and how your kids will approach marriage and family life based on what they see and experience as they watch you and your marriage – it's HUGE!!!

What an amazing gift to your kids – to their future spouse – and to your future grandkids – to be an example and model of a Christ-centered, godly, love-soaked marriage!

This is also an amazing gift to yourselves – because the ‘empty nest’ is in your future – and if you set aside your love, passion, and the joy in your relationship and elevate your kids above your marriage, then you are

making the ‘empty nest’ transition more difficult than it should be.

Apply it...

Make no mistake – it’s time for all of us – who value the home / the family unit – parental rights and authority – to wake up.

So... what do we do?

How should we respond to the current threats to parental rights and to the challenge of raising kids in our world?

1. Be informed on what is going on.

Take action to protect your children – and yourself from those who want to overrule – or remove your parental rights and parental influence. *Change schools?*

2. Parents – teach your kids about God and His Word.

This requires diligence on your part – tenacity – never giving up!

Make sure you give equal amounts of truth and grace.

Love your children unconditionally.

Tell them often: ‘I love you.’

Cultivate your own faith – and model your faith in full view of your kids.

Dads – take the spiritual lead in your family.

Make sure your kids see you taking the lead in bringing them to church!

***Invest in and work at your marriage!!!

3. Pray for the young families in our church – the young families who make up our BBOV family.

Lift them up – support them – encourage them – help them!

4. Start a small group – join a group that is focused on what the Bible teaches about parenting.

Learn what God's Word says on this vital topic.

A topic that is not only important for you and your family – but for the sake of our society as well – and the testimony of Christ to a watching world – and your watching kids!

Close in prayer