

4-30-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: A Happy Home, pt-2

Purpose: Provoke children to honor and obey their parents and provoke parents to adopt Biblical parenting principles.

Spiritual truth: When parents and children live by Biblical principles, they'll have a happy home.

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 24:3

Topic: Family, Parenting, Children, Home

Series Title: Building Relationships that Last

Series Purpose: Provoke people to build healthy relationships that can last a lifetime by embracing Biblical principles.

A Happy Home, pt-2

I. Introduction

A. Today we're concluding the series: 'Building Relationships that Last'.

We've learned how to build healthy relationships that can last a lifetime by embracing Biblical principles. Last week we talked about 4 Biblical principles to help you have a happy, fulfilling, Christ-honoring marriage. Today we'll see what the Bible says to kids about how to treat their parents and how parents should raise their kids. We'll look primarily at the words of Paul. He'll tell us how to apply, [Pr. 24:3 (NCV) It takes **wisdom** to have a **good family**, and it takes **understanding** to make it **strong.**] Wisdom and understanding come from God's Word. This will apply to everyone.

B. Title: A Happy Home, pt-2

II. Paul's instructions to children of all ages (Not comprehensive, PH and KZ)

A. [Eph. 6:1–3 (ESV) **Children, obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “**Honor your father and mother**” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may **go well with you** and that you may **live long in the land.**”] Ex. 20:12, 5th

1. Def. obey: to submit to authority; to carry out a command or instruction.³ A child's obedience is an example of submission to parents as God's delegated authority.
2. Def. honor: to show respect, give recognition; it includes action that shows honor, e.g., provide help, \$ assistance, and care for them in old age.⁴ [1 Tim. 5:4 (NLT) But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and **repay their parents by taking care of them.** This is something that pleases God.

3. Obedience applies primarily to young children while honor is a life-long command when kids become adults. The obedience and honor of Christian children to their parents is partly because of their submission to Christ, i.e., ‘in the Lord’. A child’s obedience is part of their Christian discipleship.²

III. Paul’s instructions to parents

- A. The Bible isn’t a parenting manual but if we live by Bible in general, we’ll be a better Christian and better Christians make better parents and influencers of children.
- B. [Eph. 6:4 (NLT) **Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger** by the way you treat them. (*Def. irritate, cause resentment by unreasonable demands, petty rules, or favoritism*¹) Rather, bring them up with the **discipline (NIV training) and instruction** that comes **from the Lord**. ...]
 1. Mothers aren’t excluded; Fathers are addressed because they’re God’s appointed head of the family responsible for child’s spiritual development and discipline.¹
- C. Paul said 2 things to fathers/ parents: (1) Parent in a way that recognizes a child’s personality, emotional state and ability. E.g. don’t push too hard for things they can’t do, demeaning words, always criticizing, yelling, hitting, pushing them to the point of frustration, etc. Video Friday Night Lights (2) Parents are called to shape a child’s spiritual development. Paul told us what to do but not how. I’ll try to address the how.

IV. Parenting priority #1, “bring them up with the **discipline (NIV training) and instruction** that comes from the Lord.” Eph. 6:4, i.e., Teach them about God and the Bible and train them to live a life that pleases God.

- A. [1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV) I am reminded of your sincere faith, **a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice** and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.] A mom and grandmother raised Paul’s apostolic successor, a world changer. I wonder how they did it? Parents should train kids to live the Christian life by:
 1. Help them experience a personal relationship with Jesus and teach them how to walk with Him daily. There’s a difference between talking about a distant “God” and memorized prayers and Jesus as a personal Savior and heartfelt prayers. [Mt. 19:14 (NIV) Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**] Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with our children. It’s important to let them choose to invite

Jesus in their heart and be baptized. Don't force it; otherwise, we inoculate them with religion and all they have is external forms.

2. *Teach kids to have a daily devotion time with God, (1) Read the Bible: 1st you read then they learn to read. E.g., my kid's devotions. **The influence of the secular world is everywhere. They need to be taught truth. Bible quiz National championship. (2) Prayer: Start with thanking God for the day. Teach kids how to pray/ talk to God, e.g., Mia, Jesus thank you for my food amen. When they do wrong show them how to talk to God about it. E.G. stole candy.

