

**Reel Parents...When
You're in the Director's
Chair****Core Competency
Humility**

Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy
6:7, 20-24; Proverbs 22:6,
Ephesians 4:29

Core Competencies**Core Beliefs**

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- **Humility**

Dear Friends,

What does it take to be a great parent? Love, discipline, discernment? Yes, and lots more. Our children are a precious and amazing gift—a trust that God has given us to love and nurture “in the fear and knowledge of the Lord.” There is certainly not a shortage of parenting books and guides available to us today, but how do we know which ones to read and whose philosophy to buy into? We need a reliable guide—clear and compelling truth to help us navigate our way as parents. The Bible offers so much of what we need, both by way of principle as well as plenty of positive and negative examples. We invite you to dive in and investigate the Scriptures with us this week as we explore this essential topic of Parenting...“When You’re in the Director’s Chair.”

Richard Gotthardt

Engaging Our Minds & Hearts**Day 1****Today's Passage: Ephesians 5:15 - 6:18**

This week we will look at some familiar passages in regard to instructions to parents. As we do this, it is imperative that we remember that our ultimate example of godly parenting comes from the ways in which God deals with us as His children.

Begin your time this week in prayer to your Heavenly Father. Praise Him for His attributes that are blessings in your life. Confess to Him those areas of sin in your life that block the power of the Holy Spirit from enabling you to be the godly follower that you long to be. Thank Him for His promises and His provisions. And ask for His direction and wisdom to be revealed to your mind, heart and life as you study His Word this week.

After you have spent time in the presence of Almighty God, go to His Word for revelation of His will for your life. Our core passage for today is **Ephesians 6:1-4**. In order to better understand these verses, we will read them within their immediate context. Begin reading in **Ephesians 5:15 and continue through 6:18**. If you have internet capabilities, you may go to www.biblegateway.com to access a variety of translations.

Within these passages there are general commands to all believers, as well as specific commands to specific groups. On a separate sheet of paper, make a listing of the commands specific to each group addressed as well as those that apply to all believers.

As you reflect on this list, do you realize that we must be seeking to live in obedience to the general commands as well as to those commands that are specific to the various roles we play within our families? How do the “general” commands, as well as the commands to the wives and husbands and even masters, give further definition to those specific commands to parents? By way of personal application, how might disobedience on your part to one of the “general or masters” commands, exasperate your child or limit your efforts or ability to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord?

Day 2

Today's Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4

Pray first!

In an effort to further understand the depth of meaning of Ephesians 6:4, we will look at the meanings of the key Greek words in this verse.

The New International Version translates this verse this way.

*"Fathers, do not **exasperate** your children; instead, **bring them up** in the **training** and **instruction** of the **Lord**."*

Read through the definitions below. After giving sufficient time for meditation and application, rewrite this verse as specifically as you are able for each of your children; or if you are not yet a parent, as you understand the vastness of the assignment conveyed in this one short verse.

Exasperate: to rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger at the point of, unto, implying movement toward a certain point, to anger, irritate. To provoke to anger, irritation or resentment.

Bring them up: to nourish up to maturity, to nourish. To nurture, bring up. To nourish, rear, feed. To nurture, rear, to bring up to maturity, such as, children. In the sense of to train or educate. Synonyms: to feed literally or figuratively; to shepherd or take general care of; to feed to satiety, fill, satisfy. Antonyms: to hunger.

Training: the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment). It also includes the training and care of the body. Whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. Instruction, which aims at increasing virtue.

Instruction mainly by deed, act and discipline and not for the purpose of punitive retribution, but correction, and educative discipline.

Instruction: admonition, exhortation. Admonition, warning, exhortation. Any word of encouragement or reproof which leads to correct behavior. Instruction mainly by word.

Nouthesia (translated "instruction" in NIV) is the milder term without which *paideía* (translated "training" in the NIV) would be incomplete. In both words there is the appeal to the conscience, will, and reasoning faculties.

In the Lord: He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord. The owner; one who has control of the person, the master.

Greek definitions taken from:

- ♦ Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible: Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G3949). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.
- ♦ Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.) (G3949). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

Day 3

Today's Passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:5-13

Pray first!

Today we will look at a passage in 1 Thessalonians that, although it does not refer specifically to the area of parenting, gives us some practical and applicable insights about parenting. In writing to the church at Thessalonica, the apostle Paul relates believers as his spiritual children. Read through these verses several times. Make a detailed list of the ways in which Paul connected with and behaved towards the Thessalonians as well as the responsibilities he took in the lives of these believers.

Take time to evaluate your own parenting in light of the example of Paul. Are there areas in which you are doing well? Thank God for His blessings to you and your family in these areas. Are there areas in which you are not doing so well? Pray and ask God to continue to give you wisdom, strength and endurance to represent Him well in the lives of your children.

Day 4

Today's Passages: Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 4:29-32, Ephesians 2:1-9, Romans 3

Pray first!

