



1.) God has established marriage to image forth the _____.

a.) Marriages image forth the Gospel by honoring the biblical roles of husbands and wives (v. 5:22-32).

- A Gospel-exemplifying marriage is God's nest for child-raising.
- Long before our children can understand or embrace the Gospel, they should see it proclaimed daily in their parents' relationship.

b.) Marriages portray the Gospel by raising godly followers of Christ.

- When Christ and the church are united, good fruit is produced in the form of good deeds for God's glory (Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:24).
- In the same way, when husband and wife are united, good fruit is meant to be produced in the form of godly followers of Christ.

2.) _____ is a paramount purpose of parenting (v. 1).

- Children: Disobeying your parents is a sin against God, who commands you to obey them (Col. 3:20, Proverbs 15:5, 15:32).
- Failure to discipline our children is failure to love them (Pro. 13:24).
- **Disobedience is a doorway to _____** (Pro. 23:13-14, 19:18).
 - If a child cannot obey his parents—whom he can physically see and audibly hear—how will he ever learn to obey God?
 - Of all the personal qualities we should desire for our children, obedience might just be the most important.

3.) Instilling obedience in children is critical to the _____ (v. 2-3).

- v. 2-3 – This promise does not apply at the individual level.
- It is a steadfast promise for God's people as a whole (Deut. 5:16).
 - Obedient children are vital to the long-term success of a church.
 - Any congregation with disobedient children will eventually falter.

4.) _____ have the primary responsibility in parenting (v. 4).

- v. 1 – Both parents are responsible for instruction and discipline.
- However, fathers are specifically addressed here, because the headship of the husband applies to the whole family.
- According to Scripture, one chief measure of a man's godliness is how well his children obey him (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

5.) Routinely _____ children signify unbiblical parenting (v. 4a).

- v. 4 – “Do not exasperate your children...” (“Do not provoke to anger.”)
- Unbiblical parenting provokes children to anger.
 - Discipline without love creates the anger of resentment.
 - Overlooking disobedience creates the anger of rebellion.
 - Parents with angry children should examine our parenting before we examine our children.

6.) The _____ is absolutely central to biblical parenting (v. 4b).

- v. 4 – “...bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord...”
- Our children belong to God, and their response to Him matters most.
 - Thus, what our children need most is God's instruction, not man's.
 - Whatever educational choices we make, God's priority for our children must be our priority for them: Scripture! (Deut. 6:4-9)
- Are we making every effort to root our children in God's Word?
- **The “training and instruction of the Lord” has its focus on the _____ (1 Corinthians 2:2).**
 - The Gospel reveals an obedience so precise that only the perfectly obedient Son could pay our debt.
 - The Gospel reveals a love so sincere and so selfless that God gave His only Son to die so that we might live.

Application

1.) Be intentional about imaging the Gospel in marriage.

2.) Be uncompromising about obedience and over-the-top with affection.

- This attitude toward our children is a picture of God's heart toward us revealed in the Gospel.
 - God is uncompromising about obedience (Lev.19:2, 2 Thes. 1:8-9).
 - God is over the top with affection toward us (Rom. 5:8, 1 John 3:1).
- Obedience means, “all the way, right away, with a happy heart.”

- If our children are not obeying us, then we are probably not obeying God.
- Hugs, kisses, smiles, and “I love you” ought to be the habit of our homes.
- Our homes should teach obedience in an atmosphere of God’s lavish love.

3.) Make _____ a central part of family life.

- Establish a daily time of family devotions from God’s Word.
- Discuss God’s Word and apply it to everyday situations.
- Always point to God and His Word when disciplining your children.

4.) Bring everything in parenting back to the _____.

- Discipline is a blessed opportunity to share the Good News of Christ.
- Every family’s number one goal for our children must be their salvation.
- If this is our chief goal, then the Gospel must be our chief message.
- Read, pray, discuss, and memorize the Gospel together.