

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Children & Parents
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 11**

I. Introduction

A. Amazing how Scripture places HUGE weight on Parenting and the consequences of NOT parenting Properly

1. When Paul shows us the DOWNGWARD SPIRAL of a sinful life in Romans 1, what is the FINAL STATE of the UNSAVED PERSON when GIVEN OVER to the FULLNESS of their sin?

Ro 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are gossips*, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

a) We laugh at "disobedient to parents"!

(1) Why? We are DULLED by all the disobedience we see!

(2) AND – we do NOT PLACE the SAME PRIORITY on FAMILY that GOD DOES!

(3) God puts that SIN in the SAME list as ALL those OTHER SINS!

(4) We DO NOT UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT and EXPECT the same thing of family that God does

(5) No wonder our Families fall far short of God's expectation!

2. When Paul DESCRIBES the LAST DAYS – the times we are in now...

2 Ti 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

- a) AGAIN – God places a PRIORITY on family – SPECIFICALLY OBEDIENCE of the CHILDREN that we don't!
- b) We smile at that phrase
- c) INSTEAD – it OUGHT TO TRIGGER in us that something is wrong
- d) SOMETHING IS WRONG with our understanding and priority of family
- e) God sees it differently!
- f) Why don't I see it like him?
- g) Why do I smile when He calls it SERIOUS breakdown in the fabric of life???

B. TURN TO Passage to read...

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

II. KEYS to 6:1-4

A. Audience

1. "[Children](#)" = ALL CHILDREN under Parental Control – NOT just YOUNG Children
 - a) Many Christians "assume" that but the Greek does not support that!
 - b) Yes, there are grey areas as children get to college age and we'll cover those – BUT – this is ALL CHILDREN under parental control.
2. "[Fathers](#)" = Primarily Fathers, but includes Mothers!
 - a) Context of Ephesians 5:22-6:9 is FOCUSED on the fathers FIRST BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY
 - b) Context of Eph 6:1-4 USES MULTIPLE WORDS
 - (1)V.1 = standard word for parents
 - (2)V.2 = standard words for father and mother
 - (3)V.4 Paul EXPLICITLY CHOSE to FOCUS on FATHER!
 - c) So -- FATHERS have the primary role BUT MOTHERS are responsible too!
 - d) We'll talk more about this when we get to V.4!

B. Presuppositions / Assumptions / Let's just get this out of the way once and for all!

1. Children are born sinners – little reprobates

[Ps 51:5](#) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

[Ps 58:3](#) The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.

[Ge 8:21](#) The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Job 15:14 “What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? 15 “Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight; 16 How much less one who is detestable and corrupt, Man, who drinks iniquity like water!

Job 25:4 “How then can a man be just with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?

(turn to) Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Pr 20:9 Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin”?

2. Parents CANNOT save their children / guarantee their salvation

Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Jn 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Job 14:4 “Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!

III. God' Plan for the Family seen in the Old Testament

A. God's plan

1. God's choice of Israel: They be WEAK, He be Strong

Dt 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

2. God's plan for Israel: Be His witnesses to the world

Dt 4:5 "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. 6 "So keep and do *them*, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? 8 "Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today? 9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons

and your grandsons. 10 “Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’

- a) Israel = CONDUIT / CHANNEL for God to bless them and the world
- b) Nations would SEE Israel and her blessings
- c) THEN Israel was to communicate the truth about God to the world.

B. God's PUNISHMENT

1. How serious was God about passing on teaching / not forgetting to the children as seen above?
2. VERY. God knew how quickly Israel would forget
3. Think about it!
 - a) You're Israel and you see God perform 10 plagues on Egypt – Amazing stuff!
 - (1) You see God take the 1st born of all the Egyptians, etc.!
4. Then you See God let you escape in the Passover
5. Then you see God Part the Red Sea and you escape while the army drowns!

Ex 14:31 When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

6. BUT – these very same people are GRUMBLING and COMPLAINING that they will starve to death right afterwards!
7. Read Exodus 15-17 sometime – IT IS A SAD STORY of NOT TRUSTING and REMEMBERING God!

