



What Children Need

Proverbs

- Children should bring **joy** and gladness to parents - this is God's design. vs. 23:24-25
- But the truth is, many times they bring unspeakable **grief** (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. **Training - vs. 22:6**

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

2. **Correction - vs. 22:15**

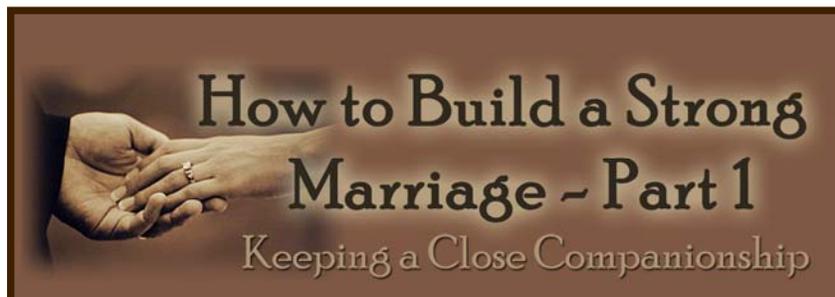
- According to the Bible, there is something within every child's heart that a parent needs to reach and **drive** out - **foolishness**.
- How do we accomplish this? It's through the **rod** of correction.

3. **Direction - vs. 22:15**

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

4. **Instructions - vs. 31:1**

- God's design is that the **parents** 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 **work** ethic.
 - c. Use **fun** as a reward for hard work, but not a way of life.
 - d. **Limit** their TV and video game intake and encourage them to use their minds (drawing, reading, exploring, painting, coloring, etc.).
 - e. Never **allow** uncontrolled emotional outbursts and tantrums.
 - f. Insist that your child be **tidy** and neat.
 - g. Help your child to establish proper priorities in life.
 - h. Be an **example** to your child.



Introduction

- When a man and woman unite in marriage, they become **one** 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, **friends** 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 **both** enjoy together.
- You have to decide, do you want to simply fulfill **yourself** or have a fulfilling marriage?
- C. In the busyness of our culture, couples need to give their time in areas that bring them **together**, 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 **closer** together.
 - They can pursue interests that they do not share, resulting in growing **apart**.

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 **talk**.
 - "*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 **need** for conversation than their husbands.
- D. When daily conversation takes place with a man, a woman feels **bonded** and united with that person.
- E. The enemies of good conversation:
 - Using conversation to **punish** each other. Ephesians 4:29.
 - Using conversation to force agreement to your way of **thinking**.

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

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

F. The friends of good conversation:

- Give to her your undivided **attention**.
1 Peter 3:8 *“...be courteous.”*
- **Respond** 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 **destroy** his marriage.

- **Respect** her opinions.
1 Peter 3:7 *“...giving honor unto the wife...”*
- Always speak with **love** and kindness.

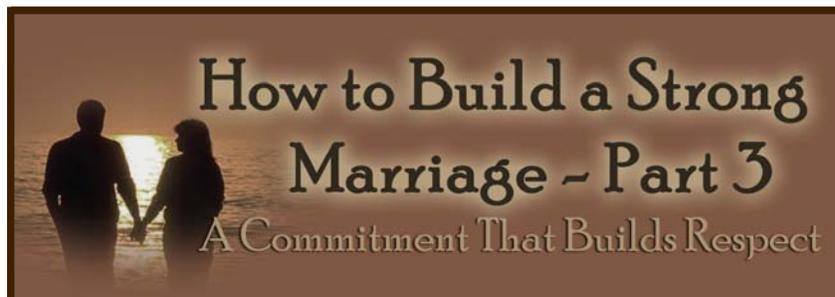
→ *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1*

- **Praise** 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 **understand** each other more clearly.
- You learn what it takes to meet each other’s **needs**.
- You become **best** 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 **respect** 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 **sacrifice**. 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 **close**. Proverbs 18:24
 3. To be **honest**. Proverbs 27:6
 - True friends tell you the truth even when it **hurts**.
 - Friends are **always** honest - even when it may not be easy, comfortable, or pleasant.

4. To **pray** 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 **condemning** 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 **man** simply thrives on a woman’s admiration. This is why Ephesians 5:33 commands wives to reverence or respect their husbands.

