

'WALK WORTHY' (IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY)

2/23/25 (#16).

PASTOR ROB

Eph 6 :1-4- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise) 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.' Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- The principles in this text....so powerful...not only help us raise our kids in a spiritually healthy environment but have such broad applicability to help anyone grow! (parents, grandparents, etc.)
- Absent a viable manual (which doesn't exist)....Pastor Rob will offer a biblically-based, impactful equation/framework to help raise kids and support people to grow. Pastor Rob has applied this equation to his own three children with great success (they all love Jesus!)
- First, reviewing text,Paul continues his instruction ('children, honor your parents') which points also toward Duet 5:16- - ".....Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you....." Note: the Bible rarely directly addresses children....which reinforces the importance of this and these similar messages.
- Pastor Rob...addressing our children directly: 1. Children, obey and honor your parents! 2. Your parents are just normal people...with feelings...who were once kids themselves! This can bring joy to the household....by faith! 3. God sees you! 4. For the rest of your lives, it will go well with you.
- Lots of adults never learned to respect/submit to this authority. It's a reason why some of these people struggle to submit control to Jesus. Learning to obey at a young age is good!
- Message to parents: we need to establish a culture which is conducive and encouraging to children to want to obey and thrive. And there is a strong correlation between obedience of children and, eventually, growing up as self-disciplined adults. Note also that obedience starts at toddler age....give them boundaries....consistently applied! Also, husbands and wives: be a parenting team....supporting each other!
- THE EQUATION: GRACE PLUS TRUTH MULTIPLIED BY TIME YIELDS GROWTH! It's a principle espoused and written by Dr. Henry Cloud ("Changes That Heal") applicable to raising children and living life.
- This whole concept can be the stimulus for great conversation as we analyze our own experiences. Example: In my own childhood days, did I experience more 'grace', more 'truth' or was there some sort of appropriate balance?.....and what impact did that have on me?
- The Equation itself is, most importantly, based on who Jesus is. In John 1:17, it says that 'the Law came from Moses but grace and truth came from Jesus'. This Equation is how Jesus interacts with US.

- What does "Grace" and "Truth" mean? (Note: 'Grace' alone and 'Truth' alone does NOT equal 'Love'- -you need BOTH!)
- V-4..."Fathers" specifically are addressed....."do not provoke"....a notion so counter-cultural back in historical times and still an issue today....that fathers would have the responsibility to guide and discipline with sensitivity was revolutionary/novel.
- Imagine a family that was wholly about obedience/truth- -without grace/love....a harsh, provoking and warped form of Christianity...one marked by rules/ forced compliance and energized by sheer fear leading to inner resistance and anger in the children.
- Conversely, we need 'Grace' and outward love as well...of an overtly, active kind. Definition of 'Grace': 'unmerited favor'....as in Jesus providing for our salvation....undeserved but He did it anyway! Do we actively 'favor'/show 'Grace' to our children? Ratio: 10 parts 'Grace and 1 part 'Truth'.....takes affirmative, consistent interaction.
- This consistent affording of 'Grace' begets a much more open and heart-ready child to receive and accept the other essential element...that being 'Truth'.
- Analogy....coaching....teaching children the principles of the sport.....but then they need to practice/play the sport. Just like they need to understand Scripture and then apply it to their lives.
- A related principle to Grace.....keep them talking....that interchange is essential to healthy relationships and growth! James 1:19 says to be slow to speak (and slow to be angry) and quick to listen...control emotions.....temper your own projections.
- An essential element of the Equation is 'Time'....and, during this cherished, relatively short time, you need to consistently nourish your children....their bodies...their souls.
- Understand that 'Growth over Time' is NOT a straight line on a graph or in life....there are ups and downs or 'dips' along the way...so, its much more usually a jagged line but one with an overall upward/HEALTHY trajectory! So parents: 1. Be patient...especially knowing that these dips could be instructive and still filled with grace. 2. Be consistent 3. Be the safe place. 4. Be the prayer warriors for them. 5. Say "Yes' to Jesus yourselves.
- Its NOT about 'forced compliance'....Jesus wants our children's hearts.....AND He wants our hearts!
- So, this same principle of 'Growth over Time' extends beyond childhood into our adult lives.....it is not a sprint- - its a marathon!

TRANSFORMING THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN:

(GRACE+TRUTH) TIME — — → GROWTH