



Ephesians
Sermon 12
Ephesians 6:1-4

Sermon Study Guide Questions
November 24, 2019

Review:

Last week, we talked about how being a follower of Christ should influence every area of our lives. We looked at the marriage relationship, as we saw that the role of the wife is to submit and respect, while the role of the husband is to love and serve/lead his wife. Wives are not to be treated like “doormats”, nor are men to function like “Mr. Potato Head”.

Now we will continue with the family theme as we consider how following Christ should impact the parent/child relationship

Read Ephesians 6:1 – 4

- What qualities would characterize a home where children and parents applied Ephesians 5:22- 6:4 consistently?

- What four reasons are given to children to obey their parents? (6:1-3)

- We are told to “honor and value” our father and mother. Even if they are difficult to respect, we are still called to honor and value them.
 - Looking back, when was a time that you had difficulty respecting your parents? Why? (6:2)

 - Share a time when you were proud of your parents. Why did you respect them?

 - What was the promise given to you if you respected them? (6:3)

- What is the purpose of parental discipline and what should the parents avoid? (6:4, Colossians 3:21 & Hebrews 12:3-11).

- Why does Paul address the fathers first in handling the discipline?

- Why would Paul tell parents to not provoke their children to anger (do not exasperate/frustrate your children)?

Not provoking our children to anger very much involves a father and mother being **united** and being **consistent**. What happens when the children recognize that mom and dad are not together?

- What are parents to do in raising their kids? (6:4b)

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7

- What should the parents teach and what does it mean to find teachable moments with your child?

- How can you be intentional in the lives of your children?

Teaching Strategies for Our Children

Younger Children

When children are young, we will exercise much more authority in their lives. As they grow up and become more independent, it is really influence we should be pursuing.

Authority is something we impose on our children, but influence is something children allow us to have. If our children allow us to influence them, we can/will have that influence for a lifetime

Adult children

Only answer the questions they ask. When you stop volunteering your opinion, they will be more likely to ask for your opinion, giving you the opportunity to have influence in their lives. When it comes to advice, always do what is best for them, not for you. Parents whose relationship focus is their own needs don't serve their children very well.

Tips to raising young children in a way that allows us to have influence for a lifetime:

1. Read The Picture Bible, The Jesus Storybook Bible or something like that to your children before bedtime when they are young/in their formative years. They will never forget it.
2. Pray for each of your children regularly.
3. Establish church as a part of your children's lives early and remain consistent throughout their growing years.
4. Allow your children to see evidence of your relationship with Christ in the way you treat your spouse.
5. When it comes to spiritual things (praying, reading the Bible), never force your children to do something outwardly that needs to be motivated inwardly.

6. Admit when you are wrong and ask your children to forgive you as needed (even if you must do this quite often).
7. Let your spiritual life be a model for your children to see (much more will be caught than will be taught).
8. Make sure you spend time with each of your children. Discover the things they like and do those things with each of them.
9. Make it your goal to give your children your best and leave the results in the hands of God!
10. Forgive yourself for what's in the past, and starting now, give your children your best-it's never too late to start.

Notes:

CrossRoads of Arlington
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