6. To always **love** each other unconditionally.
Proverbs 17:17

- Love is not a **feeling**. It is a **choice** 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 **filling** 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 loves Mommy with all of his heart.** **vs. 5:33**

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

2. **Mommy thinks Daddy is the greatest.** **vs. 5:33**

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

3. I've learned it's always best to *obey* 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 *right* attitude.
- In the normal Christian home, kids have learned:
 1. When I obey with a right attitude, things go *well*.
 2. When I don't obey or I'm disrespectful, things *don't* go well. vs. 3

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

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

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

Four Enemies of the Home

Ephesians 4-5

Introduction:

- The **home** is God's first ordained institution and is the foundation of everything else in society.
- Because of this, Satan's **plan** 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 **ungodly** - vs. 4:17-22

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

Second enemy: **evil companions** - vs. 5:5-13

- Once we are saved, we are now **light** in the Lord and we have no business fellowshiping 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 **know** who their children’s friends are and should guide them in choosing the right kind of friends.

Third enemy: unresolved *anger* - vs. 4:26-27

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

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

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

A Home Full of Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:6-11

Introduction:

- Many homes are “**shame**-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 **control** the behavior of other members.
- Many times this is done by bringing up **past** 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 **Satan** to get a foothold in your home - vs. 11

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

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

- “Swallowed up” literally means “to *drown*.”
- 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 *confirm* 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 *drives* them from you and destroys their life.

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

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

- Our homes should be places of *joy*.
- 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 **forgiven** people in the world, we should be the most **forgiving** 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 *feeling*.

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

Forgiveness is NOT *forgetting*.

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

Forgiveness is NOT *excusing*.

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

Second, lets understand what Biblical forgiveness IS.

Forgiveness is a *decision*. Colossians 3:13

1. To forgive someone means to **release** 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 **Christ** 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 **dwell** on this incident.
 - His grace now abounds towards us. vs. 7-8
2. I will not bring up this incident again and **use** it against you.
 - God redeems us from past sins. vs. 7
3. I will not talk to **others** 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 **hinder** 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 **love** the most can hurt us the most.

A Home Full of Forgiveness

part 3

Introduction:

- A spiritually **healthy** 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 **repentance**.

- When a person has sinned against you, it is difficult to forgive that person if he/she has **failed** 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 **sinful** attitudes and expectations.

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

→ We want him/her to guarantee us that the offense will **never** occur again.

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

Assess *your* own contribution to the problem.

- In many cases, your **sins** 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 *God’s* forgiveness.

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

Draw on *God’s* strength.

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

- Unless a deliberate effort is made to **restore** and strengthen a relationship, it will generally deteriorate.
- Forgiveness and reconciliation are so much **better** 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 *discouraged*. Colossians 3:21

Provoking our Children to Anger	Encouraging our Children
1. Neglect	1. Time and attention
2. Inconsistency	2. Consistent example and walk with Christ
3. Conditional love	3. Unconditional love and acceptance
4. Permissiveness	4. Correction and training
5. A lack of forgiveness	5. Total 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 **balance** between these two.
- The greatest blessing you could ever give your children is to proclaim the gospel of Christ to them and **lead** them to Christ.

Preparing the Generation to Come Psalm 78

Introduction:

1. In Psalm 78, the psalmist discusses the incredible importance of training our children. Twice he uses the phrase, "*the generation to come.*" vs. 4, 6
2. I've heard it said, "Christianity is but one generation from extinction."
3. If parents and grandparents do not take seriously God's command in **Proverbs 22:6** to "*train up our children in the way they should go*", then how can we expect the next generation to hold to and perpetuate Biblical truth?
4. Webster's defines the word "train" as: A) to direct the growth of; B) to form by instruction, discipline; C) to teach so as to make fit or qualified; D) to make prepared.
5. This is our job! To prepare the generation to come to love God, serve God, worship God, and obey God.
6. 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

1. This is the first step. We must take personal responsibility. If everyone assumes someone else is doing it, it won't get done.
 - **Illustration:** Telling all three of my boys to do something - this is a great way to insure that it doesn't get done.
2. Verse 5 places the responsibility for training the children square on the shoulders of the fathers. This coincides with what Paul told the church-age saints today.
Ephesians 6:4
3. Too many fathers today are abandoning their God-given responsibility. They are pawning it off on mom, or the Sunday School teacher, or the school teacher, or the AWANA club leader, or the youth director.
4. The local church should simply be supplementing the training we are giving our children at home, not replacing it! **Illustration:** vitamin supplements don't replace food.
5. Parents: **Ephesians 6:4** indicates that we should have a proactive plan for training our children. Too many parents are reactive.
6. Remember, our goal is not to simply raise good kids, but godly children.

