

THE FACTS OF LIFE & PARENTING: *WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM?*

Ephesians 6:1-4; Genesis 4:1-12

INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

Worldviews revolve around three basic concepts:

1. Creation: *Where did we come from, and who are we?* This is addressed in Gen.1-2.
2. Fall: *What has gone wrong with the world?* This is addressed in Genesis 3.
3. Redemption: *What can be done to fix the world?* The answer to this begins in Genesis 3:15 and is developed throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

I. CREATION: WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM? (cf. Deuteronomy 32:39)

- A. The Bible's conception of where babies come from is different from the world's! The facts of life begin with God and not man (Genesis 15:3; 16:2; 25:21; 30:1,2; 1 Sam.1:10,11,27).
- B. Since babies come from God, then we must learn what God has to say about children.
- C. Every child is a possession of God entrusted to the care of his parents. Therefore, parents must learn what God says about how they are raised. Parents must look to God's Word to learn what the purpose and goal of their parenting is.

II. FALL: WHY DO PARENTS HAVE DIFFICULTIES RAISING THEIR CHILDREN? WHY DO CHILDREN DISOBEY? (Genesis 4:1-12)

- A. Every Christian and non-Christian parent, psychologist, psychiatrist, and educator must ask the fundamental and foundational question: What is the ultimate reason for a child's disobedience? If you can discern the cause of the problem then you are on the road to the right solution.
 1. Do children disobey because of what parents did to them?
 2. Do children disobey because of what parents did not do to them?
 3. Is sin, disobedience, and rebellion a part of the child's nature or are children born innocent and pure?
 4. Do children disobey because their parents aren't "experts?" (Anna Freud)
- B. Children are disobedient because they are conceived sinners (cf. Genesis 6:5; Psalm 58:3).
 1. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).
 2. "[Adam]... became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth" (Genesis 5:3).
 3. "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child" (Proverbs 22:15a).
- C. A further complication to a child's disobedience is that parents are sinners like their children.

III. REDEMPTION: WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR CORRECTING A CHILD'S MISBEHAVIOR? HOW SHOULD PARENTS CORRECT THEIR CHILDREN'S DISOBEDIENCE?

How do you as a parent deal with a child who does not obey?

- ✓ *What do you do when your child tells you "No!"*
- ✓ *What do you do when your child hits?*
- ✓ *What do you do when your child throws a temper tantrum because they don't get what they want?*
- ✓ *What do you do when your teenager says that they will set their own curfew and breaks the one you established?*

- A. If you don't have a game plan of what you must do when your child disobeys, then you will likely react, overreact, or underreact according to your mood swing. The worse your mood, the more sinful your response will be to your child's disobedience.
- B. When you as a parent do not have a game plan for disobedient children, you will most likely resort to sinful ways of getting your children to obey: manipulation, bribery, verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and threats.
- C. Before parents can know what to do when their child disobeys, they must first answer the question, "What is my ultimate goal for wanting well-behaved children?" Why do you want children who don't whine, hit, bite, talk back, break things, like, or act snobby?
- D. Your ultimate goal for your child's behavior must not be self-centered, but _____
_____. Your goal for your children is not ultimately that they obey _____, but that they obey _____ from the heart (Ephesians 6:4).
- E. Parents, it is your responsibility to teach your children about the facts of life. The first and most important fact of life is: God made you. It is your responsibility to read and teach your children the Bible, to pray with them, to pray with them when they sin, and to take them to church. It is your responsibility to make your entire home revolve around Jesus Christ (cf. Genesis 18:19; Deut.6:4-9; 24:15; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Job 1:5; Psalm 78:3; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15).

- ✓ *Parents, when is the last time you lost control with your children?*
- ✓ *When is the last time that you sinned against them through verbal, emotional, or physical abuse?*
- ✓ *When is the last time you prayed and asked Jesus for the forgiveness of your parenting sins?*
- ✓ *When is the last time you asked your children to forgive your sins against them?*
- ✓ *When is the last time you prayed with your children when they did something wrong? Are you pointing your children to Jesus?*

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

Why is it important for parents to know where babies come from?

Why do children disobey their parents and question their authority?

Why is it important to have a game plan for when your child disobeys?

What is your ultimate goal for wanting well-behaved children? What must be your ultimate goal for having well-behaved children?

ILLUSTRATION:

The Indiana Jones approach to parenting –

Indy ... "Get back to Cairo. Get us some transport to England: boat, plane, anything. Meet me at Omar's. Be ready for me. I'm going after that truck."

Sallah ... "How?"

Indy ... **"I don't know. I'm making this up as I go."**