

**Title:** Raising Our Kids for the Lord

**Passage:** Ephesians 6:1-4

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Draft Summary:

I. Children are a supernatural gift from God

II. Children are born with a sinful nature

III. Parenting is the parent's responsibility

IV. Parenting can be done wrongly so make sure you're following God's instructions

Application:

- If you are a child, obey/honor your parents in the Lord
- If a parent, be the primary disciplers of your children.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
  - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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**Introduction**

Our family is under attack

- we are in spiritual warfare that is both global but also personal.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- people are not our enemies but rather our clear adversary is Satan and his work.
- In contrast, we are responsible to train and raise the next generation for God's glory.
  - Whether have own children or not, we are all called to raise them.
- Teach them big truths that they can grow into (vs. small truths they grow out of)

**Passage:**

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Overview**

- I. Children are a supernatural gift from God
- II. Children are born with a sinful nature
- III. Parenting is the parent's responsibility
- IV. Parenting can be done wrongly so make sure you're following God's instructions

### **I. Children are a supernatural gift from God**

- Culture: children are nuisances and can be abandoned based on adult's will.
  - Ex: India prohibits people to find the gender of the baby before birth (because otherwise girls were being aborted)
- Truth: Children are a supernatural gift from God.
  - Conception of a baby must have God's supernatural involvement.

### Psalms 139:13-16

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- God is the great creator and designer of life.
- "Inward parts" = not only physical but also the deepest thoughts and emotions.
- "Knitted me together" = intentional creation.

### Jeremiah 1:5a

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you

- Though unseen, God sees all.
- Consider the amazing journey from conception to birth through pregnancy.

### Psalms 127:3-4

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

- Culture = a barrier to advancement or self-fulfillment.
  - Truth = children are God's gift.
- Culture = don't have children because have nothing to offer

- Truth = God can grant you grace to parent well.
- Even in the worst of any circumstances, children are a supernatural gift from God.

## **II. Children are born with a sinful nature**

Ephesians 6:1-2a

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"

- Naturally, our inclination is to not do these things.

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Exodus 21:15, 17

"Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death..."Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Proverbs 1:8

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

Proverbs 2:1

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,

Proverbs 3:1

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

Proverbs 4:1

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,

and be attentive, that you may gain insight,

Proverbs 4:10

Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.

- it is crucial to teach our children that obedience to parents is foundational to everything in life.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

- Children need to be nurtured as they are deficient spiritually, socially, physically, and emotionally.
  - They need to continually be taught and disciplined to address those deficiencies.

*obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"*

- Children must learn obedience (duty) and honor (attitude)
- Children naturally have a dark and pokey heart, which needs the transforming work of God in them.

## **III. Parenting is the parent's primary responsibility**

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- Why did God give you children?

#### Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- We are to teach children about God and represent God well wherever they go in the world.
  - Children exist to be raised for Jesus.
- They are to learn how to submit to God's ultimate authority and to live for His glory.

#### Deuteronomy 6:7-9

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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Teach them:
  - Not to believe the lies of this world.
  - Do not be "true to yourself" because your self is sinful.

#### Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

- discipline is necessary to prevent children from following their heart, which is sinful and deceitful.

#### Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

#### James 3:2a

For we all stumble in many ways.

- Discipline is to never be done out of anger but out of love and truth.
- Temptations to not discipline:
  - Frustration
  - Laziness
  - Busyness

We cannot farm out or delegate to others the parenting responsibility over children.

- Fathers and parents are to take up God's intended design and calling.

Discipline is necessary

#### Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

#### Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

#### Proverbs 23:13-14

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the LORD'S discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:7-8

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

- When you do not discipline children, then not only children suffer but also affects others adversely.

#### **IV. Parenting can be done wrongly so make sure you're following God's instructions**

Ephesians 6:4a

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,

How may we provoke our children?

- Over-protect them
- Favoritism
- Pushing achievement beyond discretion
- Fail to sacrifice for them and make them feel like an intrusion
- Failing to allow them to grow
- Using bitter words
  - You have the most powerful vocabulary in the home. You can crush them and devastate their hearts. Be wise with your words.

#### **APPLICATION**

##### **If you are a child, obey your parents in the Lord**

- Honor them
  - Even as adults, still have relationship with them. Honor them; pray for them.

##### **If a parent, be the primary disciplers of your children.**

- Be aware that we are in warfare where anti-Christian agenda is being pushed hard and constant.
  - The world is no longer neutral.
- Do not merely give them a device or remote and be permissive.
- If children are in public school, parents must do double work.
  - Make sure teachers are not teaching anti-Biblical principles
  - Teach Biblical principles.
- You cannot escape the work - either work now or double the work later.
- As parents, you must be actively disciplining children.
- All teaching is done through a worldview. One must be strongly engaged with a Biblical worldview to counter the secular teaching heard today.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.