

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## **The Drama of Parenting— Parenting 651**

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

**PowerPoint Presentation: None**

**Keywords: Parenting, Children, Family, Gender Roles, daughters**

**SermonAudio blurb: none**

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Today we see a travesty taking place right before our eyes.
1. It is a paganization of households and culture. Paganism is generally understood to be that which is not a formal religion with creed and doctrine. It is broad in what it believes and focuses more upon the physical pleasures and material things. It is a dismissal of God.
  2. There is a strong desire within our culture today to view God like the pagans of Psalm 2, “Why do the nations rebel? Why are the countries devising plots that will fail? The kings of the earth form a united front; the rulers collaborate against the LORD and his anointed king. They say, ‘Let’s tear off the shackles they’ve put on us! Let’s free ourselves from their ropes!’”
  3. But this paganization I to which I refer is not of our broader, non-Christian culture, but the culture of the Christian Church and home.
  4. We see the Church today in America literally on the precipice of wholesale apostasy and the reason is that too often She desires to be like the pagans around Her.
    - a. One only needs to read the Old Testament to see illustrations of what that looks like. Israel was to be a witness to the pagans around Her to the glory and majesty of YHWH and the blessing of loving and following Him.
    - b. But because of sin and a heart that was not diligent the bulk of them ultimately became guilty of making concessions, compromises and wholesale capitulation to paganism found in the nations around them.
    - c. And we can echo these same thoughts into the American Church. A call to sound theology, godly living and a spirit of rejecting a conformity to this age is a strange and almost laughable call in too many parts of the Church.

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

5. One driving concern I have in this long series is that we not find ourselves as a church to be a people of God raising pagans. But if we do not take care and walk as wise men and women that is exactly what we will raise.
- B. Last week I spoke a bit on the nature of boys and what we should considering as we raise up future men. Men who love God and in turn love their wives and their children as God loves them.
- C. Today I turn our attention to the future women, the daughters who fill so many of our households. Let me remind you of certain foundational points made last week:
  1. The gender roles of male and female are defined and given to us by God, not man. Therefore we can only rightly understand ourselves in light of God's revelation.
  2. Both male and female bear the image of God and this alone makes them equal in their glory and being. Any view of either male or female that diminishes a gender is a false understanding.
- D. So starting there we begin to consider the task of raising godly daughters.

## **II. Raising Daughters.**

My third interaction with TBC when candidating—a meeting of the women in the church and the question posed: “What is your plan for the women in the church?”

- A. As a father of three daughters I have a huge soft spot for daughters. My delight in my girls knows no bounds. But this also serves as a potential trap as a father if I am not wise.
- B. In many ways what you do with your son you will do with your daughter but with a different emphasis.
  1. She also is a recipient of the cultural mandate in Genesis 1:28. But note also 2:15 with vs 18. The mandate was given to Adam and then Eve was created to help him achieve that mandate.
  2. So you raise your daughters not to compete with the men, but to help and cooperate with them.
  3. To raise a daughter is to raise a young woman to be a gentle soul who is diligent and faithful. You are to raise her to be nurturing and caring, one who comes alongside others to help. You raise her to have hands busy with good works.

# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

4. As parents you must accept and even embrace that this age and culture is going to froth at the mouth if you choose to raise your daughters from a biblical foundation.
- C. She is to be a master in her own realm.
1. That realm may be large or small but she is to master it. She is called of God to bring this creation under submission.
  2. This means you must give her opportunities to plan and execute those plans. Let her explore and create in her childhood but also give her tasks and responsibilities.
  3. Mothers must learn to see the time of childhood as a time of training and equipping not play and recreation. Those young ladies are there to be taught to manage a home.
  4. The home is a key point of reference for a biblical woman.
    - a. In Titus 2 she is called to be a “house keeper” or “house worker.” This is a term not of minor importance but of a manager, a keeper of the household.
    - b. This is repeated in 1 Timothy 5:14 to young widows that they were to pursue marriage and to manage their households.
    - c. As you raise your daughter you raise her to see value and honor in the home and the family. It is not a step down in importance or value; in fact it is of supreme value if she is taught to view it rightly.
  5. To begin her realm to rule will be her bedroom but as she grows it will be alongside her mother learning the many skills it takes to effectively run a home.
  6. This in no way eliminates her from working outside the home. But it does define how to raise your daughters to view themselves and this world. She starts in the home and works outward whereas your son is to be taught to look outward upon the world and to take it on.
  7. Do not tolerate competing messages to be a part of your daughters upbringing. Just like you must with a son, when you hear your daughter speak approvingly of something contrary to sound doctrine you must challenge it immediately.
- D. Raise her to be a mother.

# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

1. The command given to Adam and Eve was to be fruitful and fill the earth. But the only way that happens is if Eve is a mother.
2. Even if your daughter ultimately does not bear children she is to be taught that motherhood is righteous and glorious role. Therefore the father must make sure he shows proper honor to his wife as mother and to demand that of his sons.
3. This means that as you have children you involve the girls in the nurture and care of those new little ones. Teach them what biblical mothering looks like, which means the mother must be an expert at this task.
4. This means that both the father and mother must exalt motherhood in every way.
  - a. Do not model bitterness of dreams lost.
  - b. Weariness is a sign of hard work, not failure.
  - c. God has entrusted that mother the souls of little ones who will one day rise up to battle unbelief and be lovers of God.
  - d. Never give the impression that what the man is doing is somehow more important than what the woman is doing. They are to complement each other; they are not to compete against each other.
5. A major purpose behind marriage is to make babies.
  - a. Too often the basis for avoiding children early on is simply to pursue an American vision of romance and married life. Before you choose to delay children both the husband and wife should carefully ask what would happen if they had them immediately?
  - b. But it is also important to understand that babies is NOT the end/goal of a marriage. We are to model the relationship of Christ and His Church.
  - c. Raise her though to love children (by first loving her) but to not make those children an idol.
- E. Teach her the value of good works and hospitality.
  1. Walk them through these focusing upon the heart attitude rather than the mere external aspect of having babies or keeping a home.
  2. Proverbs 31.
  3. Titus 2.

# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

4. 1 Timothy 2:10.
5. 1 Timothy 5:9-10.

There were times when money was very, very tight Kim would offer to go and find work to help out. Each time I said no, if necessary I would simply find additional jobs. Why? There would be nothing intrinsically wrong with her doing so.

First I pointed out that we could be content with little and she would usually smile and say, “God has always provided for us.” Then I would remind her that her preeminent goal was to pour her life into the lives of our children in every possible way. And finally, it was more important for her to grow in her role as a wife and mother so that as she grew older she would be available to then pour her life into the souls of the women that God might bring to her. In other words, it was better for her to end her life empty of all but Christ, having expended it into the next generations. The same, by the way, is how I usually make decisions regarding myself as a man, husband and father.

That was the paradigm, the sieve, through which so many of my decisions for our home flowed.

6. These passages mean that fathers and husbands you must delight and praise and value works of mercy and a hospitable home.
  7. The home is not a retreat, it is a missional outpost where you both reach out to those who do not follow Jesus and serve those who do.
- F. Raise her to respect men but also to be rude.
1. My daughters were often exasperated by my son. But most of the time the reasons for the exasperation were not valid because what they wanted him to act like was a woman. Just as I had to train my son to never mock a girl for acting like a girl so too the girls should never mock a boy for being a boy.
  2. The controlling attitude Paul and Peter gives wives is to be subject to their own husbands and a key way this is accomplished is through respecting them as the head of the home.
    - a. When as a father you abdicate that through not establishing a godly tenor in the home, by not making decisions, by being lazy or distance, by not modeling a love for your wife and a love for Christ and His Church; you set up your daughter to struggle on how to rightly relate to a man.
    - b. As mothers you must remember that your daughters and sons are seeing far more than you think. They hear you if your grumbling

# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

and resist and they know a cheerful and gentle spirit. You can tear down your house and then weep later when you watch your daughters do the same, but it need not be that way.

c. But you also must show your daughters that in life there are very few who they must submit to. Not man in general but specific men are her responsibilities.

(1) I told my daughters and I have told those women I gave premarital counsel to that they must think long and hard about the man they marry. From that day forward there would only be that man who she truly must arrange herself under so she better respect him.

(2) The normal situation for a daughter is to learn first to respect her father and then her husband. She is to learn also to respect any in authority, but to understand that the primary points of authority lie with first the father and then the husband after marriage.

d. Godly rudeness:

(1) Teach her that she is not called to be polite to those who speak to her crudely and inappropriately. She will encounter many foul men in her life and she should give them no quarter and no time. As Doug Wilson put in his book *Her Hand in Marriage*, "In certain situations, to be polite is to compromise the faith"

(2) On a similar level she must be taught to create distance between herself and boys who are merely acquaintances. This is not actual rudeness but it is learning to be aware that boys are boys...

(a) Boys are strange creatures and they don't need much to cause them to fall head over heels for a young lady.

(b) To assume that your daughter is just friends with them because they have never approached her in any serious manner is a mistake. When a boy shows up to a bible study or some event every time she is there you should teach her that he is likely interested. She must learn to be kind and yet distant.

# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- G. Teach her to be a virtuous/excellent woman.
  - 1. Like everything else this means mothers must model it before their daughters and fathers ought praise it and expect it.
  - 2. Ruth the Moabitess is called a “woman of excellence” by Boaz, her future husband (3:11). That term, “excellence,” refers to wealth, strength, army and morally upright. It is a term of strength, not wimpiness and weakness.
  - 3. You don’t want to raise a fainting flower but a strong woman in her own right who stands strong in doing right.
  - 4. 2 Peter 1:5-8 is a good point of reference.
- H. Tidbits:
  - 1. Fathers train yourself to draw your daughters near you. Hold them and hug them. Praise them as they struggle and grow and do not mock them in their weaknesses. I have told countless new fathers regarding their daughters, “if in doubt hug them.”
  - 2. Teach them that affection is quickly found in you so that the cheap imitations of prowling boys will be more easily discerned.
  - 3. Encourage them to pursue their interests and give them opportunities to do so. Nikki wanted just to read. Bekah wanted to learn fencing. And Lydia liked fastpitch softball.
  - 4. Make sure to speak honestly about the world and its temptations and its traps. Be honest with them as they become aware of boys. Do not give them false images of this in any way but instead try to help them work through the many emotions and challenges that come.
  - 5. Make sure your home is a place of protection. They are safe there, both to grow and to fail. Let them know that you as a father shall be by their side and you shall fight for them and with them for the sake of godliness and the gospel.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. A daughter well raised is a joy to both the mother and father. But it takes a biblical vision in the hearts of the parents and the diligence to see it through to the end.
- B. Raise her in a home that loves Jesus Christ and the gospel. Show her what it looks like to love Christ’s church. Model for her a life of goodness and virtue.

# M i s s i o   D e i   F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- C. Teach her to be proud and pleased that God made her a woman and treat her as a fellow image bearer of the Most High.
- D. Confess your shortcomings and sin to her and be quick to forgive hers. Always seek to show her grace and justice.
- E. Go for walks and hold her hand. There will come a day far to quickly when she will hold the hand of someone else instead.

## **IV. Suggested Reading.**

### A. Girls.

1. *Christian Heroines* by Catherine Mackenzie
2. *Love Is* by Laura H. Martin
3. *God and Me for Girls Vol 1 Ages 10-12* by Linda Washington and Jeanette Dall
4. *God and Me for Girls Ages 2-5* by Lynn Marie-Ittner Klammer
5. *God and Me for Girls Vols 1&2 Ages 6-9* by Diane Cory
6. *God and Me for Girls Vols 1&2 Ages 10-12* by Jeanette Dall, Linda Washington, and Phyllis Harri
7. *Ten Girls Who Didn't Give In* by Irene Howat
8. *Beautiful Girlhood* by Revised by Karen Andreola
9. *Dad's Prayers for His Daughter* by Rob Teigen, Joanna Teigen
10. *88 Daddy Daughter Dates* by Rob & Joanna Teigen
11. *Raising a Christian Daughter in an MTV World* by Mary Ruth Murdoch

### B. Boys.

1. *Gotta Have God for Boys Vol 2 Ages 2-5* by Lynn Klammer, Aline Heiser
2. *Gotta Have God for Boys Vols 1&2 Ages 6-9* by Diane Cory, Aline Heiser
3. *Gotta Have God for Boys Vols 1 & 2 Ages 10-12* by H. Michael Brewer
4. *Thoughts for Young Men* by J.C. Ryle
5. *Ten Boys Who Didn't Give In* by Irene Howat
6. *Future Men (Revised Edition)* by Douglas Wilson

### C. Teens.



# M i s s i o      D e i      F e l l o w s h i p

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

1. *Answers Book for Teens (Vol 1 & 2)* by Ken Ham, Bodie Hodge, Dr. Tommy Mitchell
2. *God's Girls #1 & #2* by Karen H. Whiting
3. *Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are* by Alex & Brett Harris
4. *Girl Talk* by Carolyn Mahaney & Nicole Whitacre
5. *Growing Up Christian* by Karl Graustein with Mark Jacobsen
6. *Craftsmen: Christ-Centered Proverbs for Men* by John Crotts

## D. General Parenting.

1. *What the Bible Says About Parenting* by John MacArthur
2. *Gospel-Powered Parenting* by William P. Farley
3. *Parenting Is More than a Formula* by Jim Newheiser
4. *Withhold Not Correction* by Bruce A. Ray
5. *Age of Opportunity (2nd Edition)* by Paul David Tripp
6. *Shepherding a Child's Heart (2nd Edition)* by Tedd Tripp
7. *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd & Margy Tripp
8. *Teach Them Diligently* by Lou Priolo
9. *God, Marriage, and Family (2nd Edition)* by Andreas J. Kostenberger with David W. Jones