

THE MISSIONAL MARRIAGE STUDY

Session #11: Parenting (Part 2): A Man's Role in the Home

A Woman's Role in the Home

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

-Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Watch Video Clip: Session 23 from "Authentic Manhood" series.

Summary of Video Clip:

- ❖ Times are different than just 40 years ago... today, from the time a girl is born, she is bombarded with the idea that a woman's place is not in the home, but in a career... there are new realities for a young girl growing up in America today... she has within her, a new supreme pursuit in life
- ❖ Betty Ferdan wrote a book in the '60's called, "the feminine mystique" ... in which, she calls homemakers "parasites"
- ❖ Germaine Greer wrote a book in the 70's called, "the female eunuch"... in which, she calls motherhood a "handicap" and pregnancy an "illness"
- ❖ All through the 60's, 70's, & 80's – there was this call "to get out of the home and into the workplace where you belong..." why? Because it should be a woman's supreme pursuit in life!
- ❖ While the marches and books have toned down now- the reality is now, that this "supreme pursuit" has just become a common, "normal" value system in America... So much so that Titus 2 sounds absolutely foreign in our culture today
- ❖ Interesting note... if you go back and study all the feminists of the 60's & 70's- they all came from homes with abusive dads- every one of them!
- ❖ The current sociological data still shows how absolutely critical it is for young children to have a mom at home – yet 67% of all mothers with children under 4, are in the workplace... and those are the very years when a child needs mom the most...
- ❖ But what about daycare...? Dr. Burton White (Harvard Prof.) did a 30 year study on childcare... His conclusion: "After more than 30 years of research on how children develop well, I would not think of putting an infant or toddler of my own into any substitute care program."
- ❖ Barbara Bush when speaking to Wesley College (liberal arts school for women), said... "The choice that must not be missed as a woman is to cherish your human connections. At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test; not winning one more verdict; not closing one more deal. But you will regret time not spent with your husband; time not spent with your child; time not spent with your friends and your parents."
- ❖ Did you know that 75% of everything your child will know, they will know by the time they're 5 years old? Their sense of trust; their sense of identity; their sense of communication and relationship and in many ways, social scientists tell us, even their capacity for intelligence – is all established by the time they're 5 years old. We have reams of social data telling us this. Yet with all that data telling us that, mom and dad are still leaving during those very important formative years.
- ❖ The challenge for young parents is to determine what you want most, what your values are, what you desire to produce... is it healthy, spiritual children? Or is it freedom and a career? Either will require a sacrifice... one might be your career... the other might be your children...

Summary of Cultural Trends:

- ❖ Father Trends:
 - 1960: 17.5% of homes were missing biological father
 - 1990: 38.3% of all homes were missing biological father
 - 2010: 55% of all homes will be missing biological father
- ❖ Mother Trends:
 - 1950: 7% of all moms were in the workforce after child is 6 mo. old
 - 2002: 67% of all moms were in the workforce after child is 6 mo. old
 - 2010: 80% of all moms will be in workforce after child is 6 mo. old
- ❖ All research indicates that the most formative years of a child's life occurs between birth and 4 years of age
- ❖ 75% of all we know is learned in the first 5 years of life
- ❖ Barna: 9/10 men expect their wife to work
- ❖ Interesting... study of 20,000 couples: majority of women resent "having" to work
- ❖ Barna: #1 fear of Jr. High kids: "that my dad will leave my mom"
- ❖ Barna: 25 million children abandoned by dad each year

PLEA FOR FAMILIES TODAY... Our culture is in shambles today... the way we've BEEN doing it isn't working... something needs to change! If you want to change the way someone behaves, then you need to change the way they think. If you want to change the way someone thinks, then you need to change what it is they believe! We must start believing that God has a better way- that he has designed the family to operate a certain way- and when that way is perverted, so will be the family. And as the family goes, so goes the mission that God has called us to! If you're going to have kids- for God's sake, do it God's way!

