



“Timeless Principles for Fathers” June 17, 2018

Picture It

- IDEAL – What are some ‘Ideals’ (perhaps unrealistic) you have/had of parenting?

REAL – How has that changed with actually having children?

Practice It

(1) Read Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 22:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

Even though parenting is sometimes tough, it can also be most rewarding. However, most people are not given the “how to manual” when it comes to parenting, especially as it relates to raising healthy, godly children. There is good news however, because God gives us specific instructions on how to raise children.

- From the Scriptures provided (and Sunday’s message), what are some specific things we can do to raise healthy, godly children?
- What are some practical ways you are “encouraging” your children?
- What is the difference between “praise” and “encouragement”?

(2) Read Ephesians 6:2-4 & Deuteronomy 5:16. Another aspect in helping raise godly children is to try and not send mixed signals especially in terms of your relationship and dedication to God. Our kids learn both godly and ungodly practices from those adults that have influence on their lives. And you want to always live an honorable life so that those kids can honor and obey you, thus becoming blessed in their lives, as well.

- What is the meaning of the word “comfort” (see Sunday’s message notes if necessary)?
- Pastor Shawn said “*We are able to give comfort as we give our attention.*” What are some practical ways you “spend time” with your kids?

(3) Read Colossians 3:21; Titus 2:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Finally, you are to lead by example, especially if you want children to know and understand the love and grace found in Jesus Christ. Pastor Shawn said this is the meaning of “urging” in 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

It doesn’t matter how much you have messed up in the past, or when you mess up in the future. If you consistently live the best Christian life you can, being honest in your brokenness, but always full of God’s grace, you will become the purposeful impact on the next generation, whether it’s your own children or the children you are called to influence for Christ.

- How will you become a more healthy role model for children in your home or in your sphere of influence?
- How can you live more purposefully to impact the children in your life?

Personalize It

(1) Take some time (*if married, include your spouse in this exercise*) to create a “Family Plan”:

A. First, create the layout. At the top of a sheet of paper or electronic document, write the words “Our Family Plan”. Beneath that write out the passage of Scripture which summarizes your plan (*based upon Sunday’s message, you may want to use 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12*). Next create two categories - one stating the Goal, one stating the Objectives: **(1) Our Parenting Goal is:** and **(2) We Will Accomplish this Goal by:** Now, beneath category 2, list these three headings with space between each: (a) *Encouraging our Children:* (b) *Comforting our Children:* (c) *Urging our Children.*

B. Second, prayerfully answer the questions. 1. What is Your Parenting Goal (What is the grand scheme behind your family? What greater end fuels your parenting efforts? What type of children do you want to raise and have leave your home)? 2. How Will You Accomplish this Goal with God’s help? (Specifically list ways you as parents can Encourage, Comfort, Urge your children to reach the Goal.)

(2) Spend time praying for one another.