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

1. God told the fathers of Israel to teach their children God's law so that the generation to come would know it, and could in turn teach it to their children. **Isaiah 38:19**
2. This verse reminds me of **2 Timothy 2:2** when Paul told Timothy to take the things that he had learned from Paul (his spiritual father), teach them to faithful men who would then in turn teach others.
 - In both of these passages we see four generations of people receiving God's truth.

3. There is absolutely no way to train up godly, spiritual children apart from God's Word. Timothy is a wonderful example of this. We learn in **2 Timothy 1:5** that Timothy was at least a third generation strong, committed believer.
4. But, in **2 Timothy 3:15** we learn why this was so. From childhood he had been taught God's Word. Paul said that the Scriptures are able to "*make thee wise.*"
5. Do you desire for your children to make wise choices as they grow into their teen years and into adulthood? Spend the time right now teaching and instructing them from God's Word. Is it a time investment? Absolutely, but one you will not regret!

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

1. The key word in verse 4 is "showing."
2. The truth that we teach our children should be seen in our daily life. It is a powerful testimony when our children see us living out what we are teaching.
 - It is one thing to teach them to pray, but how powerful for them to actually see and hear you praying.
 - It is one thing to tell them to be honest, but how powerful when they see you displaying honesty in your daily life.
 - You've heard, "A picture is worth a thousand words."
3. I remember from my Junior Church days that kids love object lessons. Parents, we are a living, daily object lesson that our kids learn from. They learn how to live the Christian life by watching us.
4. Look at verse 4. We teach our kids:
 - How to praise the Lord.
 - How to rely on God's strength daily.
 - How to recognize God's wonderful works.
5. Our life is an open book to our children. What are they reading?

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

1. The psalmist encourages Israel to use the past as a teaching tool to instruct their children. The rest of this psalm is dedicated to this. Why would he do this? It is for the purpose of their children learning from past mistakes and not making the same ones.
2. While we are not to dwell on the past, we are to learn from the past.
1 Corinthians 10:6-11
3. Parents, talk to your kids honestly about some of your past mistakes and failures. Utilize those events as a tool to teach and warn your children. Did you know your kids love to hear stories from your past? They eat it up. They want to know you.

In Conclusion:

1. Psalm 78 provides for us a practical and workable plan for preparing the generation to come.
2. The purpose is three-fold and is found in verse 7:
"That they might set their hope in God"
"And not forget the works of God"
"But keep his commandments"
3. Parents: let's prepare the generation to come!

Three Lies that Satan Tells Parents

Introduction:

1. All throughout God's Word, God's commands to families infer that He expects them to spend meaningful time together. Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:25-29, 6:4
2. But the rush of life is sweeping our families along and eating them alive. We are spinning out of control. Being loved and sharing love are the essence of what makes family life work.
3. But living in love requires time and energy - two precious commodities that we don't seem to have much of today.
4. Strong, close families never happen by accident. To be a family (in more than name only), we need - more than anything else - a generous amount of quality, relational time. It takes relaxed time to really get to know one another, to share in each other's struggles and dreams, and to simply enjoy being a family.
5. We have to guard time for relationships in our families. If not, it will get swallowed up in life's frantic activity, and all we have left are crumbs of time left for our family.
6. We can convince ourselves of the rightness of our rushed lifestyles. When challenged, we'll often defend our crazy lifestyles, and we find it difficult to believe that our lifestyle might be contributing to our family's problems.
7. Let's look at three satanic lies that Satan convinces mothers, fathers, and families of to keep them from spending the time together that they need. He uses these lies to keep us spinning out of control.