3. Make sure your kids have Christian friends. This is why church involvement is so important. E.g., Wed. night in KidZone and PH. Helping kids develop Christian friendships as their primary circle of influence will help them deal with worldly peer pressure. Church involvement is one of the only Christian influences in society to help you raise godly kids.

- B. Promise: [Proverbs 22:6 **Train up a child** in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.] E.g., Julia Guy and John 3:16.

V. Parenting priority #2, Discipline (train) them; teach them about boundaries, consequences and authority.

- A. [Proverbs 19:18 (NLT) **Discipline** your children while there is hope.

Otherwise, you will ruin their lives. Proverbs 13:24 (NLT) Those who spare the rod of **discipline** hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to **discipline them.**]

1. Def. discipline: Correction or punishment intended to correct wrong actions.⁵ Training that corrects, molds or perfects moral character.⁶ Discipline is based on the premise that there is right and wrong behavior and wrong behavior/ sin has consequences. The purpose of discipline is to help children respect authority, to do what's right and learn that there are consequences when they do wrong. American society has lost restraint and encourages rebellion.

2. A parent is the 1st line of authority. If kids rebel, a parent as God's delegated spiritual authority, tries to restrain wrong behavior. If that fails spiritual authority in the church tries to intervene. If that fails, civil authority, i.e., police and the court system try to control behavior. Ultimately, they will stand before God as the ultimate authority to whom they will give an account.

3. Discipline of children takes many forms: time out, withhold something they enjoy (tv, phone, car keys), or spanking young defiant children. Pediatrician and former president of the American college of pediatricians, doctor Den Trumbell offers advice for parents who choose to spank a defiant young child when timeout and reasoning don't work. He says a parent should never spank in anger, it should always happen in private with one or two swats to the bottom and be followed by a loving embrace and a review of the offense.⁶ Nightly prayers

VI. Parenting priority #3, Teach them to live with eternity or the end in mind.

- A. Our culture teaches us to live for the moment; do what you feel with little thought for consequences. Solomon, Wed nx. [Ecc. 12:13-14 (ESV) **The end of the matter**; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For **God will bring every deed into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.]
1. I've told all my kids a John Maxwell saying to motivate them to prepare for a future career, "Pay now, play later or play now, pay later but one day you've got to pay." How much more should we teach our kids to live with eternity in mind. Good parents prepare their kids to stand before God on Judgment Day.

VII. Conclusion: What we say to our family members will determine how happy our home is

- A. [Proverbs 18:21 (MSG) **Words kill, words give life**; they're either poison or fruit-you choose.] There are 3 phrases we need to say often, (1) I love you, (2) I'm proud of you, and (3) I'm sorry, please forgive me. I make it a point almost every time I talk to my children to tell them or text them that I love them and am proud of them. When I do, they feel secure and confident. I want to be their #1 cheerleader in a world that tears them down. Whenever we speak words of life, we grow closer, our relationship gets stronger and we're creating a happy home.

VIII. Response

- A. Summary/ Commitment: (1) Kids: honor and obey, (2) Parents: (a) Teach them about God and the Bible, (b) Discipline them when they make wrong choices. (c) Teach them to live with eternity in mind.
- B. Prayer: Kids or adults hurting or mad at your family. Forgive and change.
- C. Souls

IX. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Hoehner, H. W. (1985). Ephesians. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 641–642). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
2. O'Brien, P. T. (1999). The letter to the Ephesians (p. 441). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
3. Soanes, C., & Stevenson, A. (Eds.). (2004). Concise Oxford English dictionary (11th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Swanson, J. (1997). Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.
5. Webster, N. (2006). Noah Webster's first edition of An American dictionary of the English language. Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education.
6. <https://dobsonlibrary.com/resource/article/7b949057-0e2e-4426-94e8-3019092a3933>

X. Supplemental material

- A. If you want your child to get into college and get a scholarship, start preparing for the ACT test early, e.g., JH, B and R full or nearly full scholarships.
- B. The greatest gift parents can give their children, is for mom and dad to serve the Lord and stay together. [Malachi 2:15 Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? **Godly children** from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.]
- C. V, A: Proverbs 23:14 (NLT) Physical **discipline** may well save them from death.
- D. Help them explore and become who God created them to be and encourage them to pursue God's will for their life. [Psalm 139:16 (NIV) Your eyes saw my unformed body; **all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**]