8. And – these are ADULTS WHO LIVED THROUGH EVERYTHING God had done!
9. What about the next generation that hadn't seen His mighty works!
10. They had to be prepared to obey!
11. God was SO serious about Child Rearing that
 - a) He put child obedience in the 10 commandments!
[Ex 20:12](#) “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
 - b) He put child DISOBEDIENCE into the Law of Moses!
[Ex 21:15](#) “He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. [...17](#) “He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.
12. Woah! DEATH to DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN!
13. Listen:
[Dt 21:18](#) “If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, [19](#) then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. [20](#) “They shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ [21](#) “Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.
[Dt 27:16](#) ‘Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’
[Pr 30:17](#) The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.
[Eze 22:7](#) “They have treated father and mother lightly

within you. The alien they have oppressed in your midst; the fatherless and the widow they have wronged in you.

Mt 15:4 “For God said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,’ and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’

14. PRINCIPLE: No way to PERPETUATE GODLINESS / RIGHTEOUSNESS without OBEDIENCE
15. AND – as we will now see NO way TO CULTIVATE OBEDIENCE without PREPARATION and REMEMBRANCE
16. BTW – How does this APPLY to EPH 6?
 - a) What is the theme of Ephesians? UNITY in the Body of Christ!
 - b) What is the Key to UNITY – Obeying God’s word – Living His walk – “walk in a manner worthy!”
 - c) IF Children ARE NOT RAISED to OBEY / SUBMIT to authority – Parents and God’s – THEN there will be NO UNITY in the Church!
 - d) Everyone will be doing their own thing – living in selfishness?
 - e) What is the ESSENCE of Godly parenting? REPLACING SELFISHNESS with SUBMISSION to GOD!

C. God’s PREPARATION for ISRAEL THROUGH THE FAMILY!

1. How Did God EXPECT Israel to PREPARE and PRODUCE this WITNESS?
2. A: Turn to Deuteronomy 6:1 – The Great Shema (Hebrew word for Listen)

3. God's PREPARATION and REMEMBRANCE

- a) **Dedicate**
- b) **Disciple**
- c) **Do**
- d) **Discuss**
- e) **Go back to 1!**

4. DEDICATE: Listen, Decide, dedicate your life to God – Towards God

a) God:

Dt 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

- (1) God's Declaration to His people Israel
- (2) HEAR => OBEY

b) You:

Dt 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- (1) That is to be the human response to the reality of God.

c) Personal commitment

Dt 6:6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

- (1) Internalized, part of the fabric of who you are

5. DISCIPLE: Towards your family

a) Parental communication

Dt 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons ...

- (1) That is God's plan for passing on the truth about Himself—from parent to child.
- (2) As a child matures, he becomes a parent to the next generation, and so on.
- (3) How are God's truths to be communicated?

(4) In speech

[Dt 6:7](#) You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

- (a) Godly words were to be flowing out of their mouths.
- (b) They were to be constantly speaking about the things of God.

(5) In symbols

[Dt 6:8](#) “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

- (a) Even when there was silence, there was to be a visible commitment to the law of God.
- (b) Here it was symbolized in what they wore.

(6) In surroundings

[Dt 6:9](#) “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- (a) Even when the parents weren't home, their children were to see the law of God written all over the house.

6. Quote: “The children were to see God's Word throughout the house in their parents' absence; they were to see it symbolized in what their parents wore; and they were to hear it when their parents opened their mouths. The law of God was to be passed on so that godliness and righteousness could move from one generation to the next.”
7. DO - And – ALL of this teaching IS to BE APPLIED in the SITUATIONS of LIFE! – Towards Life and Others
[Dt 6:10](#) “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your

fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 “You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. 14 “You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth. 16 “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah. 17 “You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. 18 “You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore to *give* your fathers, 19 by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

8. DISCUSS: So – you’ve lived it YET your SON sees HOW different you live from the world...

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What *do* the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the LORD our God commanded you?’

