



What Children Need

Proverbs

- Children should bring _____ and gladness to parents - this is God's design. vs. 23:24-25
- But the truth is, many times they bring unspeakable _____ (10:1), shame (19:26), and reproach (19:26).
- In the book of Proverbs, God shows us clearly what children need, if they are to be a source of joy and not grief to us.

Children need:

1. _____ - vs. 22:6

- Training indicates that you have a _____ - an active and positive goal.
- The goal of Christian parents ought to be that their children grow up to be _____, not just good.

2. _____ - vs. 22:15

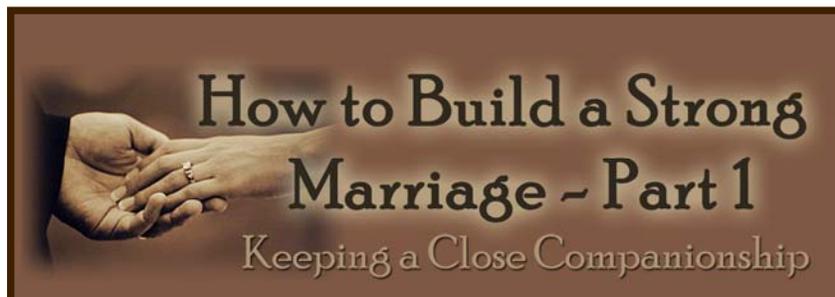
- According to the Bible, there is something within every child's heart that a parent needs to reach and _____ out - **foolishness**.
- How do we accomplish this? It's through the _____ of correction.

3. _____ - vs. 22:15

- Our goal as parents doesn't stop with driving out the foolishness - we want to replace it with _____.
- Kids _____ clear direction - they need boundaries. vs. 1:8

4. _____ - vs. 31:1

- God's design is that the _____ be the primary source of influence and instruction in a child's life.
- As you seek to instruct, here are some practical suggestions:
 - a. Teach your child to accept and fulfill responsibility.
 - b. Instill in your child a strong _____ ethic.
 - c. Use _____ as a reward for hard work, but not a way of life.
 - d. _____ their TV and video game intake and encourage them to use their minds (drawing, reading, exploring, painting, coloring, etc.).
 - e. Never _____ uncontrolled emotional outbursts and tantrums.
 - f. Insist that your child be _____ and neat.
 - g. Help your child to establish proper priorities in life.
 - h. Be an _____ to your child.



Introduction

- When a man and woman unite in marriage, they become _____ flesh (Ephesians 5:31) and should become lovers and best friends.
- The Song of Solomon is an Old Testament book depicting the beauty and satisfaction of the marriage relationship.
- Referring to the bridegroom, the bride declares, *“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”* 5:16
- We see this principle in the New Testament also, in Titus 2:4 and Ephesians 5:29.
- Friendship can reach its zenith in marriage because the other loves of the relationship enhance it.
- If couples are to build a strong marriage by becoming best friends, the Bible teaches three key principles. We will examine the first this morning:

First, married couples should enjoy a close companionship.

- A. According to the Bible, _____ should enjoy a companionship. Proverbs 18:24, 27:9, 17; Acts 27:3

- B. If married couples are to be companions and best friends, they must engage in regular recreational activities that they can _____ enjoy together.
- You have to decide, do you want to simply fulfill _____ or have a fulfilling marriage?
- C. In the busyness of our culture, couples need to give their time in areas that bring them _____, not fragment their relationship.
- D. Does the Bible teach the idea of a close companionship between husband and wife? Read Ephesians 5:25, 28-31.
- E. Because there are only so many hours in the day and week, couples have to choose:
- They can pursue interests that they can share, resulting in growing _____ together.
 - They can pursue interests that they do not share, resulting in growing _____.

Questions for reflection:

- Are my spouse and I best friends? Are we true companions?
- Is there anyone I'd rather be with than my spouse?
- When I have time off from work, is my first thought, "What could my spouse and I do together?"
- Are our activities and interests taking us in the same direction?



- If couples are to build a strong marriage by becoming best friends, the Bible teaches three key principles. We covered the first last week:

First, married couples should enjoy a close companionship.

Second, married couples should experience meaningful, on-going conversation.

- A. In the Song of Solomon 5:16, the bride says about the bridegroom, "*His mouth is most sweet...*" This was one of the keys to them becoming lovers and best friends.
- B. To put it simply, close friends _____.
 - "*Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.*" **Proverbs 27:9**
- C. Typically, wives have a greater _____ for conversation than their husbands.
- D. When daily conversation takes place with a man, a woman feels _____ and united with that person.
- E. The enemies of good conversation:
 - Using conversation to _____ each other. Ephesians 4:29.
 - Using conversation to force agreement to your way of _____.

