



All in for Families

Psalm 78:1-8

I stand here today because the children and young people of FBC, Carmi, America and this planet need you. They need godly adults who will point them to Christ!

I want to turn your attention to the church covenant this morning and our sixth core commitment and our third point. As members of FBC we commit ourselves to family by affirming that the chief goal of parenting is to raise godly followers of Jesus Christ.

We have no higher goal as parents then to love our children enough to present Christ to them!

Our goal is too low if we desire for our children to have a well paying job, nice car, nice house, spouse—children, happiness, comfort or a pain free life.

GODS CALL

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to

be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

- **Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
- God's call comes with His power to equip and empower us to fulfill it.
 - Matt 28:18-20, disciples go in Jesus' authority and he promises to be with them
 - Phil 1:3-6 talks about how God will bring to completion the good work he began in believers
 - As parents God has not give us a hopeless goal or task
 - God has given us the Holy Spirit, Scripture and the church as means to help us fulfill his calling
 - God working through these means in our life can give us the strength, wisdom, patience and grace to point our children to Jesus Christ.
 - There is hope this morning for the parents who are wearied and worried this morning.
 - If you are a believer then you have the power of God through the Holy Spirit at work within you. In Christ we can thrive as parents and not just survive.
 - I pray we will be encouraged and challenged by God's instruction this morning. A few quick caveats before we look at God's instruction this morning.
- God's call does not mean that we can **make** our children become followers of Jesus Christ

- We must be faithful to point, present, and model Christ to our students. But it is God who convicts and transforms hearts.
- Our effort and energy, our threats and manipulation, our guilt and shame will never transform the heart of a child.
- God uses us to present the message, model the message and bear witness to the power of Christ in our life, but God alone changes the heart and brings a sinner to Christ.
- Faithfulness to God's call does not **always** equal children who are godly followers of Jesus Christ
- *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*
- Each parent is accountable to God for our growth in Christ and service toward him—including our faithfulness to present Christ to our children.
- Each child is accountable before God with how they respond to that message.
- Do not lose heart if your children respond with hardness of heart. Remain faithful and trust in God's providence.
- Let's turn now from God's call to parent with the goal of raising godly followers of Jesus Christ to God's instruction.

GOD'S INSTRUCTION

- We must align our families with God
 - Each parent aligned to God through Christ
 - We will not be able to love, cherish and nurture our spouse or children without being properly aligned to God through Christ.
 - John 15—apart from God we cannot bear godly fruit!
 - Are we faithful in basic spiritual disciplines—prayer, bible study, love, evangelism, worship, etc?
 - Each spouse aligned biblical to each other
 - Fathers are called and entrusted with being leaders. The spiritual leader of their family.
 - Wives called to respect, honor and help their husbands.
 - Look up Luke's sermons on Eph 5 for more information

- Father's, are you leading your family? Spiritually are you setting the example and ensure the spiritual health of your family? Are you leading your family to know, cherish and serve Christ?
- *Illustration:* if our children are sick, how quick are we to administer medication, go to doctor, etc?
- But are we equally quick to diagnose unhealthy spiritual patterns. Are we quick to bring gospel and God's word to bear on our children when we see anger, bitterness, lying, pride, envy or other sinful tendencies crop up?
- Also, parents should not lose sight of spouse because of children
- Strong, healthily, godly marriage will enable strong godly parenting
- Each family aligned to God
 - Families are called and empowered to be the primary spiritual discipler in the life of children.
- Each family aligned to God through church
 - God has ordained the church to make disciples, to equip every believer to faithfully serve God.
 - Church is to come alongside families to equip and encourage parents to disciple children. And to step in and act as spiritual parents to children as needed.
 - With this in mind, every adult has a part to play in being all in for families.
 - Every adult can help strength families through serving in children's and youth ministry. Through encouraging parents, through mentoring, etc.
 - The church cannot replace the role of parents as the primary discipler of children
 - Parents, we cannot give up the responsibility God has given us to raise godly followers of Jesus Christ.
 - Dropping off your children at church a few hours a week is not the end of your spiritual responsibility to your children. It is only the beginning.

- We must champion the Gospel
 - We must exalt Christ by championing the gospel in our families
 - We must champion the gospel by demonstrating its value
 - *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matt 13:44*
 - Is that type of joyful abandon for Christ being demonstrated in our home?
 - If we are going to proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior, then we must strive to demonstrate and live out what we claim to value
 - Examine how you use time, money, energy in your family.
 - What wins out on our calendar...Christ or school...
 - We must champion the gospel by modeling its transformation
 - *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor 11:1*
 - We must allow our children to see the power of Christ transform our life.
 - We do this by allowing them to see our relationship with Christ at work through prayer, bible study, service, and witnessing.
 - Through confession, repentance and replacement in regard to sin.
 - When is the last time you lead you family in prayer, bible study or engaged in spiritual conversations?
 - When was the last time you apologized to your spouse or children in regard to sin?
 - We must champion the gospel by reaching for our children's heart, not just their behavior
 - *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? James 4:1*
 - The battle for our children is a battle of the heart and soul
 - Yes, the gospel speaks to our behavior, but it does so through our heart and desires and motives.
 - To champion the gospel is to teach and reach for a person's heart

- Our behavior can change because God has given us a heart of flesh learning to love him.
 - Settling for human control and situational success will not succeed
 - You might have a child that outwardly conforms to your standards, but inwardly is far from the Lord and your intention. And as soon as child is outside of your control, will return to heart's desires.
 - I pray we all grow in our ability to sincerely listen to each other
 - As we listen, we are able to discern heart issues.
- To parent with God's chief goal in mind we must align our families with God, champion the gospel and finally...
- We must treasure Christ above all
 - Deut 6 begins with command to love God
 - If we are not actively striving to treasure Christ we will not be able to adequately treasure our spouse and our children.
 - As we treasure Christ, it will allow and empower us to champion the gospel and become biblically aligned
 - Godly parenting will rise and fall on how great we treasure and delight in Christ.
 - My prayer and hope is that we as we grow in treasuring Christ, it leads us into delighting in the privilege of presenting Christ to our children and the children of Carmi.
 - *Psalm 84*