

Father's Day—Raising the next Generation without Raising Blood Pressure!

Ephesians 6:1-4. Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

A story to begin with.. *The coach wanted to win games. Steve's dad wanted to build a son. The issue was character. Steve stuck with his strict dad. "It was one of the better decisions I have ever made.....contin"*

1. Right _____...

Australian journalist Tom Elliot says – "Australia is a soft and permissive society that too often finds excuses for bad behaviour" – "rules represent that often thin line between civilisation and anarchy. In the absence of respect fear takes over".

James Dobson has a book out entitled Parenting Isn't for Cowards. It is wonderfully rewarding but also tough being a parent. Where do we go for help in the parenting task?

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *"Listen, O Israel! (and all the people of the world) The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*



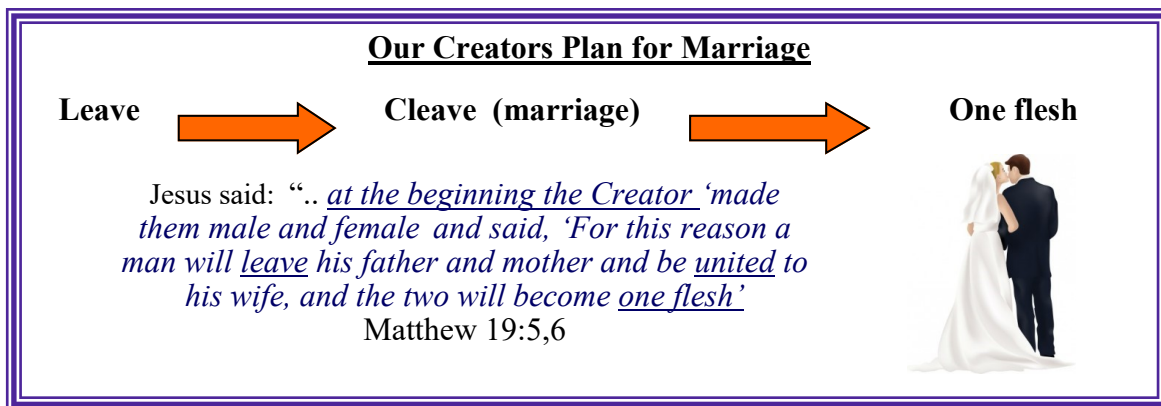
2. Three Principles of Moral _____ Deut. 6:4-7

1. There is only one God to please—Yahweh (Deuteronomy 6:4), who has revealed Himself through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ .. John 14:6..
 2. The starting point with moral training is the parents. Moses said, "you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands" vs 6.. Bible values need to be taught and "caught" ie by example too.
 3. Moral training is to take place during the _____ activities of the day vs 7.. In the car, bed time Bible stories for children, around the meal table.. family devotions... It is important that dad & mum lead together. Parents are primarily responsible.
- Additional helps such as "The Parenting Course" & "GKGW" can be used. And of course the Church family is a wonderful support—with Sunday School, Youth groups and inter-generational interaction church services—mentoring etc.

3. The first _____

Genesis 2:18. *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. "helper" - (someone made in the "image of God" - one who completes and complements. The goal in marriage is not just "friendship" but "oneness". (the two become one).*

- Genesis 2:21-24... “woman” created... *But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man.* A thought: - the woman was made neither from Adam’s head (suggesting superiority to him) nor from his feet (suggesting inferiority) but from his rib/side. Indicating equality and companionship
- The man and woman separate themselves from their parents, marry and a new social unit emerges—a family unit. Husband and wife form the nucleus of the family relationship. Children do not _____ the family... They expand it...
- **Beware Child _____ Parenting!** This is where parents focus too much on the children at the expense of the marriage... This can get close to idolatry. (see “Growing Kid’s God’s Way” P. 48...) and produce “me-centredness” - narcissism



- A dad asked a counsellor: How can I love my children? The Reply: Love their mother

4. We must _____ our children

- Hebrews 12:6 *The Lord disciplines those whom He loves.* It is a sign of God's love when you're disciplined. The Bible says if I do not discipline my kids then:
- It shows that I really don't love my kids. Proverbs 13:24 *"If you refuse to discipline your son it proves you don't love him."*

What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

- The purpose of punishment is to inflict penalty. -- I want to penalize you for what you've done wrong -- looking backwards. The purpose of discipline is to promote growth. I want to correct you, train you, equip you— disciple you— eg good manners— demonstrates respect toward one another...