→ *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” James 1:19*

- Dwelling on _____, past or present.
Philippians 3:13

F. The friends of good conversation:

- Give to her your undivided _____.
1 Peter 3:8 *“...be courteous.”*

- _____ to what she says.
1 Peter 3:7 *“...dwell with them according to knowledge...”*

→ A husband’s refusal to discuss things with his wife can _____ his marriage.

- _____ her opinions.
1 Peter 3:7 *“...giving honor unto the wife...”*

- Always speak with _____ and kindness.

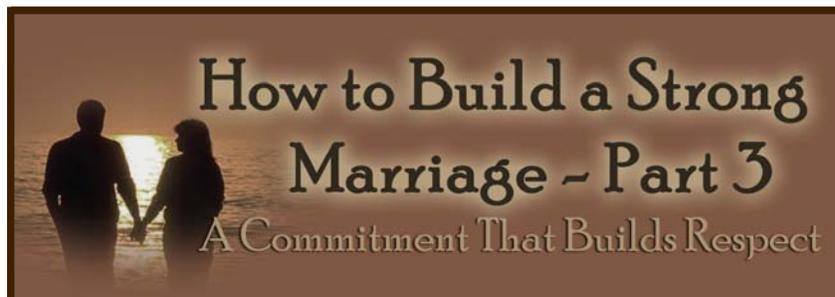
→ *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1*

- _____ her often.

→ *“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” Proverbs 31:28*

When couples are having daily, meaningful conversation, three things happen:

- You come to _____ each other more clearly.
- You learn what it takes to meet each other’s _____.
- You become _____ friends.



First, married couples should enjoy a close companionship.

Second, married couples should experience meaningful, on-going conversation.

Third, married couples should possess a commitment that will build respect for one another.

- For a friendship to continue to exist and deepen, there must be a mutual _____ for one another. This is true for any friendship, but especially true of the marital relationship.
- Let's look at six areas of commitment that will help to build a mutual respect between husband and wife.
- There must be a commitment:
 1. To _____. cf. Ephesians 5:25
 - *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* **John 15:13**
 2. To be _____. Proverbs 18:24
 3. To be _____. Proverbs 27:6
 - True friends tell you the truth even when it _____.
 - Friends are _____ honest - even when it may not be easy, comfortable, or pleasant.

4. To _____ together. Job 42:10

- *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” 1 Peter 3:7*

5. To never possess a _____ spirit.

- *“Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.” Job 32:3*
- A _____ simply thrives on a woman’s admiration. This is why Ephesians 5:33 commands wives to reverence or respect their husbands.

6. To always _____ each other unconditionally.
Proverbs 17:17

- Love is not a _____. It is a _____ of the will.

The Normal Christian Home

Ephesians 5:33-6:4

Introduction:

- Our text deals with the home and demonstrates what a normal Christian home looks like. But it is all predicated on Ephesians 5:18 - the _____ of the Spirit.
- The main points of this message are written from a child's viewpoint. Hopefully, if your child were to describe your home, he/she would make these four statements.

1. Daddy _____ Mommy with all of his heart. vs. 5:33

- She is #1 and nothing comes before her. He is _____ in love with her and his kids know it.

2. Mommy thinks Daddy is the _____. vs. 5:33

- "Reverence" means that she shows _____ and admiration for him.
- Men desperately need this from their wives. Ladies, when you show _____ for your man, it's like electricity flowing into a 100 watt light bulb.
 - You're the electricity and he's the bulb. He _____ up.

**3. I've learned it's always best to _____
Mom and Dad. vs. 6:1-3**

- When you combine verses 1 and 2, here's what you have - kids are to obey their parents and obey with a _____ attitude.
- In the normal Christian home, kids have learned:
 1. When I obey with a right attitude, things go _____.
 2. When I don't obey or I'm disrespectful, things _____ go well. vs. 3

**4. Daddy teaches us all how to _____
Jesus. vs. 6:4**

- This verse is teaching that dads are the spiritual _____ of their homes. You teach your children about the Lord and how to love the Lord.
- Men, your _____ speaks 10 times louder than your _____.

If your home doesn't look like this, the good news is, God will _____ you right where you are at and help you through your problems and weaknesses.

Four Enemies of the Home

Ephesians 4-5

Introduction:

- The _____ is God's first ordained institution and is the foundation of everything else in society.
- Because of this, Satan's _____ has always been to attack the home and attempt to fracture and disintegrate it.
- From Ephesians we will see four enemies of the Christian home. All four enemies contribute greatly in destroying the home.

First enemy: parents who walk _____ - vs. 4:17-22

- Once we know Christ, we put off the old person we were _____ Christ. Our identity is no longer ungodly, but rather _____ lives within us.
- When parents choose to live according to the deeds of the old man, it _____ children.
- Children do not tend to imitate what parents _____, but what they _____.

