

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Has the Nuclear Family Bombed?

SERMON REFERENCE: Exodus 20:12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1854

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Exodus 20:12 represents the first commandment with promise.
 - i) We are commanded to honor our parents that we may live long in the land that the Lord has given us.
- b) There are many in today's society who are trying to redefine the values we hold.
- c) Many are attacking the values of our Christian families and the nuclear family itself.
 - i) God created the nuclear family.
- d) Why did God give us families?
 - i) For living.
 - (1) The family unit is a little part of the Garden of Eden that we have carried with us.
 - (2) Children need families
 - ii) For learning.
 - (1) The Ten Commandments were given primarily to the home.
 - (a) Not to the schools, industry or government, although they apply to each.
 - (2) We are to teach the Ten Commandments in our homes.
 - iii) For lasting.
 - (1) Exodus 20:12
 - (2) When the home begins to decay, the nation begins to decay.
- e) It is the parent's responsibility to teach children to honor father and mother.
- f) The message today will help us learn how to live in such a way that our children can give us honor.
- g) Since Adam and Eve, no parent has ever been perfect.
 - i) Our children are not perfect children.
 - ii) As parents, we cannot guarantee how our children will turn out.
 - (1) Proverbs 22:6
 - (a) The book of Proverbs is a book of proverbs, not promises.
 - (i) A proverb is a proverb, a promise is a promise, a precept is a precept, a parable is a parable and a prophecy is a prophecy.
 - (ii) A proverb is a general principle that when generally applied brings a general result.
 - 1. A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.
 - a. Ex. "Early to bed, early to rise will make you healthy, wealthy and wise."
 - (2) God gave all children a will.
 - (a) This is why we should not set goals for our children.
 - (b) We have desires for our children; we set goals for ourselves.
 - (i) Our desire is to have godly children; our goal is to be a godly parent.
 - (3) We should not pretend to be perfect.
 - (a) Our children already know that we are not perfect.

- (b) They don't want to know that we're perfect; they want to know that we are real.
- (c) Children will learn far more from watching you handle your mess-ups and failures and problems, then from our phony perfectionism.
- h) How do we become parents that children can honor?

2) BY LOVING OUR CHILDREN

- a) Love is not giving our children what they want but giving them what they need.
- b) How do we love our children?
 - i) By touching and hugging them.
 - (1) Luke 15:20
 - (2) When parents are affectionate toward their children, and are properly affectionate toward each other, it can help protect their children from sexually immoral relationships.
 - (3) Children need to understand that in order to be huggable and lovable, that they do not have to be into sexual intimacy.
 - (4) Hug them often, hug them affectionately, hug them supportively, hug them tenderly, hug them playfully.
 - (5) Parents, let your children see you hug one another.
 - ii) By blessing them.
 - (1) By simply, lovingly telling our children that we bless them in the name of the Lord.
 - iii) By comforting them.
 - (1) When little children hurt, their pain is real.
 - iv) By listening to them.
 - (1) One of the finest forms of communication is saying nothing, but simply listening.
 - v) Steadfastly and consistently.
 - (1) They need to know that their parents love them regardless.
 - (2) Give them time to go through their different stages.
 - (3) We need to love them and show them love consistently.
 - vi) We need to love them through our prayers.
 - (1) We must prayer for our children by name and pray for them often.

3) BY LIFTING OUR CHILDREN

- a) Wise encouragement is better than lavish praise.
 - i) Parents need to learn the difference between praise and encouragement.
 - ii) Colossians 3:21
- b) Praise is not wrong or bad, but children also need encouragement like plants need water.
 - i) Children need to be encouraged over and over again.
 - ii) Catch them doing something right and let them know through your encouragement that you believe in them.

