

“The Fullness of Christ for Children and Their Fathers”

Sermon Notes

- **Our union with Christ is our only hope for true communion with one another - especially at home**

*So...

1. Children...obey your parents - this command will drive you to the gospel, and the gospel will draw you to this command (v.20)

2. Fathers...your leadership of your children apart from Spirit-empowered love for your children will only embitter them toward Christ (v.21)

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of February 27th - March 5th

Getting Started

1. Did you grow up in a Christian home? If “yes”, sketch a brief portrait of your family of origin for the group. If “no”, share about some of the elements of God’s common grace¹ in your childhood for which you are grateful to the Lord.

Digging Deeper

2. Faith Biblical Counseling Ministries describes two opposite errors common in our cultural context: the “parent-centered home” and the “child-centered home”.²

The Parent-Centered Home

- *Parental pride
- *Parental control
- *Parental hypocrisy
- *Parental busyness
- *Parental inconsistency
- *Parental impatience
- *Idolatrous expectations on behalf of the parents

The Child-Centered Home

- *No consequences for the children
- *Manipulation of parents
- *Child gets whatever they want
- *Child becomes more important than spouse
- *Child has little to no responsibilities
- *Child communicates to parents as if they were their peers or in charge of them
- *Parents refuse to offend or cross their child

Which erring family model do you think is more common in our broader culture? How about within the Christian community? Explain.

Open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6:4-9...

3. In contrast to the “parent-centered home” and the “child-centered home”, the following verses cast a vision for a God-centered home. In view of the family focus of verses 7-9, notice the particular burden of verse 6: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart”. What is the effect on the entire household when the parents are living verse 6? On the other hand, what’s the effect on the household when the parents are not living verse 6? Do you have any examples from your life that you can share?
4. Notice how adaptable the vision of family worship is in verse 7. What four places / times are mentioned? Though these words were written over 3,000 years ago, they’re amazingly relevant in the 21st century. What does teaching God’s Word to children look like today “when you sit in your house”, “when you walk by the way”, “when you lie down”, and “when you rise up”? If you are a parent or a grandparent, how do you seek to emulate the example of verse 7 with your kids or grandkids?

1 Wayne Grudem defines common grace as: “The grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation.” Resource: <https://www.challies.com/resources/the-essential-common-grace/> .

2 Faith Biblical Counseling. *Regional Conference Training*. May 9-10, 2014. “Biblical Parenting for the Glory of God”: Session #1 - Common Ground. pp.2-4.

5. Read verse 8. Jews in Jesus' day took these instructions quite literally and wore little boxes containing Scripture verses (called 'phylacteries') on their hands and heads (see Matthew 23:5). Though Jesus clearly chastises the pride and pretensions of the religious leaders in his context, there nonetheless is a lesson in Deuteronomy 6:8 that remains vital for us today. What is it?
6. Verse 9 is incredibly tactile. It speaks of "doorposts" and "gates" - the household entryways and property lines in the Old Testament. In the other words, we are to mark our home as God's territory.³ What are some common ways we do this today? If someone were to walk through the rooms of your home, would they conclude that a follower of Jesus lives there? Think about your kitchen, living room, bedrooms, etc. In what ways can we be even more deliberate in representing the gospel visually, tangibly, audibly? Why are these such important teaching tools for children in particular?
7. Close your time as a group by praying for the parents and grandparents in our church as well their children and grandchildren. Taking your cues from texts like Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Ephesians 6:1-4; and Colossians 3:20-21 - ask that the Lord would equip one generation to entrust the treasure of the gospel to the next.

³ This phrase comes from Voddie Baucham and his excellent book *Family-Driven Faith*.