

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XXXVII

July 31, 2011

### “The Christian Family”

#### Part Six: “The Purpose and Needs Of Children”

##### Introduction:

A. There Is Great “\_\_\_\_\_” In The Modern World About Children!

**1. Children are seen as an “\_\_\_\_\_”!**

--Most husbands and wives think that the decision to have or not to have children belongs to **them!** This directly contradicts the command of Genesis 1:28,

*“ . . . Be fruitful and multiply . . . ”*

--Most couples ask these questions:

- Do children fit our lifestyle?
- Do children fit our plans for the future?
- Do children fit our family budget?

**2. Children are seen as a factor which can be “\_\_\_\_\_”!**

--Most husbands and wives believe that life begins at birth rather than conception. Therefore, for them, it is not a "moral" issue to abort an unwanted pregnancy.

a. Basic Question: "When does life begin?"

Biblical Answer: "Life begins at conception -- the 'fetus' is a living being, an unborn baby!"

b. Basic Question: "Who has the choice about giving birth?"

Biblical Answer: "Only God, the "Creator", has the right to end a pregnancy!"  
(It is not a "woman's right or choice")

**3. Children are progressively seen as “\_\_\_\_\_” of the Government!**

--If there are no "moral" issues related to the birth of a child, if there is no creative act of a "Creator", then a child is just one more piece of material existence which can be taken by the State or government and used for its purposes!

a. Basic Question: "Who owns a child?"

Biblical Answer: "Children are gifts of God to parents."  
(A child is a stewardship before God)

b. Basic Question: "Who decides what a child is taught?"

Biblical Answer: "The parents are responsible to God!"

B. There Is Also An Alarming Amount Of **Confusion** In The \_\_\_\_\_!

1. Based on a “\_\_\_\_\_” of Proverbs 22:6.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

- a. Many Christians interpret this verse to teach that it is the responsibility of the Church to "train up" a child.  
--The Church is involved in training a child, but the first responsibility belongs to the home -- the parents!)
- b. Christian parents who misinterpret this verse in this way feel that if they "force" their children to be involved in the Church when they are young, they will follow Christ when they are older.  
--This is one reason so many young adults do not choose to be part of an organized Church when they leave home!  
--Yet, these parents say, "But, I brought them up in the way the Bible says!"

2. Based on a rigid “\_\_\_\_\_” approach to childrearing.

- a. A "law" or "legalistic" approach means that the training of a child is defined by a list of "rules" or "standards" that often is administered in harshness or anger.
- b. These parents are often genuine and sincere, but have the mistaken idea that because they "imposed" God's Law on their children, the children will "love" and "follow" God when they are adults.

C. Biblical **Observations** About Children:

1. A child is **part** of the parent for a lifetime!  
As Adam said of Eve, “ . . . *bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh* . . . , Gen. 2:23.
2. A child can be part of parents’ greatest **joys**!  
“ . . . *a wise son makes a father glad,*” Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 17:25; 23:24-25.
3. A child can be part of parents’ greatest **sorrows**!  
“ . . . *a foolish son is a grief to his mother,*” Prov. 10:1; 17:25; 29:15.
4. A child will be part of the **responsibilities** under investigation at the "judgment seat of Christ", II Corinthians 5:10. Parents will answer to Christ Himself about the rearing of their children.  
*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body,  
according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

## I. What Are The Basic Purposes Of A Child?

*"Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.  
How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they shall not be  
ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate."*

Psalm 127:3-5

### A. A Child Is A “\_\_\_\_\_” From God! (Not something "bad"!)

#### 1. A gift is a "good" thing!

--When one person gives a true "gift" to another person, it is an expression of love and concern. It is intended to be of help or encouragement -- a **blessing**!

#### 2. A child is a "good" thing!

--God's purpose is that a child be a **blessing**! Each child is a "gift" from His heart to our life!

#### 3. Warning: If we fail to see a child as a "good gift", we misunderstand God's purpose and “miss” the blessing!

#### 4. A child is a "heritage"!

--The Hebrew word translated "gift" also means "heritage".  
A heritage is the "inheritance" received from one's family.  
It is the continuing, ongoing benefit of being part of a family.

--Therefore, the "gift" of a child is part of the process of God sharing His "wealth" with us. He is sharing what really is important and valuable in life!

### B. A Child Is A “\_\_\_\_\_” From God! (Not a "liability"!)

#### 1. A reward is an "added" blessing!

--It is something of "value" which is "extra"! It is given to recognize or honor faithful conduct or performance.

#### 2. In the "perfection" of the Garden of Eden, God gave an "extra" blessing to Adam and Eve -- **children**! This principle continues after the entrance of "sin" into the world. Children are still an "extra" blessing from God and should be seen in this way by parents.

