



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY

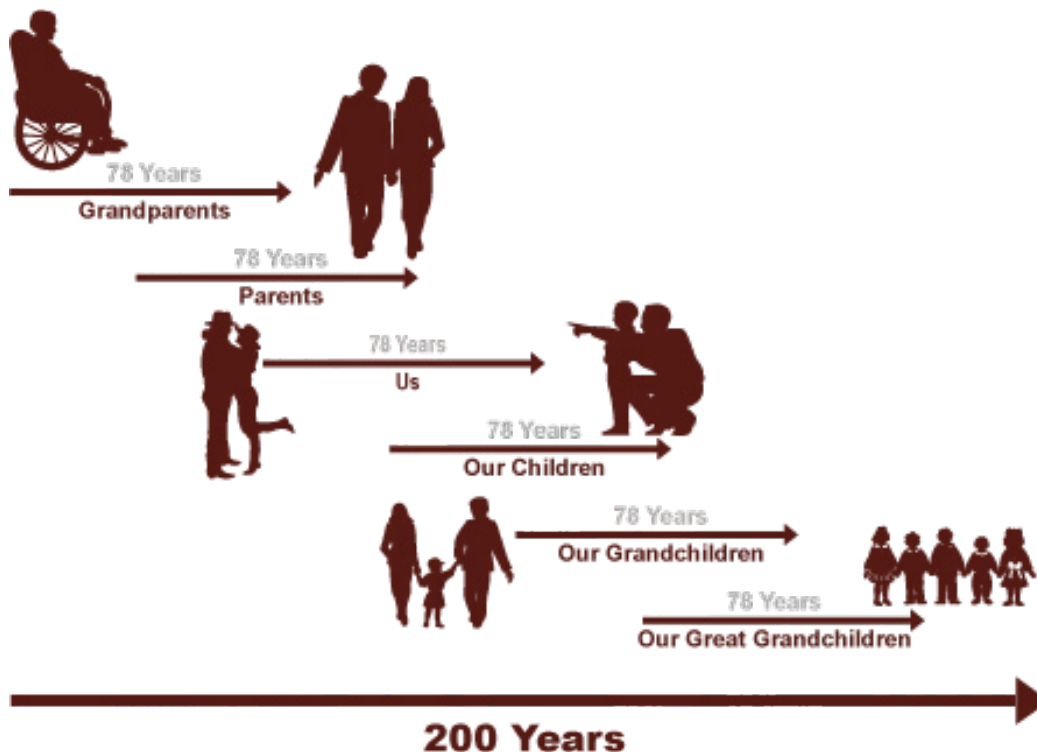


## HAVING A MULTI-GENERATIONAL VISION FOR YOUR FAMILY

Psalm 128:1-6-*“Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children’s children! Peace be upon Israel!”*

Proverbs 29:18-*“Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”*

### Generational Impact on Our Families Reaches Over 200 Years



## **The Problem of Fatherhood in our Culture:**

*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”*

-Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist

*“The fatherless family in the United States in the late twentieth century is a social invention of the most daring and untested design. It represents a radical departure from virtually all human history and experience. In the past 200 years fathers have gradually moved from the center to the periphery of family life.”*

—Fatherless America by David Blankenhorn

*“And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10).*

In Deuteronomy 6:3, Moses makes it clear that the commandments are important “that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you.” Blessing and cursing will follow in family lines. *“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them” (Deuteronomy 7:9).*

## **I. GOD WORKS THROUGH FATHERS TO IMPLEMENT THE GENERATIONAL VISION**

1. The Bible reveals the central role entrusted to fathers to play the premier function in training the next generation.
2. Faithfulness through Genealogical Lines
  - The Old Testament carefully traces the story of faithfulness to God through genealogical lines. Matthew tells us that there are 14 generations from Adam to Abraham, 14 generations from Abraham to David and 14 generations from David to Christ.
3. The prominent role of fathers in the Old Testament
  - With the opening pages of the Bible we are shown a trans-generational view of life. The first eleven chapters of Genesis, revolve around two fathers and their sons: Adam and Noah. From chapter 12 forward the focus is on four patriarchs and their sons: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

## **II. BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR GENERATIONAL VISION (DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25)**

### **1. God Teaches Us Through His Law.**

- v.1- *“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it.”*

2. **We and future generations would fear God, keep His commands, and live long.**
  - v.2- *“that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.”*
3. **Successive generations would maintain obedience to God’s Laws and be blessed.**
  - v.2, 3- *“Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.”*
4. **We and future generations would love the Lord with all our hearts.**
  - v.4, 5- *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*
5. **God’s Word would be in our hearts.**
  - v.6- *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”*
6. **Fathers would diligently teach their children.**
  - v.7- *“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*
7. **We would have a close relationship with our children, imparting to them God’s law.**
  - v.7- *“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”*
8. **God’s Word would be at the center of all our daily activity.**
  - v.8,9- *“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*
9. **God’s grace, blessing, and provision would be on our lives.**
  - v.10,11- *“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full.”*
10. **We are not to follow after false gods**
  - v.12-16- *“then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God- lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth. You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.”*

**11. We are to remove the enemies of God from our lives.**

- v.17-19 - *“You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.”*

**12. We are to share with our children the mighty works of God in history.**

- v.20-25 - *“When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.”*

**III. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A GENERATIONAL VISION?**

**1. It is God’s design for the family. It is his perspective.** (Deuteronomy 6,7)

**2. God makes covenants with generations.** (Adam, Noah, Abraham, etc.)

**3. God desires godly seed; it is part of his plan for evangelism.**

- *“Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth” (Malachi 2:14, 15).*

**4. God cleanses the bloodline of His people.**

- *“And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now” (Numbers 14:17-19).*

## **5. We are to be sent out as shining lights in this world.**

- *“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain” (Philippians 2:13-16).*

## **IV. CONSIDERATIONS FOR A GENERATIONAL VISION**

### **1. God turns the heart of fathers to their children.**

*“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction” (Malachi 4).*

### **2. We need to redeem the time we have in this life and use it to build into further generations.**

*“For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!” (Psalm 90:9-17).*

### **3. Fathers must be men of conviction and live their lives according to God’s core values in all their relationships.**

- God
- Wife
- Children
- Fellowship with Others
- Ministry/Work
- Training Other

## **PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you have a generational vision for your family?
2. Have you found yourself embracing the Biblical foundations for having a generational vision for your family?
3. Has the impact of the gospel in your life turned your heart toward your children?
4. Have you had a half time evaluation in your life? Are you winning or losing?
5. How does God want to use your temporal blessings of good health, time, and money to build the Kingdom of God?
6. What core, biblical values do you live your life by?

