



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



## **IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS - PART 1**

### **HOW WOULD YOU MOTIVATE A CHILD TO LOVE THE LORD AND SHOW THE FRUIT OF IT IN THE HOME?**

- Develop a heart-focused, grace-based discipleship lifestyle with your children.
- Enjoy being with your children as individuals.
- Love your children unconditionally.
- Meet your children's spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.
- Teach them their need for God's law in their lives.
- Encourage them by giving them hope.
- Affirm the ways God has gifted your children.
- Use books of great men and women to motivate your children.

#### **How do you address sibling rivalry?**

- Understand the human need for justice.
- Balance emphasis on law/justice with an emphasis on grace/mercy.

### **HOW DO I HELP MY CHILDREN MAKE GOOD MORAL DECISIONS WITHOUT BECOMING LEGALISTIC?**

- Romans 10:1-4 - *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."*
- Galatians 5

## **HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE OUR CHILDREN TO STAND ALONE WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING WRONG, WITHOUT LOSING OUR CHILDREN'S HEARTS?**

- Know the people that are influencing your children so that you can more effectively and directly encourage your children to stand alone.
- Teach children the big concept of honoring parents and the Lord. This responsibility to honor will give children courage to take the stands they need to take.
- Maintain a balance between law and relationship with your children.
- Avoid performance-based acceptance of your children, that insists that your love for them depends upon their performance. Love them unconditionally.

## **WHAT IS NEEDED TO RAISE UP GODLY YOUNG MEN?**

The children of this generation are wasting their youth. It is essential for fathers to teach their children not to waste their youth.

*The following material is adapted from Pastor Scott Brown's series on "Lessons for Manhood From the Battle of Iwo Jima"*

Father's need to prepare their children for future battles:

- Battles with sin
- Battles with culture
- Battles in marriage
- Battles in the church

Every father should teach their children about the division of labor.

### **Friendship**

- Teach your son that friendships are a gift from God.
- Teach your son how to choose good friends.
- Teach your son how to be a faithful friend.

### **Sexual Purity**

- Because lust grows when it is fed, starve it.
- Clarify the results of failure: sin is death.
- The father must explain the dramatic actions that are needed to resist temptation.
- The father must explain how to manage in a holy way the eyes and ears.
- The father must explain that virtual immorality is a sin.

### **Suffering**

- Rejoice in suffering.
- Suffering is the only path to success.
- We must understand God's sovereignty.

## **Do Not Waste Your Youth**

1. A father must have a biblical understanding of time and must communicate this to his son. "Teach us to number our days."
2. A father must communicate the nature of the battles they will face in the days ahead.
  - Conflicts with secular philosophy.
  - Conflicts with religious authorities gone bad.
  - Conflicts in marriage and family.
  - Conflicts at work.
3. A father must give his son meaningful work to do and must work along side him.
  - The work must stretch him and increase the capacity of his spirit.
  - One must be careful to have their sons trained by someone else.
4. A father must illustrate from scripture how a son must use his time wisely.
  - Josiah was a boy king that ushered in a rival by bringing back scripture.
  - Josiah was both a hearer of the word and a doer as well.
  - A father must help his children avoid common pitfalls in today's society like video games, television and movies.

### **Key Questions**

- Who were some of the "useful sons" of the Bible?
- What are some of the battles that your son might face?
- Are there any ways that your son is wasting his youth?
- Is there anything you are doing as a father that contributes to your son wasting his youth?

## **How Fathers Prepare Their Sons for Effective Work**

The Doctrine of the Division of Labor

- Teach your son to avoid envying other men.
- Train a happy and harmonious worker.
- Train your son to rejoice in the differences in abilities and gifts.
- Explain to your son that personal obedience is often required for the good of the whole.
- Demonstrate the importance of obtaining a wide base of counsel.

## **The importance of engaging in massive deployments**

- Extol the glory of great accomplishments to your sons.
- Exercise their fear of great effort. Teach them to avoid the fear of failure.
- Exhort your sons to embrace suffering for Christ's sake.
- Teach your sons that the battle belongs to the Lord.