First satanic lie – “More money and possessions mean more happiness.”

1. What idea does the media hammer into our heads today? They say, “Happiness is the natural result of acquiring an abundance of things.”
 - Advertising basically tells us, “You don't yet have everything you need, and what you already have is not good enough.”
2. If we believe this is true for ourselves, then we will also believe that this is true for our kids. We'll want them to have everything so they will be happy too! What does this misguided thinking do?
 - It causes us to go into debt (if we can't afford it, charge it!).
 - It causes us to live above our means.
 - It causes us to work longer and harder hours (to pay for the debt).
3. What is the Bible's answer to Satan's lie? 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - We must change our focus! We must focus on what really matters. When we focus on money and possessions, our families end up drowning in destruction and sorrow. When we love money and possessions, we love dead things.
 - We need to love our families and focus on relationships. This is what really matters. You can pour your best years into something and come up empty.

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

1. Satan convinces people that their worth comes from how well they perform, how much money they make, how many promotions they get, and how successful they appear to others.
2. But the Bible teaches that “*man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.*” When God judges you, it is always based on what you **are** in your heart, not what you **do** or accomplish outwardly.
 - Are you godly, faithful, righteous, holy, sincere, loving, unselfish, humble, etc.? These are the character traits God is looking at - what you **are** in your heart.
3. What is the Bible’s answer to Satan’s lie? Luke 12:15-21. This man thought he was a success based on what he **did**, but God thought he was a fool because of what he **was**.
4. We live in a world in which the emphasis is on performance and appearance. The world rewards the prettiest, fastest, strongest, wealthiest, and smartest. Everything is performance-based. It is easy to fall into this trap and begin believing Satan’s lie.
5. How does this affect families? What happens when we become convinced that our worth comes from what we do?
 - We set very high goals for ourselves and try to meet them. If we are perfectionists to boot, we always feel like we could do more or do it better. So the next time we take on an activity, we shoot higher and higher.
 - Fear of failure keeps us under intense stress and a flurry of activity (go, go, go).
 - We get out of control and become missing persons in our families – we have very little left to give to our families.
6. Typically, people who believe this lie are loved, respected, and admired by everyone but their own family. Remember, success is based on what kind of person you are, not what you do. Are you rich towards God?

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

1. We live in the “me” generation. People think they will find happiness through self-satisfaction and self-fulfillment.
2. We become a people consumed with ourselves (our work, hobbies, interests, desires, education, careers, happiness, personal fulfillment). We have become a generation of people consumed with thinking good about ourselves.
 - Some couples even choose to remain childless so they can pursue their individual lives unhindered.
3. But then there are other couples who **do** have children and believe that it is enough to give their kids **things** rather than time and affection. They are striving to get ahead socially and economically, with little regard to how it affects their children.

4. Is it any wonder that our generation has had such a difficult time sustaining success in marriage and in child-rearing? We often look back and wonder, “What happened?”
 - You cannot be radically committed to self-interest and also expect to experience meaningful lives marked by love and affection.
5. What is the Bible answer to Satan’s lie? Ephesians 5:25; cf. Matthew 16:24
6. True love always involves two things: denying ourselves and sacrificially giving.
 - When parents are absorbed in their own worlds and with their own needs, children suffer. There is simply no way to have personal freedom and fulfillment of every desire and, at the same time, raise healthy children.
7. Unfortunately, many parents make choices without regard to how the choices will affect their children’s lives. We must do two things:
 - Decide our priorities for our time and commitment.
 - Pray that God will give us the strength and courage to live out our convictions.
8. When we become consumed with self-fulfillment, two things happen:
 - We destroy our marriages.
 - We leave hurting and confused kids behind.

In Conclusion:

1. We have to be honest with ourselves. If the rush of our lives leaves family time in the dust, we need to find out what is driving us.
2. If we have believed any of these satanic lies (to the detriment of our families), we need to be honest about it.
3. We must stop and listen to our family. We must hear what their real needs are and what they need from us as wives or mothers, husbands or fathers. We must quit defending ourselves, stop, and listen.
4. Through the grace and power of Jesus Christ, we can overcome each and every one of these lies and, as Jesus said, “*The truth shall set you free!*”