

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."
 2. The Bible is clear on morality - dancing, drinking, dancing, modesty, etc, yet we are losing that battle in our very homes.
 3. There is no fool-proof manual on how to raise a family.
 4. "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. (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 (Hebrews 13:4)
 - B. Marriage is between one **man** and **woman** for **life**
 1. Matthew 19:4-9
 - C. Competition for our children:
 1. Society in every aspect teaches the opposite
 2. Parents must teach children the truth about marriage
 - 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)
 - B. Golden texts of child rearing: Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6. Some things children need to know...
 - C. 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. Sold 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

Thought Questions

1. According to Proverbs 14:34, God does not evaluate countries by the size of their territory or population or wealth, which is the focus of the political sphere. God evaluates societies by their **righteousness**, that is, their relationship to the Lord. How do individuals shape the political climate of a nation?
2. Who/what is in competition for our families? How do they compete?
3. Why is it important to teach our children God's definition of marriage to our children?
4. What is God's definition of marriage?
5. Compare and contrast a Proverbs 31 wife to an Ephesians 5 husband?
6. In light of Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6 what are some things children need to know (6 were mentioned in the sermon)
7. What are some ways parents can provoke children to wrath and why should we not want to do do that? (Ephesians 6:4)