5. Three pointers on how to discipline



Read James Dobson's book : The New Dare to Discipline.

- Do it _____. Not to relieve frustration. Don't discipline in anger...(that can lead to abuse) Proverbs 29:11 *A fool gives full vent to his anger*. It is foolish to discipline your kids in anger. Ephesians 6:4 *Don't keep scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Use loving discipline*. Do you like to be nagged? Don't confuse training with nagging. Give clear explanation of boundaries of behavior. Set in place appropriate consequences if disobedience occurs (GCGW & "Parenting Course" Alpha)
- Discipline _____. Don't delay it. Don't use, "Wait until your father gets home!" because there are a number of things that a kid will do in his mind rationalizing during that time. After effective discipline you can embrace lovingly.
- Discipline _____. Colossians 3:21 (Living Bible) *"Fathers, don't scold your children so much that they become discouraged and quit trying."* "When mothers and fathers fail to take charge in moments of challenge, they create for themselves - a potential lifetime of heartache"..Dr James Dobson. "First time obedience" GKGW.

One more point helping us raise children without raising blood pressure..

6. Resolve Conflict _____



How we normally _____ to conflict

Usually one of five ways: (Rick Warren)

- _____ Way..... *"My way is the only way"... "I assert my way until you give in"... It is always about me*
- _____ Way.... *I back away from conflict. I ignore the problem. Nothing is resolved.*
- _____ Way.....*I give in, roll over and play dead. I'm a doormat and I always give into your wishes. It's a peaceful way to live—but frustrating and unfulfilling*
- _____ Way..... *You compromise. I give in a little You give in a little. That's better than the first three*

- _____ Way. We work out our goals together. I not only care about solving the problem but I care about the relationship/you. “*Blessed are the peacemakers*” Matthew 5:9

Some steps to help resolve conflict...

a. Become a follower of _____

- It is difficult to have a peace with other people until we gain peace with God... Commit your life to Jesus Christ... confess my sin and ask for forgiveness - repent— turn away from sin and trying to run life my way and turn to Jesus. Acts 3:19
- Coming to know Jesus gives us the desire to make things right and the power to make things right.... *All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:* 2 Corinthians 5:18... Pray for self.. Pray for the other

b. _____ the problem..

- Ask yourself “How much of this is my fault?” (the 90/10 principle). Before I start accusing and blaming and attacking check out myself.. Am I the problem? Am I the cause of it? Is there a blind spot in my life? Am I listening? Am I manipulating?
- *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, Matthew 7:3,5*
- There is no such thing as a “one person problem” in a family. If there’s a problem it is our problem. 1 John 1:8... *If we say we have not sinned we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.* Be honest. We all make mistakes and do dumb things.

c. Schedule a _____ conference

- Conflict is seldom resolved accidentally. It is done intentionally. Face the issues, plan to get together. Remember—it is not about my rights but my responsibilities.
- Jesus said... *if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.* Matthew 5:23,24..
- Jesus is saying—don’t ignore conflict. Try and resolve it. We can’t worship/ live together effectively with unresolved conflict. The Lord loves a “broken and contrite heart”. Ps. 51
- Move attention away from self to the other person. If we did Philippians 2:4-5 we would have few conflicts in the home... *Each of you should look out not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ ..*
- Be willing to forgive... forgiveness sets us free... *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Ephesians 4:32.



“The Family that Prays Together Stays Together” - importance of family devotions