Second enemy: _____ companions - vs. 5:5-13

- Once we are saved, we are now _____ in the Lord and we have no business fellowshipping with the works of darkness.

- Who we associate ourselves with can literally make or break us spiritually.
 - *“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”*
Proverbs 13:20
 - *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.”* **Proverbs 22:24-25**
- Parents had better _____ who their children’s friends are and should guide them in choosing the right kind of friends.

Third enemy: unresolved _____ - vs. 4:26-27

- It is possible to be angry and not sin, but so many times anger is _____ of control and directed in the wrong place.
- Anger should lead us to sit down and apply Biblical _____ to our problems.
- Without this, anger simply stirs up strife and leads to _____ sin.
 - *“An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.”* **Proverbs 29:22**

Fourth enemy: bitterness and hatred in the _____ - vs. 4:30-32

- Clearly, bitterness and hatred have no place in your new _____ in Christ.
- Hebrews 12:15 warns about the root of bitterness.
- In the end, this deadly root will _____ your marriage, your children, your spiritual growth, and most of all, it will destroy _____.

A Home Full of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:6-11

Introduction:

- Many homes are “_____ -based” in the way they function.
 - This means that an individual is given the message that he is defective and inadequate as a human being.
 - Members of the family use shame as a tool to _____ the behavior of other members.
- Many times this is done by bringing up _____ offences, again and again.
- Oh, the blessing and freedom of Biblical forgiveness! It is liberating to the entire family.

Why is forgiveness such an important issue in the home?

1. Because unforgiveness will allow _____ to get a foothold in your home - vs. 11

- The word “device” means “purpose.”
- Satan wants your home to be a place of spiritual _____.
- Unforgiveness is one of his primary _____ he uses to bring this bondage.

**2. Because unforgiveness can _____
members of your family - vs. 6-7**

- “Swallowed up” literally means “to _____.”
- Paul is saying, “You’re going to discourage that young man and he is going to drown in sorrow.”
- This is happening in so many Christian homes.
- Paul said that not only should we forgive the guilty, but we should comfort them (to call near, invite), and _____ our love toward them. vs. 8
- You may think that your unforgiveness and bringing up the past keeps them in line, but in reality, it simply _____ them from you and destroys their life.

**3. Because unforgiveness damages your
testimony for _____ - vs. 8-9**

- As Christians, our homes should _____ none other than the person of Jesus Christ.
- If your home was a billboard, what would it look like? It should look like the _____ of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Our homes should be places of _____.
- But unforgiveness will stifle this because it is the enemy of the home.
- Next week, we will explore what true Biblical forgiveness entails.

A Home Full of Forgiveness

part 2

Introduction:

- Because Christians are the most _____ people in the world, we should be the most _____ people in the world.
- In this message, we will learn the meaning of true Biblical forgiveness.

First, we need to understand what Biblical forgiveness IS NOT. Ephesians 4:31-32

Forgiveness is NOT a _____.

1. It is an act of the _____.
2. Feelings are conditional and change with the wind; _____ never changes.

Forgiveness is NOT _____.

1. Forgetting is a _____ process in which a matter fades from memory merely with the passing of time.
2. Forgiving is an _____ process; it involves a conscious choice and deliberate course of action.

Forgiveness is NOT _____.

- The very fact that forgiveness is needed and granted indicates that what someone did was _____ and inexcusable.

Second, lets understand what Biblical forgiveness IS.

Forgiveness is a _____.
Colossians 3:13

1. To forgive someone means to _____ them from the liability of suffering further punishment or penalty.
 - Scriptures for study: Matthew 6:12, 18:27; Luke 7:41-42; 2 Corinthians 2:6-7
2. Remembering what _____ did to purchase our forgiveness should be our greatest incentive to release others from the penalties they deserve.
1 Peter 2:24-25

Forgiveness involves four promises (taken from God's example in Ephesians 1:1-9):

1. I will no longer _____ on this incident.
 - His grace now abounds towards us. vs. 7-8
2. I will not bring up this incident again and _____ it against you.
 - God redeems us from past sins. vs. 7
3. I will not talk to _____ about this incident.
 - God deals directly with us as His children. vs. 5, 9
4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us or _____ our relationship.
 - God not only forgives, He blesses us beyond measure. vs. 3

- One of the most difficult places to practice Biblical forgiveness is the home. Why is this?
- Because those we _____ the most can hurt us the most.

A Home Full of Forgiveness

part 3

Introduction:

- A spiritually _____ home is one where God's grace and forgiveness abound.
- Maybe you are struggling with unforgiveness. In this morning's message, we will examine several Biblical principles that will assist you as you seek to overcome unforgiveness.
- *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* **Ephesians 4:32**

Confirm _____.

