

Introduction

Depending on the source, there are many statistics quoted for divorces. The lowest figure that I have been able to find is that currently 30% of marriages end in divorce. The most commonly quoted number, which some dispute, is that 50% of marriages end in divorce. Whichever number you use, the divorce rate is high. Marriages are in trouble.

In addition to the high divorce rate, the very definition and understanding of marriage is under attack. It is now possible in many states to legally marry a person of the same sex. The institution of marriage that God created and defined has been compromised. School children are being taught that homosexual relationships are normal.

It is not just marriages that are in trouble. The entire family is suffering. The following statistics give a better picture of the condition of the family.

- 40-50% of all children grow up without a father.
- 50% of children today will see the breakup of their parents, and will suffer the consequences of that breakup.
- Children coming from a broken home have a 300% higher mental illness rate.
- Children from broken homes are 50% more likely to develop health problems, including injury, asthma, headaches, and speech impediments.
- 63% of all youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
- 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- Teenage girls without a father are 600% more likely to become pregnant out of wedlock.
- 78% percent of people incarcerated grew up in a home without a father.
- The state of Georgia says that 85% of all inmates grew up without a father.

There was a need for teaching about families in the early church. There is even a greater need for instruction about families today. Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy that in the last days difficult times will come. He said that “men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents...” We are in those last days where children are disobedient to parents. There is no respect in the home for authority. Consequently, our teachers in the public schools are having a more difficult time. They do not have respect in the classroom from the students. It all begins in the home. We need transformation in our families.

(2 Tim 3:1-4) “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. {2} For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, {3} unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, {4} treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”

Last week, we looked at Colossians 3:1-17, which I entitled, “Live A New Life.” Today, we will cover verses 18-21, which I have entitled Live A New Family Life. God wants us to live transformed lives. This spiritual transformation is to impact every area of our lives. It begins with our personal life. Next, it impacts our family life and those relationships closest to us. Then, it impacts our work relationships. Paul actually addresses servant-master relationships. We do not have slave relationships today. The application for us today is our employee-employer relationships. We will be addressing that area next week. Finally, this transformation is to impact our relationships with those who do not know Christ. We are to be Christ’s ambassadors out in the world.

09 A New Family Life

In our text today, Paul gives four simple instructions. He gives instructions to wives. Next, he gives instructions to husbands. Third, he gives instruction to children. Finally, he gives instructions to parents.

How does this new life look in a family?

1. Wives should be subject to their husbands.
2. Husbands should love their wives and not be embittered against them.
3. Children should be obedient to their parents in all things.
4. Parents should not exasperate their children

Let's read our text for today.

(Col 3:18-21) "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. {19} Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. {20} Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. {21} Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

1. Wives should be subject to their husbands.

Paul's first instructions are to wives. He tells them to be subject to their husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. The word for subject is **hupotasso (Strong's G5293), which means under proper order and arrangement**, or to subordinate, to be under orders or command. It is typically translated as submit, but in this verse the word subject is used. A wife is to submit to her husband. The word insubordination means not under proper order and arrangement. God has established an order in the home, and he tells wives the fitting or proper order in the home is for the wife to submit.

(Col 3:18) "Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

A number of years ago I was the Golf Professional at a club in Florida. At that time, there was a player on the Senior Tour named Walt Zembriski. He had never won a tour event, but was a good consistent player. He came to me for help, and I worked with him on his mental game and his golf game. He went on to win four times, and he always gave me credit for helping him.

Walt dated a lady name Cheryl Wray Hudson. She was the owner of the Tee Times magazine. After dating her for several years, he asked Cheryl to marry him. When he asked her to marry him, he also added three things. He said, Cheryl, I love you and I want to spend my life with you. I don't ask for a lot, but I expect you to love me, honor me, and obey me. Cheryl's reply to Walt was to go get himself a dog, and she broke off their relationship.

