

## Sermon Notes

### **Renewed Parenting**

#### **Ephesians 6:1-4**

February 6, 2022

**1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. **2** Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, **3** so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. **4** Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

### Introduction

-Parenting Is Difficult! (for example, your child is playing quietly and you start to think how nice the quiet is and then you realize it's too quiet!)

-Full of sacrifices. Fears about am I doing a good job? What will come of my children?

-My Credentials (more opportunity for mistakes!)

-Encouragement: There is Hope, It's never too late to start.

**-Renewed Parenting: Returning to God's design for parenting.**

#### 1. The Heart of Renewed Parenting

- a. Not primarily about what I want as a parent.
  - i. "I don't want to have children." Article
  - ii. "I want children for my reasons, makes me feel good about myself."
  - iii. "I want to be my child's friend."
  - iv. "I want my kids to fit into the mold that I have in mind."
- b. Not primarily about what your child wants.
  - i. Permissive parenting.
  - ii. Lack of boundaries; never saying "no."
  - iii. "I'm giving my children everything that I didn't have when I was growing up."

- c. IS primarily about what God desires for your parenting.
  - i. “In the Lord” Eph. 6:1 “of the Lord” Eph. 6:4
  - ii. Relationship to child highlights relationship to God.
  - iii. Parenting is a spiritual endeavor!

## 2. The Hope of Renewed Parenting

- a. Invest in the future of your child.
  - i. Not really a new concept: We get this for education or helping them be “well-rounded” or developing skills and abilities for the future.
- b. Parenting as Disciple-making
  - i. What is the result we are pursuing as a parent? A godly young man or young woman who is following Jesus into adulthood and beyond.

3 John 1:4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

- ii. Not a “bad kid” but a sinful person. Prov. 22:15 Redemption is available!
- iii. More than behavior modification, about heart and, ultimately, relationship with God.
- iv. Not just raising good kids, but godly kids.
  - 1. This requires not just being a good parent, but a godly parent.
  - 2. Character is more important than behavior. But both are important and behavior comes first.
- c. Authority under God, teach your child to obey you.
  - i. Colossians 3:20 “in everything”
  - ii. 1 Timothy 3:4
  - iii. Why: honors God and teaches them about relationship with God
  - iv. Results: quality of life, joy, satisfaction, role in community
  - v. How: Discipline

Heb. 12:5-11 (God disciplines his sons whom he loves.)

- 1. Training: Prov. 22:6
- 2. Instruction: Duet. 6:6-7
- 3. Correction: Prov. 13:24
- 4. Guidance: Prov. 1:8-9

## **Balance of Discipline and Nurturing = Shepherding**

- d. Nurturing the heart of your child. Eph. 6:4 “do not stir up anger/exasperate”
  - i. Seeking the growth of the whole person
    - 1. Physical, mental, emotional, spiritual
  - ii. Protecting
    - 1. You are the biggest influence in the life of your child.
      - a. Maintain that.
    - 2. There are malevolent forces seeking to influence and shape your child.
      - a. Entertainment
      - b. Education
      - c. Peers
      - d. Not sustainable to completely block these out, but you need to block, lay down a foundation of values, teach how to interact, guide interaction, encourage right choices.
- e. Modeling: Be the person you want your child to become.  
Titus 2:7 “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works”
  - i. Behavior, Choices, Lifestyle
  - ii. Character, Attitudes, Heart, Worldview
  - iii. Growth and Learning
  - iv. Open to Correction, Making things right
  - v. Admitting Wrong and Asking Forgiveness

### 3. Help for Renewed Parenting

- a. Walk with God as a parent
  - i. Personal Relationship and Growth
  - ii. Prayer!
- b. Parent as a Team with your spouse.
  - i. By God’s design, children need a mother and a father.
  - ii. Fathers, get in the game.
  - iii. Get on the same page.

- iv. Teamwork makes the dreamwork: share the load, complementary strengths and giftings (same team, not the same person)
- c. Raise your children in the fellowship and support of God's people.
- d. Lean on the love and joy of extended family and friends.
  - i. Grandparents are such a blessing to families.
    1. Same for adoptive grandparents and other family and close friends.
    2. Less judgment, more encouragement
    3. Respect boundaries, offer resources
    4. Pray, pray, pray

### Next Steps

#### Parents:

- Talk about renewed parenting. With God, your spouse, kids, and helpers.
- Take an inventory: How are we doing in regard to the biblical approach to parenting? What are some areas that need improvement?
- Today: Start praying for your children. Start praying with your family.

#### Non-Parents:

- Pray for families and parents.
- Ask how you can support and help.
- Join in disciple-making.
- Prepare yourself for when you may be a parent.

#### Children:

- Honor God by respecting and obeying your parents.
- Give your parents grace because they are not perfect but they love you and are working for your best.
- If you have parents who are trying to live godly lives, follow their lead.

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## More Resources for Online

### Sermon Description

Parenting is one of the most difficult and demanding human responsibilities. Renewed Parenting means returning to God's design for parenting. Join us as we explore what this means by looking at Ephesians 6:1-4 and related Scriptures. Ultimately, we will see that parenting is primarily a spiritual endeavor that requires intentionality and leaning on partnerships.

### Discussion Questions

1. What was something about your own parents that you appreciate now that you are older?
2. What was something about how you were parented that you do not want to repeat?
3. What are some outworkings of the wrong motives in parenting (such as over-emphasizing what the parents want or what the child wants)?
4. What verses about parenting or biblical parenting principles stand out to you?
5. How have you seen these lived out well?
6. What pitfalls do parents need to watch for as they are seeking to be godly parents?
7. How should non-parents navigate a church culture that places a big emphasis on families and children?
8. What are some ways that non-parents can partner with families to support their "parenting as disciple-making?"

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for new parents and future parents that they will enter parenthood with a commitment to follow God's design for parenting.
2. Pray for parents of preteens and teens that they will persevere in their parenting and continue to grow and learn in these important final years of having their children in their home.
3. Pray that parents of adult children not walking with God will hold on to the hope of the Gospel and the power of Jesus to reach into their lives and redeem them.
4. Pray for all parents that they will humbly depend on God for the outcome of their parenting and for his grace and power to be at work in their children's lives.
5. Pray that our church can be a source of help and support for families as they seek to raise their children even as culture exerts a negative influence.

6. Pray that those who do not have children will still see their valuable role in making disciples and that God will lead them to a partnership with him that brings joy and satisfaction.