Today we will look at a number of passages to glean truths regarding various responsibilities that are ours as parents, including one of the best-known verses in Proverbs on child training. Traditionally, this verse has been interpreted as a promise to good parents that spiritual nurture ultimately would assure their children of godly lives. However, it is imperative that we remember the nature of a "proverb." A proverb is a literary device whereby a general truth is brought to bear on a specific situation. They are not absolute guarantees or promises of specific results.

Read **Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 4:29-32**. What responsibilities are clear for us as parents as well as children of God?

In an effort to clearly understand what does not fall under "parental responsibility," we will take a look at our other two passages for today. First read Ephesians 2:1-9. This passage describes the "natural" condition of each of us prior to salvation. List the characteristics that are true of each of us (as parents or children) from this scripture.

Verse four begins with the words “But God,” two incredibly encouraging words to me! How do these verses describe God’s intervention?

Now read Romans, chapter 3. In this passage Paul is asking a rhetorical question, which he proceeds to answer, as to the “advantage” of being a Jew in regards to salvation. Consider the parallel question as to the “advantage” of being raised in a Christian home by believing parents. What truths do you see from this passage that apply to your parental responsibility?

Day 5

Today’s Passage: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

Pray first!

Read through this chapter several times. Our responsibilities specifically to our children are mentioned in verse 7 and verses 20-25. Make a list of what parents were charged with doing from these verses.

Now go back over the rest of the chapter and make a list of our personal responsibilities that qualify us to teach our children of God’s Word and His ways. I think you will find this list much more comprehensive and challenging!

The **core competency or virtue of humility** is our focus this week. If you have made it this far in the study of God’s Word this week, you will have no problem seeing the correlation! Humility is a virtue that is far more likely when we come face to face with God’s character and standards, and realize our complete inability to measure up.

Parenting is a demanding and exhausting job. But one for which God has not left us without clear direction and a steadfast example to follow. And we know that whatever God asks of us, He provides all that is necessary to complete the task. Close your time today meditating on the following words from God.

James 1:5-6: If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Hebrews 5:12-16: For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Ephesians 6:1-4

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- ◆ The Greek word for obey is the word “listen” with a prefix on it. The idea of the word is to “listen with the intent to obey.”
- ◆ The writer had already exhorted the Ephesians to determine what is “pleasing to the Lord” in 5:10.
- ◆ Verse 1 offers the first two of three rationale reasons for children to obey their parents. First, they ought to obey because it is part of their Christian commitment “in the Lord.” Second, they obey because it is part of the moral fabric of a society and is the general right thing to do, “for this is right.”
- ◆ Verse 2 offers the third justification for children to obey. It is in their own best interest.
- ◆ “Honor your father and mother” is a quotation from the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
- ◆ This commandment is found elsewhere in the NT (Matt 15:4; 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20).
- ◆ In verse 4 the Greek word for “fathers” can be inclusive and mean both mother and father. However, in this case, the writer has switched from the more inclusive word for “parents” and it seems he is speaking directly to the fathers in their position as the head of the household. This is further substantiated by Jewish tradition and writings where it is specifically the father who is responsible for the training and education of the children.
- ◆ The writer is quite sure to remind the parents that they have a responsibility.

Deuteronomy 6:7; 20-24

⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- ◆ In order to understand Deut 6:7, one must read and understand the preceding three verses. Deut 6:4 is called the “Shema” and is one of the central texts of the Old Testament. Yahweh is trying to impress upon the nation of Israel how important it will be for them to continue to worship Him alone and keep His commands.
- ◆ This verse is written in such a way that makes it very easy to memorize. Note the parallelism between “Home and Road” and “Lie down and Get up.”

²⁰In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?” ²¹tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²²Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders—great and terrible—upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. ²³But He brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that He promised on oath to our forefathers. ²⁴The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

- ◆ Note that wherever the NIV uses the name, “LORD,” it is referring to the personal name of God YHWH (Yahweh). This was the personal name God first revealed to Moses in Exodus 3.
- ◆ Christensen comments on this section, “The people of Israel are instructed to use a child’s question to explain the reasons for obeying God, which reasons are found in the story of the exodus from bondage in Egypt. The continuity of the covenant depends on the transmission of the relationship to each new generation; hence the catechizing style. The actions and words of YHWH reveal His concern and purpose for His people. The relationship imposes the responsibility on God’s people to honor and obey Him, in order that they might continue to experience His presence in history and continue to hear His words.” (WBC, Vol 6a)

Proverbs 22:6

⁶Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

- ◆ The phrase, “the way he should go” is a good translation of an obscure Hebrew idiom which means literally, “according to the mouth of his way.”
- ◆ The point of this proverb is “the earlier the better.” This is a major theme in the book. Ideally, if you can train and learn early, you will have a better chance of success later.

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

- ◆ This verse is a great example of classic Greek rhetoric. Notice how in one sentence the writer tells the reader what is forbidden (unwholesome talk), what is to be embraced (helpful talk), and why this is so (to benefit those who listen).
- ◆ The word for benefit is the same word used for “grace.” One might translate this phrase, “that it might give grace to those who listen.”

What is helpful?
What could be better?
What is missing?
Is it helping you be more prepared for Sunday?

Send your feedback to
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