9. Back to Disciple...

21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 ‘Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders

before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; 23 He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.' 24 "So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as *it is* today. 25 "It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.

**10. DEDICATE - DISCIPLE – DO – DISCUSS →
DEDICATE / DISCIPLE...**

D. Godly Response to God's Plan?

1. No sooner than depart Deuteronomy and God GIVES the Land to Israel through Joshua
2. Joshua 1-12 – CONQUERING the Land
3. Joshua 13-24: Dividing the Land between the 12 Tribes
4. Joshua 24 - Just before Joshua DISMISSES the tribes to their allotted land
5. Joshua REMINDS them of what God has done for Israel – ALL THE WAY from Terah (Abraham's father!) to now!

Jos 24:13 'I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' 14 "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Jos 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

6. What did Joshua just do?

7. He REPEATED the instruction of Deut 6!
 - a) Based on what God has done for us
 - b) I DEDICATE myself and my house to the Lord
 - c) I will be faithful to what the Lord asks of me!
 - d) Of course – EVERYONE there agrees with Joshua and makes the same commitment
 - e) BUT – by Judges 2, God is rebuking Israel for not obeying Him...
8. God's way is the ONLY way TO PERPETUATE Godly people on this earth!
9. Have to commit our lives and families to His way in order to carry on the work of the Church!
10. God told Israel back in Deut...

[Dt 5:29](#) 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!

- a) = God LONGED for His People to OBEY and BE BLESSED!
- b) BUT – Did Israel Obey? NO!
- c) Who's one of the worst parents in the Bible? DAVID
- d) David suffered severe consequences for his bad parenting
 - (1) Amnon who raped his sister Tamar
 - (2) Absalom revolted and tried to kill David
 - (3) Solomon – Life fell into terrible sin with 700 wives...

E. BUT – Yet God used Solomon to leave us the best book on parenting ever written! PROVERBS!

1. Proverbs = heart of teaching to parents and their children
2. Proverbs 1-9 = WISDOM chapters – 55X “son”!

[Pr 1:8](#) Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; [9](#) Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your

neck. (=will make you a beautiful person)

Pr 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,

Pr 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; 2 For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

Pr 4:1 Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding, 2 For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. 3 When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, 4 Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live;

Pr 4:10 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many.

Pr 5:1 My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding;

Pr 7:1 My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you.

Pr 8:32 "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways.

Pr 13:1 A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

a) Plus MANY more!

3. How does Proverbs TEACH parents to RAISE a child?

a) DISCIPLE & DISCIPLINE!

b) Disciple = teach / instruct / give him my words / show him my ways / give him my wisdom...

(1) Teach and Show

(2) Teach and Show

(3) Teach and Show!

c) DISCIPLINE = Reward Obedience + Punish Disobedience!

- d) Reward: Prov 8:32 Blessed are you if you keep my ways (says the father)

Pr 4:4 Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; 5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. 7 "The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding. 8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. 9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty." 10 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many. 11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

- e) How does Proverbs teach punishment? THE ROD!
– SPANK THEM!

Pr 10:13 On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, But a rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding.

Pr 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Pr 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for *his* back, But the lips of the wise will protect them.

Pr 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Pr 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

Pr 23:14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

Pr 23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart

also will be glad;

Pr 26:3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the back of fools.

Pr 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

f) One preacher was said it sure seemed like God designed our backsides for the Rod!

g) Prov 23:14 gives the ULTIMATE purpose of the Rod:

Pr 23:14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

h) Prov 22:15 gives the NEGATIVE SIDE of the Rod's effect: REMOVES FOOLISHNESS

Pr 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

i) Prov 29:15 gives the POSITIVE side of the Rod's effect: along with reproof, gives wisdom (rod softens / opens the ears!)

Pr 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, ...

Pr 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

j) Proverbs 19:18 gives a WARNING to parents – Don't WAIT to discipline your child!

Pr 19:18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.

F. What's the *BOTTOM LINE* of all we've heard today on parenting from the OT?

1. DISCIPLE

2. DISCIPLINE