Scripturally, we are to love one another. We are to honor one another. The husband is to honor his wife, just as a wife is to honor her husband. We are also commanded to obey and submit to those who are in authority over us, both in the secular government and also in the church. In addition to submitting to our authorities, the Scriptures also teach us to submit to one another. Our lives, as Christians, should be characterized by love, honor, and submission. I think the obey part is what got Cheryl. She did not want to submit her life to Walt. She certainly did not want him demanding that she submit to him.

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Why is it difficult for women to submit to their husbands? When a husband does not lead and do the things that God has called a man to do, it makes it very difficult to submit to him. When a man is selfish and only looks out for his own interest, it makes it difficult to submit to him. When a man does not protect a woman, it is hard to find protection under him. When a man does not love and cherish his wife, it is difficult to love and submit to him. On the other hand, when a man loves his wife the way that Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, it is easy and natural for a woman to love, honor, and submit to her husband.

I want to take a quick look at a woman that was able to do this. Her name was Sarah. On two different occasions Abraham told people that she was his sister. In Genesis 12, he told Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister and he took her into his house. After the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house because of this, he returned Sarah to Abraham. Abraham had sacrificed his wife to save his own neck. He had betrayed his wife to save his own life. It would be difficult to respect such a coward as this.

(Gen 12:13-19) "Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you." {14} It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. {15} Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. {16} Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. {17} But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. {18} Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? {19} "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go."

A few years later Abraham repeated his treachery. He told Abimelech, the king of Gerar, that Sarah was his sister, so Abimelech took her for his own wife. But the Lord appeared to Abimelech in a dream and told him that he was a dead man because Sarah was already married. Abimelech maintained his integrity and returned Sarah to Abraham. This was the second time that Abraham betrayed his wife. How could Sarah possibly respect such a coward like this?

(Gen 20:1-7) "Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. {2} Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. {3} But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." {4} Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? {5} "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." {6} Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. {7} "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

Let's take a look at Sarah's attitude toward Abraham. God gave revelation to Peter about Sarah's attitude. We read about it in 1 Peter 3:1-6.

(1 Peter 3:1-6) “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, {2} as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. {3} Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; {4} but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. {5} For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; {6} just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.”

Peter tells wives to be submissive to their husbands. It is the same instruction that Paul gives in Colossians. He says that if any husbands are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe their chaste and respectful behavior. He then speaks about an inward beauty, a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Then, Peter brings up Sarah as an example. **Sarah was submissive to her husband and obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.** Wow! How could Sarah submit, honor, and obey her husband when he was such a coward? Let me give a few insights into this.

First, **Sarah hoped in God.** She trusted in God. Paul tells women to submit to their husbands as is fitting in the Lord. It is in the Lord that a wife is really submitting. Her husband is an authority over her and God is over him. Her submission is unto the Lord. In Ephesians 5, Paul tells women to be subject to their own husbands, as to the Lord. He goes on to explain that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church. As the church is subject to Christ, wives are to be subject to their husbands. Our earthly marriages are patterned after our marriage to Christ. **A wife’s submission to her husband is ultimately unto the Lord.**

(Eph 5:22-24) “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. {23} For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. {24} But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”

Let me give you my own interjection and comment here. I believe that if a husband tells his wife to rob a bank, she should not obey and submit to her husband. I believe that we always obey a higher authority. God tells us not to steal. We must obey God in that instance. I believe the Scriptures bear this principle out. We find it in Acts 4, when Peter and John tell the rulers that they must obey God rather than them.

(Acts 4:19-20) “But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; {20} for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Personally, I believe that anytime a wife is put in harms way, she should seek shelter somewhere else. I do not believe that a wife should be subject to physical or emotional abuse. In many homes where the husband is an alcoholic or has a drug addiction, the wife and children are at great risk. Many times they need to be protected from their husband. They should not subject themselves and submit to this abuse.

2. A Husbands should love their wives and not be embittered against them.

Paul's second instruction is to husbands. He tells husbands two things. First, husbands must love their wives. Second, they are not to be embittered against them.

(Col 3:19) "Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them."

