Raising Children

Adam Willingham · Ephesians 6:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- The home is the nucleus for the spiritual training of children.
- It currently takes one entire Christian household to get one single Christian into the next generation.

1 The Wrong Solution Is Youth Ministries

Ephesians 4:11–12

- The wrong solution is youth ministries.
- Essentially, what these youth ministries are communicating, whether they mean to or not, is we're trained professionals, don't try this at home.
- Part of the church's responsibility, is to equip parents to train their own children. Not to do that training for the parents alone, not to try to replace the parents.

2 The Home Is the Solution

Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4

- The solution to this problem that we're losing young people, is not some church program or some superficial thing. It's the home.
- If we as parents decide that all my children need is the Bible class, one or two hours a week, that supplement will be enough. We're kidding ourselves.
- Our children are spiritually going to be starving. They need the meat of the instruction in the home.

3 The First Commandment With a Promise

Ephesians 6:2–3; Deuteronomy 5:16

- It means it's the first of the ten commandments that's got a promise that is attached to it.
- Honor your father and mother as the Lord your God has commanded you. That your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the Lord your God gives you.
- By children obeying and honoring your parents who are raising you in the Lord, that is God's guarantee that this community of faith, known as the church, will perpetuate in this culture of opposition.
- This is God's plan for generational faithfulness.

4 Discipline: First Time, Every Time

Romans 1:28–32

- Train your children to do what they are told to do the first time every time.
- This training of discipline can only be done by the parents.
- It is no small matter when you roll your eyes at your mom and dad. When you talk back to them, when you argue.

- If we're not disciplining our children, then the rest of this will be ineffective. So it starts with discipline.

5 Doctrine: What to Believe and Why

Deuteronomy 6:7; Hebrews 4:12

- This is teaching your children what to believe and why to believe it.
- What the word actually literally means is sharpen. So literally what this says is you shall sharpen them, that is God's words, to your children.
- Although it is translated, teach them diligently, it perhaps could just as well be translated, teach incisively. Teach penetratingly.
- As stubborn as our children might be sometimes to not want to learn, we have got to be more stubborn to see to it that they will learn the words of God.

6 Discipleship: Showing Your Children How to Apply

Proverbs 22:6

- This is showing your children how to apply what they have been taught.
- Your kids ultimately will do what you do. They may not do what you say, but they will do what you do.
- If you have not first established discipline and then doctrine, then you're not going to be effective in discipleship.
- Train up a child in the way he should go. Even when he is old, he will not depart from it.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We need to set our minds now that this is what we're going to do with our children. And pray that your children will remain faithful and that they will marry faithful people one day.**

MY NOTES