

Christian Parenting

Week One: God's Purpose for the Family

Opening Questions:

- How do you know what you know about parenting? What preparation did you have? Who are you imitating?
- To what end are you parenting? What's the goal?
- Do you think God has a purpose for your family? If so, what do you think it is?

Course Intro

1. Parenting is a Privilege and Delight

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Proverbs 29:17

When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. He names him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD had cursed." Genesis 5:28-29

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel. Psalm 128:1-6

2. Parenting can also be a Challenge

- a. Due to our own sin
 - i. Anger - 1 Samuel 20:30
 - ii. Passivity – 1 Samuel 3:13
 - iii. Provoking them – Colossians 3:21, Ephesians 6:4
 - iv. Selfishness – Hezekiah 39:5-8
- b. Due to their sin
 - i. 1 Samuel 2:22-24
- c. Through Pain, Trials, and Death
 - i. David's weeping of Abner (2 Samuel 3:31-34)
 - ii. Job's mourning at the news of his children (Job 1:20)
- d. Other attacks...(society, business, marriage, etc...)

3. Our Privilege and Responsibility as Parents

- a. Deuteronomy 6:1-2
- b. Psalm 78
- c. Genesis 18:16-19

4. A Couple of Parenting Examples Displayed in Scripture

- a. Isaac's response to his father prior to the sacrifice (Genesis 22)
- b. Job's action/response toward his children (Job 1)

The Significance of the Family

1. A Unique Relationship between Marriage, Parenting and Family

- a. Notice the biblical connection between marriage and children
- b. Notice the significance of family and redemptive history

2. The Family is Central to God's Revelation of Himself, His Plan of Salvation, and the Church

- a. The family presents a portrait of God Himself
 - i. Look Up Ephesians 3:14-15; John 5:17,19-20; John 14:11...
 - ii. God intends to project His image in part through parent-child relationships
 1. This keeps us from viewing children as **obstacles**
 2. It keeps us from viewing children as **idols**
 3. It keeps us from viewing children as **tools**
 4. It keeps us from **overlooking** children
- b. The family presents us a portrait of the gospel
 - i. We see God's fatherly compassion – Psalm 103:13
 - ii. Adoption gives us the personal relationship with God we so deeply need (Galatians 4:4-7)
 - iii. The Parent-child relationship are designed to teach us the precious reality of our relationship to God
 1. We can learn from God the Father what true fatherhood is like
 2. We can be reminded that God the Father insists on our obedience and respect
 3. We can also learn from God's patience with us
- c. The Family Presents a Portrait of the Church
 - i. The Family Presents a Portrait of the Church
 - ii. The "Family of God" – 1 Peter 4:17
 - iii. The "Household of God" – 1 Timothy 3:15

3. Final Proposition: The Healthier our Marriage, the Healthier our Parenting

- a. Ephesians 5:21-33 (godly marriage precepts)...Followed immediately by...
- b. Ephesians 6:1-4 (godly parenting precepts)
- c. Where there is brokenness...God's grace can still triumph (Romans 5:20, Psalm 68:5-6)