## **Lead Courageously and Build Long and Loyal Friendships**

Requirements for men in leadership

1. A good leader has strong self-government.
  - Meditations of his heart
  - Things he reads
  - The people he is with
2. A good leader exercises leadership over his family.
3. A good leader must have perseverance.
4. A good leader must be decisive.

### **Key Questions**

- Can you articulate your vision for leadership to your son?
- Does your vision have a particular objective?
- Are your goals specific enough so that you will know when you have achieved them?
- What area of evil is around you that calls for the dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ?

### **Nine guideposts for the building of friendships**

1. Teach your son that friendship is a gift of God.
2. Help your son understand that friendships are valuable because they test their love and loyalty.
3. Help your son see that if he wants friends, he must be friendly.
4. Show your son how important it is to choose friends carefully.
5. Show your son how to form long and loyal friendships.
6. Warn your son against becoming like Job's friends.
7. Help your son become a low maintenance friend.
8. Give your son the Scriptures to help him avoid being a surety for his friend's debts.
9. Explain to your son that the most important personality to teach us about friendship is the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the perfect friend who sticks closer than a brother.

### **Choose the Right Weapons for the Battle Against Impurity**

- Why is the choice of weapons so important?
- List the elements of the armor of God in Ephesians 6.
- What is the choice weapon of warfare for a Christian?
- What does Proverbs 21:31 say about spiritual weapons?

Helping your son deal with temptation is one of the most important things a father can do.

### **How can a father help his son be victorious over sexual sins?**

1. Communicate the most important principle of mortifying lust. Because lust grows when it is fed, starve it.
2. A father needs to clarify the results of failure: Immorality leads to death.
3. A father needs to help his son in the holy management of his ears and eyes.
4. A father should also help his son understand how the law of love relates to morality. Sexual immorality is not an expression of loving your neighbor.
5. The son must understand that virtual adultery is just as much a sin as actual adultery.
6. The son must understand the blessings that come to one who is sexually pure.

### **I THINK I HAVE LOST MY CHILD'S HEART. WHAT CAN I DO TO GET IT BACK?**

Ephesians 4:31,32-*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

We have all blown it with our children. The issue is how much? What do you think you are going to be remembered for?

Go back and undo damage.

- Younger children-ask for forgiveness immediately
- Older children-address their wounds.
  - o What was it like to be my daughter?
  - o What has been my message to you over the years?
  - o Did you feel delighted in?
  - o How have I hurt you?

If you are blessed they will share with you. Do not defend yourself. You will take it. Do not explain or defend. Those were busy years, etc... You are dismissing what they said to you. Their heart will shut off towards you. They never felt acceptance.

If they say you put on these conditions. Your response—How did that make you feel? You want to take the full weight of it. Only after they have given you the weight-You are right, I did, I was wrong. You ask for forgiveness.

There may be a series of wounds to review. Demonstrate your repentance. Over time you go after their heart.

I don't know what I did to hurt you, but I ask you to forgive me. It is cowardice to not address your children's wounds.

- You ask.
- You listen.
- You own it.
- You carry the full weight of it.
- You demonstrate your repentance by pursuing them now.
- Love covers a multitude of sins.
- Emotionally – Relationally
- Pray-Isaiah 61
- Pray-Warfare

### **HOW DO YOU BREAK UNHEALTHY SOUL TIES?**

- Be careful with who you become close friends with to begin with. What brings you together? Having good friendships makes people less susceptible to the wrong kind.
- Understand level of friendships
  - Acquaintance
  - Casual
  - Close
  - Intimate
- Sometimes a clean break in the relationship is necessary, if the people involved cannot reverse the level of the friendship.
- Let go of the expectations of the relationship.
- Pray to break the soul tie. Acknowledge to God how it became unhealthy.

### **HOW DO PARENTS RELEASE OLDER CHILDREN AND HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP?**

- Teach children to govern themselves. With maturity comes responsibility.
- Realize that your children are God's children first.
- Teach your children to hear from God for themselves.
- Teach your children how to stand alone.
- Understand the difference between releasing sons and releasing daughters. Daughters should be under their fathers until marriage. Sons, however, need to be released into responsibilities prior to marriage so that they prepare for marriage.
- Teach children what is good for them and what is not good for them.

