

Parent's Checklist

Ephesians 6:4

Thesis: As goes the home, so goes society (and the church). The family is the backbone of a strong nation. Where the family is weak, we can be sure that immorality is strong; and “sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

Introduction:

1. John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” It stands to reason since the Word of God is the Truth, all the Truth, and we have that Truth contained in the Bible, then we can be made and kept holy by reading the Bible. Quite simple. Yet, we have such a difficult time with sanctification.
2. The Bible is clear on morality - dancing, drinking, dancing, modesty, etc, yet we are losing that battle in our very homes. Even with clear scriptures of truth like Ephesians 6:4.
3. There is no fool-proof manual on how to raise a family that will guarantee a mistake-free-sin-free-never-disrespect-perfect-child-then-adult.
4. I'm sure there were some in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah who thought that all was fine and good in society in 2000 B.C. (Unger 114–115), but society then broke down for the same reason it has broken down every time - “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.” (Prov. 14:34, **Psalm 106:21**)
5. On the most basic level there are two parties interested in our children: parents and society.
 - a. Parents, if equipped with God's Word (John 17:17) will have the upper hand. Don't underestimate God.
 - b. Society is equipped with Satan vying for our souls. Don't underestimate Satan.
 - c. Let's see God's unchanging plan for the family**
- I. Marriage and the plan for it is from God
 - A. It is universal - applies to all people of all time and of all places and should be held as honorable (Hebrews 13:4)
 1. Marriage bed is to be respected and reserved for husband and wife
 2. Fornicators and adulterers eliminates having a sexual relationship outside the marriage bond.
 - B. Marriage is between one **man** and **woman** for **life**
 1. Matthew 19:4-8
 2. Matthew 19:9 Man decided to focus on the execution and not on the principle
 - C. Competition for our children:
 1. Society in every aspect teaches the opposite
 - a. Shows them the glamour of promiscuity
 - b. Show them the ease of getting in and out of relationships
 - c. Don't underestimate Satan**
 2. Parents must teach children the truth about marriage
 - a. Model how marriage is supposed to work
 - b. Love and respect each other

- c. Every man wants a Proverbs 31 wife, and every woman wants an Ephesians 5 husband (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4)
 - D. Hold on tight to God's unchanging plan for marriage - the future of your children, society and the church depends on it.
- II. Families are to be raised by mom and dad
 - A. Children are growing up in a difficult world (it has been a difficult world since sin entered)
 - 1. A Florida College Camp counselor wrote in 1987: "The majority of questions which the other teachers and myself have been asked over the past two years deal with the following: alcoholism, drug abuse, peer pressure, modesty, sex, family relationships, influence, and relationships with other Christians. Here is a sampling of some of the questions. What is permissible in sexual activity, and why? Is there a difference in doing hard drugs and smoking pot? How do I deal with my friend who is addicted to drugs? Where do I draw the line when it comes to dating and physical contact? Why don't my parents listen? What's wrong with dancing, or social drinking, or petting, or wearing certain types of clothes? How should I treat my friend who is boasting of her sexual experiences, yet who acts like she is righteous in front of most people? My father is an alcoholic, so do I have to obey him?" (Harrell)
 - 2. Most parents think they know what is going on in the lives of their children, but don't underestimate Satan.
 - B. Golden texts of child rearing: Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6 - Easy texts to understand yet such a daunting task when it comes to raising children. Some things children need to know:
 - 1. God is good, righteous and just (Deuteronomy 32:4)
 - 2. Sin is horrible, wrong in every circumstance and there is always a choice to do right (Acts 17:30-31; Philippians 4:12).
 - 3. The Bible is God's gift to us; it is understandable and applicable throughout life (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 4. God's love, care and mercy never fail and He wants us to be His children (1 John 3:1)
 - 5. Heaven is what life is all about and we can make it there (Romans 8:18)
 - 6. We don't have to do it alone (James 5:16)
 - C. These are things we've heard so many times that it may even seem cliché, even some adults have a hard time with these things. Parents need to help children accept these truths:
 - 1. Develop ourselves as God directs (Matthew 5:14-16). Our example will always be the strongest and most practical method. If there is a difference between what we say and do our children will be "provoked to wrath."
 - 2. Be honest: Allow your children to see that you are vulnerable and that we fail. Point out that when sin is committed it deserves punishment.
 - 3. Be friends without blurring the lines of authority.
 - 4. Pray: Teach them to pray always and without ceasing, teach them to pray for thanksgiving, for petitions, for gladness, for sadness, for enemies, and for friends..always!
 - D. One final look at Ephesians 6:4 - Ways Parents can provoke children to anger:

1. Neglect time with your children
2. Model sinful anger
3. Scold your children harshly
4. Find fault with your children constantly
5. Refuse to listen to your children
6. Permit your children too much
7. Demand too much from your children
8. Set double or changing standards
9. Compare your children to others
10. Break your promises
11. Show favoritism

Conclusion:

1. Raising a family has never been easy. As time progresses values change and the task seem to get harder. What does not change is God and His plan for the family. We need to take a stand on God's Word and not change with society. We can successfully raise a family now or in the future as long as God is the focal point.
2. Proverbs 22:6

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