

“OHANA – FAMILY!”

Colossians Chapter 3:20-21

(v20) “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” -

Commandment #5 of the TEN COMMANDMENTS - “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land” (Ex 20:12). God established parents as the authority figures in the family unit. Children often get their first impressions about God from their parents.

>The Scriptures reveal four stages of spiritual growth in the Christian Life and family: We are called to, *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. to Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” - 2 Pet 3:18*

#1 - THE BABY STAGE: (1 Cor 3:1-4) A baby thinks only of self; and, if denied the things desired, it will raise a rumpus. It seeks its own; its feelings are easily hurt and it is often jealous. A baby lives to be served—it never serves.

#2 - THE LITTLE CHILD STAGE: I Jn 2:12 - *I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.* Some Christians grow to be little children spiritually, but stop there. Here are some of the characteristics of children: they are often untruthful, envious, and cruel. If rebuked, they become martyrs; if crossed, they are resentful and often make a scene.

#3 - THE YOUNG MAN STAGE: I Jn 2:13 - *I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one.* Spiritual growth to that of a young man is not reached by many. He is strong and virile and is well able to overcome his enemy. He has a vision for the future and the faith and courage to tackle it. (1 Cor 13:11)

#4-THE FATHER STAGE: I Jn 2:13 - *I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning* - This stage of spiritual development can be reached by all, but so few ever attain it. Let's grow step by step: (1) **The spiritual father has peace with God-** (Rom 5:1-2) (2) **He knows the peace of God-** (Phil 4:6-7) (3) **He rejoices in his spiritual children-** (1Thes 2:19-20; 1 Tim 1:2) (4) **He has learned contentment under all circumstances-** (Phil 4:11); (5) **He knows the only source of true strength-** (Phil 4:13) (6) **He does not brood over the past, but looks to the future-** (Phil 3:13-14) (7) **He knows that all things work together in his life for his eternal good-** (Rom 8:28) (8) **He enjoys abundant life now and will enjoy it in the life to come-** (Eph 2:4-10) (By Porter Barrington)

(v21) “Fathers, do not provoke your children lest they become discouraged” -

Let's learn about “Ohana—Family” God's way from **Deuteronomy Chapter 6** (5 keys):

Key #1 - (v1-5) DISCIPLESHIP - (v1) The LORD wants to *teach* us. (v2) We are to *fear the LORD & to keep His commandments.* (v3) *Hear & be careful to observe.* (v4) A good disciple will learn sound biblical doctrine. (v5) A solid disciple will love God with all their heart, with all their soul, & with all their strength. Jesus said in **John 8:31-32-** *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* **John 15:7-8-** *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Key - #2 (v6-9) TEACHING - The Word of God needs to be in our heart (Psalm 19:7-11). (v7) We must teach our children God's Word diligently in EXPLANATION, CONVERSATION, & EXAMINATION (*when we sit down, walk by the way, lie down and rise up*). (v8) Bind His Word on your hands in service for one another and between your eyes, keeping your mind stayed upon God. Having a vision for His Kingdom (Mt. 6:33). (v9) Write them on the doorposts and gates of our house. Our home is a light to the community. (Matt 5:16; Eph 6:1-4- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Training is *paideia* (Gk.) - tutorage, education; whereas *admonition* is *nouthesia* (Gk.) - calling attention to, a mild rebuke or warning.*

T - THEOLOGY - Theology is the study of God. Who is He? What does He want to do? How can He use me? **2 Tim 2:15 -** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* **Personal growth** (observe the four basics according to **Acts 2:42 -** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' (1) doctrine and (2) fellowship, in the (3) breaking of bread, and in (4) prayers.*) produces fruit!

E – ENTHUSIASM – Jesus said in Acts 1:8 - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* The word “power” is *dunamis* in Greek, it speaks of "strength, ability," physical or moral, as residing in a person or thing; "power in action," as, e.g., when put forth in performing miracles. It occurs 118 times in the NT.

A – ATTITUDE – **Attitude is everything!** Gal 5:22-23 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

C – CHRIST CENTERED - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - *"He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."*

H – HOPE - Hope distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Indeed, a Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3). Christian hope comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His **calling** (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His **grace** (2 Thess 2:16), His **Word** (Rom 15:4) and His **gospel** (Col 1:23). Hope is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1). Its appropriate objects are **eternal life** (Titus 1:2; 3:7), **salvation** (1 Thess 5:8), **righteousness** (Gal 5:5), **the glory of God** (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), **the appearing of Christ** (Titus 2:13) and **the resurrection from the dead** (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7).

Key#3 - (v10-12) NEGLECT - *Beware lest you forget the LORD!* Insight from James 3:13-18- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* Let's not neglect our marriage and children.

Key #4 - (v13-19) OBEEDIENCE - Notice the “shall” & the “shall not”: (v13) You shall fear the Lord thy God and serve Him. (v14) You shall not go after other gods. (v16) You shall not tempt the Lord (Massah - Ex. 17:7; a time of saying that God is not with them, a place of contention.) (v17) You shall diligently keep His commandments, His testimonies, & His statutes. (v18) You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD. When it comes to disciplining our children's disobedience we must (1) **Respect their personhood**, do not demean them, call them names. (2) **Respond consistently**- Observe the rules of engagement as explained by Chuck Swindoll: #1- Make sure the rules are known beforehand. 2- Discipline privately. 3- Explain the violation and its consequences. 4- Administer the rod soundly. 5- Tenderly hold your child after the spanking. 6- Assure your child of your love and concern. (Pray with the child.) (3) **Develop responsible behavior (age appropriate).**

Key #5 - (v20-25) TESTIMONY - (v20) Observe the question of our children, “What is the meaning of the testimonies, statutes & judgments?” (v21-23) The **testimony** of Jesus is our testimony. (v24) Follow His word (statutes) for our good and for life. (v25) Judgment - it will be righteousness for us.

*“And now abide **FAITH, HOPE, LOVE**, these three; but the **greatest of these is LOVE.**” 1
(1Corinthians 13:13)*