- When a person has sinned against you, it is difficult to forgive that person if he/she has _____ to repent and confess his/her sin.
- It may be wise to explain to the person who has wronged you why you are having a difficult time forgiving.

Recognize and turn from _____ attitudes and expectations.

- Many times we withhold forgiveness because:
 - We believe the offender must _____ or deserve our forgiveness.
 - We want to punish the offender and make him/her _____.

→ We want him/her to guarantee us that the offense will _____ occur again.

- These attitudes and expectations are utterly inconsistent with the command of Ephesians 4:32.

Assess _____ own contribution to the problem.

- In many cases, your _____ may have contributed to a conflict.
- *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”*
Galatians 6:1

Remember _____ forgiveness.

- The quickest way to overcome an unforgiving attitude is to focus your attention on how much God has _____ you. Matthew 18:21-35

Draw on God’s _____.

- As you rely on Christ in you and depend on His strength, you can forgive the most _____ offenses.
Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:16, 19-20

- Unless a deliberate effort is made to _____ and strengthen a relationship, it will generally deteriorate.
- Forgiveness and reconciliation are so much _____ than bitterness, conflict, anger, and animosity.

*Angry & Rebellious Children:
How Does it Happen?
Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:13-21*

- “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.” **2 Timothy 3:1-2**

What happens when we provoke our children to anger? They are _____.
Colossians 3:21

Provoking our Children to Anger	Encouraging our Children
1. _____	1. _____ and attention
2. Inconsistency	2. Consistent _____ and walk with Christ
3. Conditional _____	3. Unconditional love and acceptance
4. Permissiveness	4. _____ and training
5. A _____ of forgiveness	5. _____ forgiveness

Concluding Thoughts:

- The Bible says, *“Children, obey your parents.”*
- But then it tells parents, *“Provoke not your children to wrath.”*
- There must be a _____ between these two.
- The greatest blessing you could ever give your children is to proclaim the gospel of Christ to them and _____ them to Christ.



Preparing the Generation to Come

Psalm 78

Pew Bible pg # 646

- *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6*
- Webster’s defines the word “train” as:
 - To direct the _____ of.
 - To form by instruction, discipline.
 - To _____ so as to make fit or qualified.
 - To make _____.
- How can we properly prepare the generation to come? Let’s look in Psalm 78 and discover God’s plan.

First, by accepting our responsibility. vs. 5

- Verse 5 places the responsibility for training the children square on the shoulders of the _____.
- *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4*
- Remember, our goal is not to simply raise _____ kids, but _____ children.

Second, by teaching our children the _____ of God. vs. 5-6

- There is absolutely no way to train up godly, spiritual children apart from God's Word.
- *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
2 Timothy 3:15

Third, by _____ our children the truth of God. vs. 4

- The truth that we teach our children should be seen in our _____ life.
- Our _____ is an open book to our children. What are they reading?

Fourth, by using the _____ as a teaching tool. vs. 8

- While we are not to _____ on the past, we are to _____ from the past.

- Psalm 78 provides for us a practical and workable plan for preparing the generation to come. The purpose is three-fold and is found in verse 7:
 - *“That they might set their _____ in God”*
 - *“And not _____ the works of God”*
 - *“But _____ his commandments”*
- Parents: Let's prepare the generation to come!



LIES

That Satan Tells Parents

- All throughout God's Word, God's commands to families infer that He expects them to spend meaningful _____ together.
- *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."* **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**
- *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* **Proverbs 22:6**
- Being loved and sharing love are the essence of what makes family life work.
- But living in love requires _____ and _____.
- Let's look at three satanic lies that Satan convinces families of to keep them from spending the time together that they need.

First satanic lie – "More _____ and possessions mean more _____."

- What does this misguided thinking do?
 - ⇒ It causes us to go into _____.
 - ⇒ It causes us to live above our _____.
 - ⇒ It causes us to _____ longer and harder hours (to pay for the debt).
- What is the Bible's answer to Satan's lie? 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- When we love money and possessions, we love _____ things.

- We need to love our families and focus on relationships.

Second satanic lie: “I am a success based on what I _____.”

- When God judges you, it is always based on what you **are** in your _____, not what you **do** or accomplish outwardly.
- What is the Bible’s answer to Satan’s lie? Luke 12:15-21
- Typically, people who believe this lie are loved, respected, and admired by everyone but their own _____.

Third satanic lie: “I owe it to myself to fulfill _____ desires.”

- People think they will find happiness through _____-satisfaction and _____-fulfillment.
- What is the Bible’s answer to Satan’s lie? Ephesians 5:25; cf. Matthew 16:24
- True love always involves two things: _____ ourselves and sacrificially _____.
- When we become consumed with self-fulfillment, two things happen:
 - ⇒ We destroy our _____.
 - ⇒ We leave hurting and confused _____ behind.