God on Family Roles:

- ❖ **Proverbs 22:6** – train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it
- ❖ **Proverbs 17:6** – the glory of sons is their fathers
- ❖ **Titus 2:3-5** – Older women are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, **SO THAT** they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the Word of God will not be dishonored.
- ❖ **Titus 2:6-8** – Likewise, urge the young men to be sensible; in all things, show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, **SO THAT** the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.
- ❖ **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** – Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- ❖ **2 Timothy 3:15** – from "childhood" you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ
- ❖ **Matthew 12:25** – ...a house divided against itself will not stand
- ❖ **Proverbs 17:1** – better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife
- ❖ **1 Timothy 3:4-5** – He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity. (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)
- ❖ **Joshua 24:14-15** – Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your father served beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day 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 for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!
- ❖ **Proverbs 31:27-29** – She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many women have done noble things, but you surpass them all." (just read the whole stinking passage in Proverbs 31!)

Questions for Dialogue:

- Let's go back to a question from last week... "What are some of the cultural attitudes that are out there concerning having kids and raising a family?"
- According to this video, what are some of the reasons why our culture is so messed up right now, and the family is so broken down?
- How did you feel about the assertion that a mom really does need to be at home with the children? Are there instances when it's ok for her not to be?
- According to the video, how important is it for a father to be emotionally and spiritually engaged in the home?
- Spiritually speaking, what did your parents do right in raising you? What areas do you have regrets and wish it could have been different?
- How committed are you to seeing the good your parents gave you reproduced in your kids? The good they didn't give you turned around in your kids? How are you really going to ensure things in your family will be better? What price are you willing to pay?
- How important is family in terms of the *Missio Dei*? (the Mission of God) What happens to the mission when the family unit is confused?
- How serious is God about the intentionality of parents in teaching their children about His mission?
- Though parenting might be a ways off from some of y'all... what is it you need to start learning and doing right now to ensure that when that day comes, you'll be in the best position possible to fulfill God's best in your family?

A Focus in on Deuteronomy 6: "The Great Shema":

- ❖ **Vs. 4-5...** God is to be our all in all- our burning passion in life; Supreme & incomparable to anything else in our lives! We can't pass this kind of love on to our children if we first don't possess it ourselves! Our children must see us passionately love and pursue God!
- ❖ **Vs. 6...** Again, our chief love for God is a prerequisite to anything else we do with our family
- ❖ **Vs. 7...** This is God saying that the best way to reach the next generation (our children) is through the home! The word "teach" is the same word for sharpening a knife on a stone. It's a continual process of impressing truth upon our children. Our teaching (investing in) our children takes place when we sit (**down time**), walk (**at work throughout day**), lie down (**at night**), rise up (**in morning**)... it's all metaphorical to indicate that teaching your children is something that takes place **CONSTANTLY**, throughout every hour and every aspect of our day
- ❖ **Vs. 8...** Again, metaphorical language... on your hand (**what you do**), on your forehead (**what you think**), on your doorposts (**in your private life**), on your gates (**in your public life**). Again, the Lord's desire is that we teach God to our children in such a way, that it saturates every aspect of our lives.

Summary: It is God's desire and design that spiritual deposits into the next generation begin in the home. The primary responsibility of teaching of God's Word is not placed on a pastor or youth minister, as much as it is on the parents. It is also God's desire and design that these spiritual deposits not be compartmental- reserved for just Sundays or sacred time of family devotion; they are taught and modeled throughout our day, and in every aspect of our lives. Now... all of this assumes that there is a mother present in the home and a father who is spiritually and emotionally engaged as well.

Homework:

Take some time this week to review what you learned in this study with your spouse. Discuss with one another your vision and values towards family, raising kids, etc... In the hypothetical event that you do have children, what will be your goals concerning raising your children? Will mom stay at home? How will Dad ensure he's spiritually leading? What things might you need to give up in order to take care of yourselves financially? What **MUST** you be willing to do as parents, to allow God's mission on earth to be accomplished in and through your family? – Spend some time praying through those issues. Ask God to give you biblical wisdom that outweighs cultural pressure.