

God's single, overarching spiritual
objective of the marriage and family unit
is the salvation of everyone involved

But to save them, He must first
transform them into new people

Two things are essential for true
marriage in the Lord –
total devotion of both to God, and
total devotion to each other

The outcome of a human marriage relationship is happiness

The outcome of a godly marriage relationship is not just happiness, it's salvation

If you want to be a good spouse, you must first be a good disciple

The real enemy of a godly & happy marriage is our human nature

The marriage relationship is the ideal place for the failings of our character to be exposed so they can be repudiated & forsaken

What better person to hold us accountable to make the necessary changes than the person who loves us the most & whom we love the most

God dearly wants to save our families

God did not create husbands to be
independent creatures...without Eve,
Adam was incomplete

Prov 19:14 – Husbands, we must never forget that our wife is God's gift to us

A couple should cherish their special relationship together above all other relationships; it is the foundation of the family unit

It's absolutely appropriate that the couple make a vow before God, to covenant themselves together

This relationship is so special & unique that they both promise to remain together

The *romantic* love needs to blossom and grow into the *salvation* love

Eph 5:25 – Husbands, God takes us to the cross and says, “there is the love we need to have for our wife”

Husbands:

It's only when God teaches us to love as Christ did, that He can save us.

God aligns our salvation with our responsibility to save our wife – the only way to save her is to learn to love as Christ loved.

God doesn't need *perfect* parents to raise His children, He just needs devoted parents, who are committed to living by His righteous ways

If I want to raise a Godly seed then I
must be living a Godly life

True/False Question #1: You must
have been raised in the Truth to be
“godly parents” (parents who are
raising a godly seed according to the
principles we are studying this week)

True/False: Question #2: You have to
be good disciples to be godly parents

Our children are growing up in a
spiritually confusing world that rejects
God's ways

They need to see 2 things clearly:

- 1) what God's Truth is; and
- 2) that Mum & Dad are sincerely &
genuinely committed to living that Truth

Psalm 127 – Our family is God's family
& our children are God's children

Conception is under God's control
and guidance

Our children are not the result of time
and chance

Mother's play a special role
in raising their children

Deut 6:6-9 – The ways of God should be our way of life

- 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
- 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
- 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
- 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

God hates sexual immorality of any kind
(fornication, adultery, homosexuality)
because they destroy the marriage
relationship and family unit

OUR HOUSE RULES

May, 1995

1. We will read the Bible every day.
2. We will always speak and act kindly to one another.
3. We will treat each other with respect at all times.
4. We will not provoke one another under any circumstances.
5. We will use no physical force against each other.
6. We will not use the property of another without first obtaining permission.
7. We will not be selfish but will share what we have with others.
8. We will complete all homework.
9. We will not lie to one another.
10. We will clean up after ourselves and our company.
11. Everyone will have a say in what we decide to do.
12. We will not quit.

OUR HOUSE RULES		Subsequent Additions:
1. We will read the Bible every day.	21. Don't fight over the phone	13) Do not walk away when others are talking to you
2. We will always speak and act kindly to one another.	17. Don't use the phone for a long time	14) We will not mumble, gripe or complain, WHINE
3. We will treat each other with respect at all times.	23. We will not stick tongues out at people	15: We'll have no discussions
4. We will not provoke one another under any circumstances.	20. Don't eat with your mouth open.	16: Put footrest in when you're done with the loveseat
5. We will use no physical force against each other.		17) Don't use the phone for a long time or fight over it
6. We will not use the property of another without first obtaining permission.	22. ★ Don't do anything bad.	18) Please come to the table when mom calls you
7. We will not be selfish but will share what we have with others.	16. Put foot rest in, when you're done with the loveseat	19) Don't eat with your mouth full; 20) don't eat with your mouth open
8. We will complete all homework.		22) Don't do anything bad
9. We will not lie to one another.		23) We will not stick our tongues out at people
10. We will clean up after ourselves and our company.		
11. Everyone will have a say in what we decide to do.		
12. We will not pcut.	15. We will have no discussions	
13. Do Not walk away when others		

Honour thy father and thy mother

If the children are permitted to disrespect or disregard their parents, it destroys the family unit & its objective to save them

The wisdom of the commandment

In the commandment, Gods says to the *children*: honour your parents; at the same time He says to the *parents*:

Live in a way that befits such honouring!