- iii) Let your speech affirm them; be positive.
 - c) Encouragement is twice as powerful as praise.
 - i) For instance, praising a child because they made good grades, or cleaning a room.
 - (1) This says to a child, “You get approval when you do something good.”
 - (2) Children think they can earn approval.
 - (3) “When my performance is good, my approval rate goes up; when my performance is bad, my acceptance goes down and my self-image goes down with it.”
 - ii) Praise says, “You are great because you did something.”
 - (1) There is nothing wrong with praise.
 - (2) We do not need to only praise children without encouraging them.
 - iii) Encouragement says, “It is great that something was done, and I really appreciate it.”
 - iv) Encouragement values the child, not primarily for what the child achieved, but for who the child is who is achieving the task.
- 4) BY LIMITING OUR CHILDREN
 - a) It takes firm restrictions to set children free.
 - i) As parents, it is our responsibility to liberate them by limiting them.
 - ii) 1 Samuel 3:13
 - (1) Eli did not set limits for his children.
 - iii) Our children need limits.
 - iv) In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed, but He also set some limits.
 - b) When we set reasonable limits for our children, our children will test these restrictions over and over again.
 - i) If those limits move after being tested, the child will have no security.
 - ii) But, if the limits are firm and reasonable, and you love, when they push against those rules and they do not move, then they have security.
 - (1) Josh McDowell: “Rules without relationship bring rebellion.”
 - iii) If parents do not place limitations or restrictions upon children, to them it implies rejection.
 - iv) Inwardly, we all desire limitations.
 - v) If parents do not conquer their child’s will, someone else will.
 - c) Setting rules is one of the toughest and most needful things we are to do for our children.
 - d) According to a Josh McDowell Survey:
 - i) For the most part, our children, church kids, echo the world’s view.
 - ii) 57% of youth cannot say that an objective standard of truth exists.
 - iii) 85% of kids are liable to reason, “Just because it is wrong for you, does not mean it is wrong for me.”
 - iv) 55% believe that everything in life is negotiable.

- (1) Their idea of distinction between right and wrong is fluid and subject to change.
 - e) Psalm 11:3
 - f) Ted Koppel said in a speech to graduating students:
 - i) In the place of truth, we have discovered facts.
 - ii) Moral absolutes have been substituted by moral ambiguities.
 - iii) We communicate with everyone and say nothing.
 - iv) We have reconstructed the tower of Babel into a television antenna.
 - v) Thousands of voices making a parity of democracy, where everyone's opinions are afforded equal weight regardless of substance or merit.
 - vi) Opinions of real merit tend to sink with barely a trace in television's ocean of banalities.
 - vii) What Moses brought down were not ten suggestions, they are Ten Commandments.
 - viii) The brilliance of the Ten Commandments is that they codify in a handful of words, acceptable human behavior; not just for then or now, but for all time.
 - g) According to a Hollywood producer, for any television script to be commercially successful, it must violate at least three of the Ten Commandments.
 - h) Situational Comedies (Sit-Com's) are designed to make us laugh at things.
 - i) When you laugh at something, you can no longer take it seriously.
 - ii) We have a generation that is laughing their way into Hell.
 - (1) They are being systematically seduced.
- 5) BY LEADING OUR CHILDREN
- a) Proverbs 22:6
 - b) To teach our children without training them is to fail in our task.
 - c) The emphasis today is on: sports, grades, physical health, popularity and ability, but not on character.
 - d) We need to show our children how to live and love God, not just tell them.
 - i) Show them and train them how to be:
 - (1) Content
 - (2) Courageous
 - (3) Courteous
 - (4) Discerning
 - (5) Fair
 - (6) Friendly
 - (7) Generous
 - (8) Gentle
 - (9) Helpful
 - (10) Honest
 - (11) Humble
 - (12) Kind

- (13) Obedient
 - (14) Orderly
 - (15) Patient
 - (16) Persistent
 - (17) Self-controlled
 - (18) Tactful
 - (19) Thankful
 - (20) Thrifty
 - (21) Wise
- e) Parents need to compliment character more than talent.
- 6) BY LAUGHING WITH OUR CHILDREN
- a) Our homes should be filled with joy and happiness.
 - b) We need to learn to laugh in our homes.
 - c) The Bible says many wonderful things about a merry heart.
 - d) The human species is the only creation of God that can do three things:
 - i) Laugh, weep and blush.
 - e) God made us in His image, and He gave us the gift of laughter.
 - f) Psalm 2:4
 - g) Genesis 21:6
 - h) Luke 6:21
 - i) Jesus tells us that laughter is a blessing.
 - i) Our children need to see us laugh
 - j) Our children need to see us laugh, not at our sins, but at our mistakes.
 - k) We need to learn to laugh at ourselves.
 - l) Serious situations call for a lot of laughter.
 - m) Let your children bring their friends over, and let your house be known as the happiest place.
 - n) Our children should be able to see us laugh in times of trouble because it means that God is over it all.
- 7) CONCLUSION
- a) The first step to begin to be honorable to our children is by, first of all, honoring our Heavenly Father.
 - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16