### C. A Child Is Like An “\_\_\_\_\_”! (Aimed at a "target"!)

#### 1. The Historical Significance:

a. An arrow was used for “\_\_\_\_\_”!

--In the hand of a skilled hunter, an "arrow" was used to kill animals to provide food for the family.

--The family's survival depended on its use!

b. An arrow was used for “\_\_\_\_\_”!

--In the hand of a skilled soldier, an "arrow" was used to kill enemies which threatened the city or nation.

--The family's survival depended on its use!

#### 2. The Spiritual Significance:

a. An arrow was always **aimed at a** “\_\_\_\_\_”!

b. In similar fashion, a \_\_\_\_\_ is **aimed at a target!**

1) In the life of the mother:

--A mother learns to "give her life" through the bearing and rearing of children!

2) In the life of the father:

--A father learns the Biblical "priorities" of life through being responsible toward his children!

#### 3. **Warning:** Parents can “\_\_\_\_\_” God's arrows!

a. One parent (or both) can **reject** the child God has sent to them!

Some common causes are:

--The child in some way does not meet the parent's hopes or expectations!

--The child has some limitation -- mental or physical!

--The child is very "different" from the parents!

--The child is very "difficult" to deal with!

b. God requires that parents be **responsible** toward the children He sovereignly chooses to give to them!

--Any "sidestepping" of children is **irresponsibility** and **disobedience** toward God!

c. This is devastating to the child because of rejection and crippling to the parents because they miss God's "tool" to work in their lives!

## D. A Child Provides "Future \_\_\_\_\_"!

### 1. Parents are instructed to have a quiver that is "\_\_\_\_\_"!

- a. The quiver was the leather pouch which held the "arrows".
- b. The more "arrows" a man had in his quiver, the better prepared he was to provide and to protect.
- c. Note: God must determine the number of "arrows" in the quiver!
  - God allows most couples the ability and privilege to have children -- their quiver is to be "filled" by God's guidance!
  - God allows some couples to have no children -- their quiver is "full" by God's choice and definition!
  - God allows some couples to have no children -- but then guides them "fill" their quiver by adoption!

### 2. Parents receive future "\_\_\_\_\_ " and "\_\_\_\_\_ " from children.

- The Hebrew text paints a clear picture in the verse!
- a. The promise is that the man whose quiver is "full" will not be "ashamed" when he is forced to deal with his "enemies" in the gate.
- b. The city gate was the place where all types of business was conducted:
  - Normal buying and selling were transacted there.
  - Disputes were settled there.
- c. The picture is this: A man is called to settle a dispute with an "enemy". The man does the normal thing -- he says, "Meet me in the gate! I'll bring my sons and you bring your sons!" Guess who won the argument? The man with the most sons!

### 3. Even today when many nations have "social" or "government" security programs "guaranteed" to its citizens, and many families have insurance policies and investments for the future, children are still intended by God to be the most dependable guarantee of future security!

- Biblical Principle: Parents are to "provide" for children in their youth; children are to "provide" for parents in their old age!

## II. What Are The Basic Needs Of A Child?

### A. "\_\_\_\_\_":

1. Every child is born with a **question**: "Am I \_\_\_\_\_?"
2. Every child is born with an "invisible radar" attached to its forehead! You can't see it, but it is there! You can't hear it, but it is "beeping"!

**"Do you want me? Do you want me?"**

- This "radar" is sensing the reality of the parents acceptance of the child!
- This "radar" readout is incredibly accurate! It is almost impossible to deceive a child about this question.

### B. "\_\_\_\_\_":

1. Every child is born with a second **question**: "Do I have personal \_\_\_\_\_?"
2. Every child is designed by God to develop "self-worth" or "significance" out of the security of the home!
  - Remember, children are rarely wrong in their "reading" of their parents.
  - If the parents truly love and accept them, they will have the most important ingredient in forming "self-worth".
  - If the parents do not love and accept them, they will have some degree of struggle with "self-worth" and will often spend much of their future attempting to be "worth" something to someone!

### C. "\_\_\_\_\_ " ("Discipline"):

1. Every child must be **taught** the answer to the questions,
  - "What are the boundaries of life?"
  - "What are the guidelines everyone must follow or suffer consequences?"
2. Proverbs 22:15 states,
  - "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;*
  - The rod of discipline will remove it far from him."*
  - Children need parental help to deal with the natural lack of discipline and structure inherited at birth.

### D. "\_\_\_\_\_":

1. Every child must be **taught** the answer to the questions,
  - "What lasts forever?"
  - "What brings lasting meaning and purpose?"
2. Only the revealed Word of God can allow a child to learn the "truth" about life.
  - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."* Romans 12:2
  - Eternal "truth" is not natural; it must be learned by teaching!