This commandment is directed to the parents as much as it is to the children

God's wisdom: who is saving whom?

Just as we don't invent our own principles regarding forgiveness, preaching, helping widows/poor or shepherding the ecclesia, neither should we invent our own way of parenting

We must (by faith) use God's principles
(or we fail to glorify Him)

If our child doesn't believe we truly love them when they are being disciplined to forsake wrong behaviour, then our discipline adds confusion to the situation, not clarity

We need to get the discipline piece right

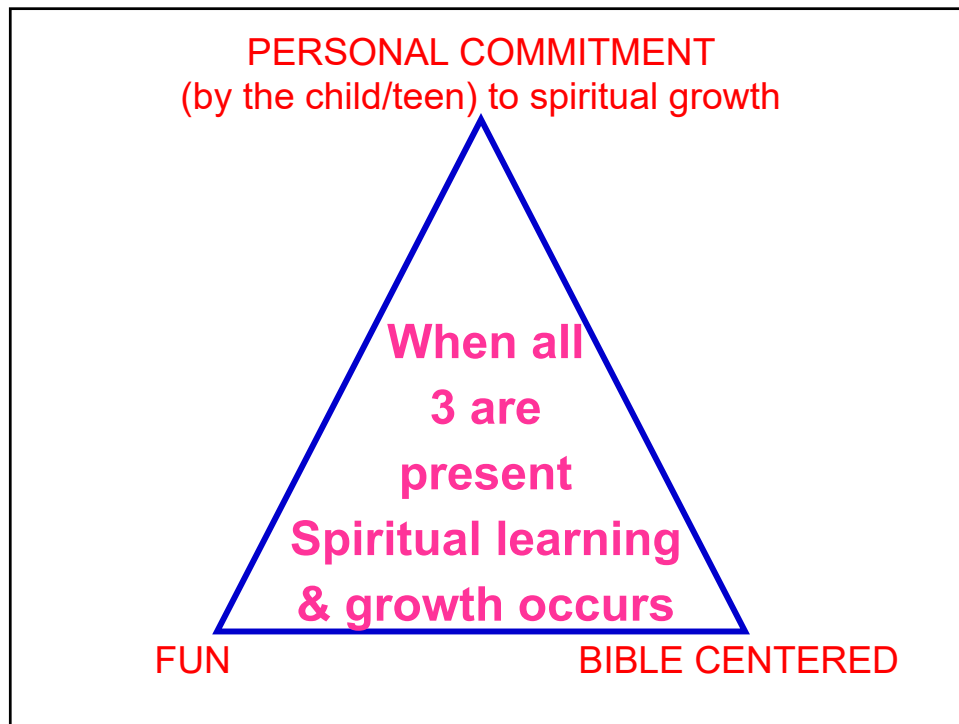
Eph 6:4

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. *Consistent with God's ways*

Col 3:21

21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Paul places responsibility for how the child responds to the discipline squarely on the shoulders of the father, not on the shoulders of the child



Abraham: a faithful parent, known to God

Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Gen 22:7-8 (20/30 yrs later) And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

*The events of ch22 validate God's declaration in ch18
Abraham had taught Isaac what it means to walk by faith*

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The multiple connections God records between Abraham offering his son & God offering His Son, are only meaningful if the lamb of Gen 22 is a willing & knowledgeable & cooperating lamb

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Jacob: helpful lessons for fathers

Gen 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day

- “Your great great grandfather, great grandfather and grandfather, have all walked faithfully before God
- Jacob is not recounting the heritage for sentimental reasons, but to identify the spiritual inheritance
- Fathers and grandfathers: we have a spiritual responsibility to remain faithful to the end, so that our final message can echo that of Jacob to his family: trust God – He will sustain you as He has sustained me

Gen 49:22-25 – Jacob had prepared Joseph for his trials in Egypt before Joseph was whisked away into slavery

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- *Gen 50:5-7 Jacob was still teaching his children even after his death –*
- *this is what faithful parents do –*
- *they never stop teaching their children*

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