

Marriage and Family: Children **October 21, 2007 - Skip MacMillan**

Opener

Big Picture: Devotion to God, marriage, children.

Colossians 3:12-17 (God and You) followed by 3:18-21 (God, you and your spouse and children).

Healthy marriages create a stable, secure, strong, and healthy environment for children to be raised.

Do not place your children ahead of your marriage.

No formulas, but principles in Scripture; each child is different and yet the principles apply to all.

No one has it completely together.

Feel incapable, wonder about personality mixes, crazy kid stuff.

Range of emotions: most meaningful to complete mental breakdown (no sleep, crying, isolated, etc.).

God has chosen you for the task; not sure whether this is helpful or discouraging?

Worse case: watch a daytime TV show.

Single parents are to be applauded.

Children Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Gift from God – Psalms 127:3

God's blessing to you and are highly regarded by God.

Priority but not running the show; they follow, you lead.

Discipling / Train - Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Ephesians, Colossians: big emphasis on **training**.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1. LOVE. (You) "love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (6:6).

2. IMPRESS. "Impress them on your children" (teach them, repeat them); them (Scriptures). Proverbs 22:6 - "**Train** a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Ephesians 6:4 - "Bring them up in the **training and instruction** of the Lord."

Called to Teach –you are responsible. Take time to teach, focused attention, purposefully pouring Scripture into them, discovering together: Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Ephesians 6.

Pointing them to God and preparing them for life

Why? "The LORD is your life" (Deuteronomy 30:20).

3. TALK. "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Scriptures are to be woven throughout your life and your world, guiding your life (Proverbs 6:21-22).

4. PRAY. Pray with and for them. Job 1:1-5.

Interceding for your children, sin and forgiveness; praying for character, humility, compassion, intelligence, wisdom, faith, love and courage.

Not guilt but obedience out of love.
Teach them to obey out of love, not guilt or having to.
Obey out of being loved by God, dad and mom; obey out of a love for dad and mom.
Obedience for the sake of obedience is no long term plan at all.
The Gospel applied to raising children:
Colossians 3:21 - "Fathers, do not embitter our children, or they will become discouraged."

God's overarching concern for the next generation: Deut. 6:20.

Environment / Ethos (Practical Advice)

What kind of environment marks your home? Is it the one you want?

Acceptance, humility, love, sacrifice, strength, courage, intelligence, integrity, character, deep relationships.

Living example, integrity and honesty – character qualities

Show no prejudice, partiality.

Care about your neighbor; pray for them, speak well of them, help in the community.

Ask for forgiveness, show humility; "I am not perfect but Jesus is, that is why we follow Him".

Live in a way that makes honoring you easy; Proverbs 31:28.

Words – Ephesians 3:29; not critical or demeaning, but hope-filled and encouraging.

Respect – Dad/mom respect each other, demand respect for each other from the children.

Don't disagree in front of the children; don't pit your child against your spouse.

Love – affection, time, attention, touch; say I love you, make them look in the eyes, ask if they are hearing what you are saying.

B-day prayer for Zeke.

Discipline – Proverbs 13:24, context Proverbs 13:22.

Abuses of your past and a right use; Florida neighbor.

MacMillan Clan - Lying, disrespecting an adult, deliberate disobedience.

First time obedience, establish set parameters (use the 10 Commandments), communicated.

If broken, explain what they did then discipline and then reconnect, love them, don't allow the emotional distance to linger.

Why Discipline? Out of love and care for them as a developing person and their future.

Teaching how to treat other people, how to do a great job.

Simplicity – fight to keep life simple (Jesus, family and school – everything else is on the peripheral).

Time together: \$5.50 - Breakfast once a week.

Fun, laugh, play and explore – Game night, Camping, i.e. Map with pins in it and yellow highlighter.

Exposing them to life – Guatemala, Sponsoring a child, how you treat the homeless, poor, diff. people.

Celebrate – Jezzar getting all his words right, danced, high five, desert, game cube,

The Big Point – what builds a great long term relationship between you and your child?

A Vision for your family Joshua 23:14-15

1. Fathers

Ephesians 6:4 - "Fathers, do not **exasperate** your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Colossians 3:21 - "Fathers, do not **embitter** our children, or they will become discouraged."

Lead your family, be the pack leader.

Culture has attempted to neuter you but you must fight against the push and compulsion to capitulate your role. Your children need you and want you in their lives! Wives support and encourage your husbands in this.

Set the tone in the house by leading in love, humility, repentance, forgiveness, vision, hope and Christ.

You play a critical role in the these children's lives

Dad's and Daughters - Giving her away in marriage; Be There!

Mothers: Proverbs 31:24-31.

2. Tribe, "Household", "Clan", or "Team"; see yourself as a group, this will seal you together, I's become "We".

3. Cut against Culture, our clan is identified by their love for God, people; make this world a better place.

Get a Vision for your family. Teach them about the LORD, establish a great environment and lead.

What marks your clan/tribe?

This world needs genuine followers of Christ, people who are looking to serve/love God and humanity.

Teach them that this life is more than getting more for me and mine.

Train them to give their lives away for the glory of God.

How God designed the Family: Proverbs 17:6.

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."