



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS - PART 2

HOW DO I HELP MY ADULT CHILDREN WHEN I SEE THEM STRUGGLING IN THEIR LIVES?

- Work through your own grief cycle.
- Love them unconditionally, not their ungodly behavior.
- Look for opportunities to counsel them. Be biblical in your counseling.

HOW SHOULD A PARENT RESPOND WHEN AN ADULT CHILD (OVER AGE 18) MAKES WRONG CHOICES?

- Understand the importance of having a relationship of love with your child.
- Understand the difference between obeying parents and honoring parents.
- Honor implies respect of another person, their opinion, and what God is doing in their lives. Obedience involves merely fulfilling parents' wishes. It is possible for children to obey without honoring.
- Understand that God will bring correction to disobedient adult children.
- Determine what is your responsibility and what is God's responsibility in parenting your child. Do not assume God's responsibility on yourself.
- Fathers should not provoke their children to wrath (Ephesians 6:4), since this can only motivate adult children to make wrong choices against their parents' wishes, and more importantly against God's wishes.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN PREPARING CHILDREN FOR MARRIAGE?

- Prospective husbands need to be able to lead, protect, and provide.
- Fathers have the responsibility to help their daughters understand what to look for in a husband.
- Parents need to help their children understand that picking the right spouse is bigger than just evaluating outward appearance, financial/job security, academic training, personality features. A prospective spouse must have a vibrant relationship with the Lord, and be ready to step into responsibilities of marriage as Scripture outlines.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP PREPARE MY CHILDREN FOR MARRIAGE?

*The following material is adapted from Pastor Scott Brown's message,
"Helping Your Children Get Married"*

Exposition of Genesis 24:1-8

A wife was chosen using a certain set of principles.

- A visionary father-Abraham
 - Selection criteria
 - Insistence that Isaac be not unequally yoked
 - Isaac would remain in the land (transgenerational vision)
- A submissive son-Isaac
- A commissioned servant

World's perspective: Marriage is about randomly finding a compatible partner and falling in love

- Based on personal fancy
- Parents not involved
- Random Engagements
- Multiple Engagements
- Romantic Methodology
- Looking any place
- No idea what you are looking for

God's perspective: Marriage is a purposeful, God-directed union between a man and woman to fulfill a transgenerational, evangelistic agenda for God's glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

- Strategic Engagements
- Highly Screened Engagements
- Principled Methodology
- Parental involvement
- Dependence upon God/Prayer for Success
- Intentional looking in specific places vs. passive or random approach
- Clear idea of qualities you are looking for
- Honoring of father's authority

Five Qualities of Rebekah

- Service
- Beauty
- Character
- Industry
- Purity

Convictions

- Both guy and girl need to be enthusiastic and have affection for each other.
- Encourage children to get married.
- Pray for the marriages of the children.
- Anticipate providential workings.
- Do not force the marriage. (Rebekah had opportunity to accept or decline).
- The whole family should approve the marriage (Brothers and sisters blessed Rebekah).
- Love is more than a pretty face; it is a drama of God's working in a couple's life.

Five Principles of Courtship

1. The couple must honor parental authority and responsibility.
 - Sons and daughters are not independent agents.
 - Two states for daughters:
 - ❑ under headship of father.
 - ❑ given in marriage and under headship of husband.
 - Suitors are not allowed to pull the heart strings of the daughter
 - Avoid multiple mini-divorces
2. Wise counselors must be consulted and approve the marriage.
 - Consult church leaders who know the couple.
3. Avoid unequal yoking (2 Corinthians 6:14)
4. The couple should have passion for the marriage, not be forced into the marriage.
 - Certainty, vision, passion. Don't be passive.
5. Purity must be maintained

