

## SERMON NOTES - Leaders and Authorities #3 - "Parents"

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message otherwise they will not be understood properly.

God is a father, a king and a master and we must learn to relate to Him. Let's look at parents and children today.

Parenting is a joy and enormous privilege. Don't take it lightly. God has given YOU a job and a ministry. Use it well and value it. Don't shrink back.

Ephesians 6:1-4 - "1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honour your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up (nourish/nurture) in the training and admonition of the Lord."

"Obey" is the main rule, and sign of success.

"Honour your parents" comes with a promise. Blessing flows from God through authority when that authority is honoured properly.

Fathers are mentioned as the head of the home but this applies to both parents.

Your children responding with "Wrath" or "discouragement" (see Col 3:21 below) is also a sign that something is wrong in the home. It's your job as the parent to fix it

3 things are mentioned:

- Bring up (Greek word = "nourish" or nurture) - involves love, safety, consistency and FUN!
- Training - teaching them what is right
- Admonition - discipline. "Discipline" is not the same as "Punishment". Consider each child as an individual.
- Other tips:
  - Consistency
  - Parents' relations in the home are important
  - Not frivolous or irrational instructions and rules
  - As kids grow they need different autonomy

Ephesians 5:23 — For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Colossians 3:21 - "21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

Genesis 2:24 - "24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

**0 - 3** - kids have no choice. Parents control them, but with love and fun. **Authority + Love + Fun**. Set parameters early. Don't repeat warnings. Discipline with confidence.

**4 - 7** - allow more autonomy, and be careful of their feelings. Kids obey.

**8 - 11** - Protect, Cherish and allow fun and adventure. By now discipline should have been in place. If not, discipline with extra love, explanation and fun.

**12 - 16** - increased autonomy. Give them freedom to choose AND to experience consequences of their choices.

**17 - 25** - set them free and require adult responses.

**26 onwards** - equals plus love, fun and guidance WHEN REQUESTED.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 — one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

Children's responsibility = "**honour**". Respect. Treat with deference. Speak well of and well to.

Mark 6:1-6 - "1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marvelled because of their unbelief. "

Psalms 133:1-3 - "1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--Life forevermore."

What if I've been hurt by them? Love, honour and forgive. Blessing flows.

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.

