

**CONNECTED Uniting People March 25, 2018**

**Matthew 12:25** ...“Any kingdom divided by civil war (divided against itself) is doomed. A town or family splintered (divided against itself) by feuding will fall apart.

*God's plan for every person includes family. Last week we talked about a man & a woman coming together in marriage (“When a man loves a woman...”). Building family relationships on God's Word is fun. Doing it the popular way, or the world's way will only bring disaster. Satan desires to destroy, divide & pervert the family team, God's creation.*

**Psalm 127:3** Children are a gift from the Lord; they're a reward from Him. 4 Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. 5 How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!...

*Children must be aimed, trained, molded, and instructed.*

**Deuteronomy 6:6 NKJV** “These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children & shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, & when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, & they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house & on your gates.

*God's given us responsibility for His kids- His creation. He holds us accountable for **how** His children are raised in our home. Children are God's idea, God's gift, & to be cared for as God's possession, not ours.*

**Proverbs 22:6** Direct (train up) your children onto the right path, & when they're older, they will not leave it.

*Children left to themselves will always self-destruct.*

**Proverbs 19:18** Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you'll ruin their lives.

**Proverbs 29:15** To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.

*We must give our children a sense of security, confidence & value!*

**Proverbs 23:13** Don't fail to discipline your children. The rod of

punishment won't kill them. 14 Physical discipline may well save them from death. (NKJV Don't withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him w/ a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him w/ a rod and deliver his soul from hell.)

*God commands us to direct their lives, not leave them to their own way.*

**Proverb 13:24** Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them(promptly)

**Ephesians 6:1** Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, this is the right thing to do. 2 "Honor your father & mother." This is the first commandment w/ a promise: 3 If you honor your father & mother, things will go well for you & you'll have a long life on the earth. 4 Dads don't provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Bring them up w/ the discipline & instruction that comes from the Lord.

*Dads, you have to lead your children & your home. You're responsible to God for the condition of your family. Men, first, you must be godly, then a godly husband, then you have a shot at being a godly father.*

Things for dads to do:

*\*Love God \*Love His Word \*Be a man of prayer \*Be obedient to God  
\*Be committed to the local church \*Show value to and love to your wife*

### **Keys to Connected, Intimate Parenting**

**Make Time** – quality time comes out of quantity time

**Think, Be Aware, & Pay Attention** – slow down, look around, be present; take time & think through issues

**Build Self-Esteem** – instill value, confidence & self-worth; focus on what they do right; aim them toward their strengths & gifts

**Give Choices** – teach them to make right choices; life is a series of choices – "The Funnel Method"

**Teach Responsibility** – Life's not easy; must take responsibility & suffer through the difficulties;

**Discipline** – Correct & discipline swiftly & strongly (not anger or guilt or negative emotions); don't teach them to slide & be lazy; discipline is part of a successful life

**Repent** – Don't try to be right all the time; when you are wrong, admit it and give them an example of true repentance.

**Love** – Covers a multitude of sin & mistakes; love never fails; if they know intentional, real love, they may succeed as we release them, in spite our own weaknesses.

*Parenting's not easy, it's a high calling. God's first kids made wrong choices, but they were restored. You & your kids can make it through the*

*challenges of this world & live blessed lives. Pop psychology & TV counseling won't get you there, but the Word of God will.*

**STRIFE is the greatest enemy of a "connected" family.**

**Matthew 18:19 MSG** ... When two of you get together on anything at all on earth & make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. & When two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

**2 Timothy 2:22** Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts; pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, & peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord w/ pure hearts. Again I say, don't get involved in *foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights*. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach & be patient w/ difficult people. 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, & they'll learn the truth. 26 Then they'll come to their senses & escape from the devil's trap. For they've been held captive by him (satan) to do whatever he (satan) wants.

*Strife & contention bring Satan's bondage.*

**Hebrews 12:14** Work at living in peace w/ everyone, & work at living a holy life, for those who aren't holy won't see the Lord. Look after each other so none of you fail to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

*Families must fight against strife, contention, bitterness; not each other*

**Proverbs 15:18** A hot-tempered person starts fights; a cool-tempered person stops them.

**Proverbs 17:14** Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before a dispute breaks out.

**Proverbs 19:13** A foolish child is a calamity to a father; a quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping.

**Proverbs 21:19** It's better to live alone in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining wife.

**Proverbs 26:21** A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.

**Proverbs 27:15** A quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping on a rainy day. 16 Stopping her complaints is like trying to stop

the wind or trying to hold something with greased hands.

**Proverbs 29:22** An angry person starts fights; a hot-tempered person commits all kinds of sin.

**Ephesians 6:10** A final word: Be strong in the Lord & in His mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you'll be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. We're not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies but against evil rulers & authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world & against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

*We wrestle w/ the spirit of strife & contention, not our family.*

**How to overcome family strife & division; and stay connected:**

**Desire peace more than your rights.**

**Romans 12:18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

**Seek for things YOU can change.**

**Romans 12:2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Answer softly, not sarcastically.**

**Proverbs 15:1** A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing, but the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.

**Shut your mouth first.**

**Proverbs 30:32** If you have been a fool by being proud or plotting evil, cover your mouth in shame.

**Don't allow anger to control you.**

**James 1:19** ...my dear brothers & sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

**Don't hide the truth or your feeling w/ lies.**

**Proverbs 27:5** An open rebuke is better than hidden love!

**Never walk away or leave until the problem is solved.**

**Ephesians 4:26** And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

