

Let's look for just a moment in Ephesians chapter 5. Verse 1. Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us in offering a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Now I am not against doing things with children in the church. I am not against doing things with youth in the church. But I want you to listen to me.

We have children's church, right? Then there is youth church. Teenage church. I want you to look at some things.

Why do we do that? Why? When I ask that question, here is the answer I get. Well, children need to be with children. Young people need to be with young people.

Who told you that? Where did you learn that? Can you show me in the scriptures where you got that? Can you prove that youth and youth, children and children are together? I will tell you where you got it. You got it from the world. Started around the 60s.

Generation gap. Old people can't understand young people. Young people are smarter than old people.

And then began the cult of youth. To say that young people need to be with young people is a direct contradiction of scripture. Look what the scripture says.

He who walks with wise men will be wise. Who should little boys be with? They should be with wise men. Why? Because foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.

You put a bunch of foolish children together. What do you have? You have a companionship of fools. Each of them learning off of the other.

Can't you see this? I mean it's everywhere. Thirty year old men playing video games. Acting like fools.

Because they're not men. Because they've never had a man in their life. That is what is happening.

Where are the men? Where are the great men? A companion of fools. And they go on to destruction. An illustration I used last night but I'll use again because there's some people here who weren't here last night.

In the movie Master and Commander representing the war between the French pirates and the English Navy. When the English pull up beside the French pirates the boats are brought together and the English are going to charge. You can imagine how dangerous this is.

Jumping from one ship to another. To attack the army and the other ship. The movie is fairly accurate historically.

It's interesting. A teenage boy leads the charge. In command of the men.

Because he was a man. Gentlemen listen to me. One of our great responsibilities as fathers is to raise up our sons to be men.

In order to do that they must have a man as an example. And they must be around other men who are serious about doing the things men do. Like serving the Lord.

Rescuing the weak. Helping the poor. Taking the gospel to the world.

Living for a purpose greater than themselves. It is no one else's responsibility to raise your son or your daughter. It is yours.

And God has not given you the right to turn that over to someone else. Especially someone who believes completely the opposite of what you do. You turn your child over to Sunday school.

You turn your son over to Sunday school. And most of those classes are taught by women. You take him to school.

And most of those classes are taught by women. Now some of you don't like what I'm saying. But what I'm saying is true.

Where is the godly influence in their life? A masculine influence. Unless you just squash the spirit of a boy. He doesn't want to sit in front of a television.

He wants to build forts. Three houses. He wants to run through the woods.

He wants to fight something. But the world tells you to domesticate him. To tame him.

To make him look no different than his sister and his sister no different from him. So in the end all you have is a society of young boys with fancy haircuts funny looking jeans funny looking pants bracelets on their arms and around their neck spending most of their time in a mall. This is not right.

See we can talk all kinds of things about theology and doctrine. But the fact is the world has just come into the church and is so influenced that many of you are hearing the things I'm saying and it almost scares you. Boys need a dad.

It's going to raise them to be a man. But guess what? Girls need a dad. Maybe even more than the sons.

They need the kindness of a dad. The affection of a dad. The tenderness of a dad.

A dad treating his little girl like she's made of glass. Except when she's had enough and is wrestling with her brothers. A dad who so respects her and her mother that she learns how a man ought to treat her.

No one touches her. No one treats her like a boy. She's not one of the gang.

She's not running with a pack of boys. No, she's completely set apart. She is precious.

And she knows it. And she's not going to allow some young man who doesn't have any sense in his head get near her. Because she has seen the example of her father.

And she's not going to settle for anything less than that. You say, Brother Paul, if I get this involved in my family, I won't have time to sleep. You'll have plenty of time to sleep when you're dead.

This is why fathers go to bed tired. Because we're pouring our lives into our wives like I said last night. And into our children.

Because of the shortness of time, I want to explain two different things that is so important to give your children. The first is the gospel. The gospel.

Listen, Christianity is not about it's not about giving your children a whole bunch of even biblical principles. That's part of it. But it's only a small part of it.

Christianity is about giving your children the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's being able to say that although all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, although all are under the sentence of death, God gave His Son. His Son bore our guilt.

His Son suffered the wrath that was due us. His Son died in our place and rose again from the dead. He's seated at the right hand of God and can give us life abundantly.

And life eternal. And it's not just about principles. It's not just about rules.

It's about life. Real life. The kind you can feed on.

The kind that flows like a current. The kind that manifests itself in love. Do you know what the goal of my home is? This is my purposed goal in my house.

That when you walk in, there is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. With two boys and a little girl and a wild man for a father, self-control is a little difficult. If you came into my home, I don't want you to see just everybody sitting pretty.

I want you to see the wildness of life. When I put the key in the door, that my three little kids are on the other side of the door already opening it. They jump on me.

And we wrestle all the way to the living room. And then when I throw all of them on the couch, I grab their mother in the kitchen and dance across the living room. Dance.

That's very hard for a Baptist. And all the kids jumping on top of us. It isn't until mom's had enough.

What I'm trying to share with you is people hear me on the internet and they think he's got to be the meanest, most frightening man in the world. And I always ask this question. How come no one ever puts my sermons about love on the internet? I guess no one wants to listen to them.

Christ came to give us life to restore relationships and even when we all mess up to bring forgiveness because it sets us free from guilt it cleanses our conscience and allows us to start again. I know a man

who has raised a lot of godly children and he studied a lot of homes that have produced godly children. And he says they're all sort of different.

But the one thing that he says they all seem to have in common is joy in the Holy Spirit. This world is so full of darkness and grief. There ought to be one place where those children can see the light of joy.

And it ought to be in the face of their father and their mother. Now listen to me, men. I heard some things last night about many of the men the Chinese men who live in Toronto.

And if it's true I'm very proud of you that many of you left your own country where you were professionals very intelligent men and women. But to find a better life for your children you were able to leave it all. And some of you work here for people who aren't half as smart as you are.

And sometimes it's a very difficult struggle. Other people prosper. You work hard.

I applaud you. But I want you to know there's something more wonderful that you can give your children more wonderful than even having a better chance at prosperity. You can give your children a Christ-like father.

I remember my father and his generation. He grew up very poor and he became successful by working very hard. And I remember hearing him say I just want to give my children the things I never had.

But I didn't want him to give me the things he never had. I wanted a dad. God never called my dad to give me the things he never had.

He called my dad to give his son a father. I know men who have been offered jobs two times the salary that what they're receiving. And they turned it down because they said I would not be able to love my wife and my children as I ought.

I would be out of my house 14 hours a day. I might give my children fancy new basketball shoes. But God's called me to give my son and daughter a dad.

And wives, you need to understand that this is true. We have a saying you can't have your cake and also eat it at the same time. You want your husband to be a good husband? You want him to be a good father? He may not be able to prosper like the other man.

Because he cares more about you and he cares more about his family and his children than he does the Canadian or the American dollar. And more importantly, he cares about the kingdom of heaven. A few years ago, I was teaching on the family in Dallas.

On the second day of teaching, I realized everything I was teaching was useless. And I just stopped. And I said, you know, we just need to cancel this gathering.

Because none of you men have the time to do what the Bible commands you to do. You're working 14 hours a day. Your wives have jobs.

And it's not to put food on the table. It's so that you can live in a certain neighborhood and drive certain kinds of expensive cars. You'll never be able to serve God.

Because you're serving manna, money. We all have to make choices. God has called us to be fathers.

And to raise up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Now we're going to take a break for a few minutes. And then I'll come back and talk to you about raising up your child in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

Let's pray. Father, I pray that you would use this time to help your people. And help us in the next session.

In Jesus' name.

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