



## Introduction

Biblically, one of the primary reasons that God instituted marriage was His intent for it to be the context in which children were both conceived and reared. The physical union of a man and woman does not always result in the conception of a child, but it is procreative by design. A father and mother are therefore intended to play a primary role in how children are nurtured and instructed as they grow and children are to honor their parents throughout the days of their lives.

**Main Point:** We are called to stand firm on the truth that God has designed families to function for His glory, with parents and children \_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_ one another throughout the seasons of life.

## *Mothers & Fathers*

### A Common Charge

- **Fathers and Mothers are exhorted to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the faithful rearing of their children.**

Deut. 6:4-7—<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words...shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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.

1. Parents are to themselves \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.
2. Parents are to \_\_\_\_\_ their children to know and love the Lord.  
"diligently"— שָׁנַן (shanan) — Lit. to sharpen or whet, to pierce; Fig. to sharpen or teach incisively.

**Key Point:** Fathers and mothers should have a sense of their own \_\_\_\_\_ as God's people and their parenting should form their children within that same identity.

### Complimentary Roles

- **The Lord's instructions to parents are based on the unique \_\_\_\_\_ that they have in the lives of their children.**

Eph. 6:4— *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

1. Fathers are uniquely positioned to \_\_\_\_\_ their children.  
"provoke...to anger"—παροργίζω (parorgizō) — Lit. 'to anger alongside.' To rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger.
2. Fathers are uniquely positioned to help their children \_\_\_\_\_.  
"bring...up"—ἐκτρέφω (ektrephō) to rear up to maturity; to cherish or train, to bring up.

"discipline"

"instruction"

Prov. 1:8— "...my son... forsake not your mother's teaching"

Prov. 29:15— *The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

1. Mothers are uniquely positioned to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ their children.  
"teaching" "the rod" "reproof"
2. Mothers are the ones who tend to feel the \_\_\_\_\_ of having undisciplined children.

**Key Point:** Children should be the primary focus of their parents \_\_\_\_\_ to both cultivate and exercise dominion over creation.

1 Tim. 5:8— *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

"provide for"

# Children

## A Consistent Command

- **Children are commanded in both testaments to \_\_\_\_\_ their mother and father throughout all of life and to make sure they are cared for as they age.**

Eph. 6:1-3—<sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

“obey”

“honor”

1 Tim. 5:4—But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

“make some return”

**Key Point:** The way that children relate to their parents is ultimately a reflection of their \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and their understanding of their identity in relation to Him.

## Challenge to the Truth: Expressive Individualism in Families

“Expressive individualism assumes the authority of inner feelings in what it means to be an individual...To be truly oneself requires behaving outwardly in a manner consistent with those inner feelings.....Happiness and human flourishing tend to be identified with the individual’s inner sense of psychological well-being or peace.” —Carl Trueman

1. **Children are seen as a \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Well, I just don’t think it’s the best use of my time...I’m just not interested.” —Chelsea Handler (Actress)

“I’m just so terrified of what my child will be facing when they are my age,” she says. “It’s not just about the ideology – will they be born into a world where things are fair, where things are safer – it’s the practical side of it: will they actually be in survival mode?”  
—Alice Brown, BirthStrike (Climate Activist)

2. **Children are seen as \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...cases of parental overinvestment [often] go beyond merely wanting your child to do their best, or even establish public enoughness...Part of us wants our child to be liked...It’s not just that we want to spare them that pain, we believe instinctively that their triumph will redress our own failure. This is parenting as redemption, with the child cast in the role as savior. They cease to be a person in their own right and become our second chance...what’s involved here is nothing short of the objectification of one’s progeny.”  
—David Zahl, *Seculosity* (The ‘Seculosity’ of Parenting)

3. **In our youth, parents are seen as an \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Egocentrism refers to centering oneself one’s needs and one’s own feelings, often at the expense of others. Some young people may go through a period where they exhibit egocentric tendencies, called adolescent egocentrism...[Doctors] discovered that teenagers often could not differentiate between their perceptions and the perceptions of others. Teenagers consistently believed their view was the only possible one, and all other ideas were false or nonexistent.”  
— ‘What is Adolescent Egocentrism?’ BetterHelp

4. **As they age, parents are seen as a \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Does comfortable modern Western life tempt us to see ourselves as immortal? If the answer is yes...we too need a reminder of our humanity...we want someone there when we die, and it is worth rehearsing for the inevitable in community now—while we have our wits about us and are able-bodied. Community does not materialize instantly at a deathbed; it must be cultivated over a lifetime.”  
—L.S. Dugale, *The Lost Art of Dying*

## Concluding Thought

**Within our families, the \_\_\_\_\_ must remain central to how we relate to one another throughout the days of our lives.**

1 Pet. 2:21-25—<sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



# Children

## A Consistent Command

- **Children are commanded in both testaments to honor their mother and father throughout all of life and to make sure they are cared for as they age.**

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**Key Point: The way that children relate to their parents is ultimately a reflection of their fear of the Lord and their understanding of their identity in relation to Him.**

## Challenge to the Truth: Expressive Individualism in Families

“Expressive individualism assumes the authority of inner feelings in what it means to be an individual...To be truly oneself requires behaving outwardly in a manner consistent with those inner feelings.....Happiness and human flourishing tend to be identified with the individual’s inner sense of psychological well-being or peace.” —Carl Trueman

### **1. Children are seen as a burden.**

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“I’m just so terrified of what my child will be facing when they are my age,” she says. “It’s not just about the ideology – will they be born into a world where things are fair, where things are safer – it’s the practical side of it: will they actually be in survival mode?”  
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### **2. Children are seen as accessories.**

“...cases of parental overinvestment [often] go beyond merely wanting your child to do their best, or even establish public enoughness...Part of us wants our child to be liked...It’s not just that we want to spare them that pain, we believe instinctively that their triumph will redress our own failure. This is parenting as redemption, with the child cast in the role as savior. They cease to be a person in their own right and become our second chance...what’s involved here is nothing short of the objectification of one’s progeny.”  
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### **3. In our youth, parents are seen as an annoyance.**

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### **4. As they age, parents are seen as a constraint.**

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## Concluding Thought

**Within our families, the gospel must remain central to how we relate to one another throughout the days of our lives.**

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