In Ephesians, Paul says husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Christ laid down His life for the church. He loved sacrificially. Then, he gives some practical examples of how a husband is to love his wife. Let's take a quick look at that passage

(Eph 5:25-32) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, {26} so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. {28} So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; {29} for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, {30} because we are members of His body. {31} FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. {32} This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

Paul gives four specific ways that a man can love his wife. He uses Christ as the example of perfect love.

A. Love your wife by giving yourself up for her. (Eph 5:25)

We need to make sacrifices for our wives. We must lay our lives down for our wives. This means that we need to do nothing from selfishness. Look what Paul says in Philippians 2:3-5.

(Philippians 2:3-5) "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; {4} do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. {5} Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,"

Look what John says about laying your life down for another person.

(John 15:13) ""Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

B. Love your wife by sanctifying her. (Eph 5:26-27)

The Greek word that is used is hagiazo, which means to to make holy, to purify or consecrate.

Strong's G37. hagiazo, hag-ee-ad'-zo; from G40; to make holy, i.e. (cer.) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify.

How do we do that? Jesus gives us some instructions about how to sanctify our wives.

(Ephesians 5:26-27) "that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."

He says to cleanse her by the washing of water with the word. We need to speak the word of God to our wives. We need to encourage our wives with the word. We need to encourage our wives in the word. We need to correct our wives with the word of God. We need to pray the word of God over our wives. We need to live the word of God before our wives. We need to wash our wives with the word. Let me encourage you to regularly share the word of God with one another. Love your wife by washing her with the water of the word.

C. Love your wife by nourishing her. (Eph 5:28-29)

The word for nourish is ektrepho, which means to feed or nourish to maturity. This is different than washing. Washing with the word implies cleaning and removing of things that should not be there. Nourishing implies providing nutrients and things that will help your wife grow to maturity. What are the area that your wife needs to grow in? What are things from God's word that you can pray for her? What are things from God's word that you can share with her? Find ways of nourishing your wife.

Strong's G1625. ektrepho, ek-tref'-o; from G1537 and G5142; to rear up to maturity, i.e. (gen.) to cherish or train:--bring up, nourish.

D. Love your wife by cherishing her. (Eph 5:28-29)

The Greek word for cherish is thalpo, which means to brood, foster or cherish. The idea is that your wife is very dear and precious to you. She is cared for and protected by you. She is of high value and regard by you. One of the things that I do for Karen is give her 100% access to me. It does not matter what meeting I am in, she can interrupt the meeting. My staff has always been instructed to put Karen through no matter what I am doing. She knows that she is my priority. She knows that she is valued and highly regarded by me.

Strong's G2282. thalpo, thal'-po; prob. akin to thallo (to warm); to brood, i.e. (fig.) to foster:--cherish.

Paul also taught that **husbands are not to be embittered against their wives.**

(Col 3:19) "Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them."

Many years ago, I met a man named Ted, who was from Chicago. He loved to play golf and would spend his winters in Orlando, which is where I met him. Ted's wife did not come with him to Orlando. I found that to be strange that they would separate for several months, so I inquired about it. He told me that he was Catholic and did not believe in divorce. But, his wife had refused to have sex with him, so he separated himself from her. They lived in the same house, but in different parts of the house. They did not talk to one another. They did not have any relationship with each other. They were emotionally and relationally divorced, but not legally divorced. Ted had become embittered against his wife.

Peter tells husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, and to show her honor as a fellow heir. Women are different than men. They are typically more emotional than men. We communicate differently. We respond differently. Different is okay. God made men and women differently, and we need to appreciate that. Men are charged with living with their wives in an understanding manner. **Husbands should live with their wives in an understanding way and give lots of grace.** Ted should have given his wife lots of grace. Second, husbands must give lots of forgiveness. Both men and women need to forgive one another so that bitterness does not set in. But, **husbands must practice forgiveness and take initiative to resolve conflicts.** Men are the leaders in the home and they must take the initiative to iron things out. Men must humble themselves and be tenacious in their efforts to resolve matters. Men, those are a couple of things that we must do to keep from becoming embittered against our wives.

(1 Pet 3:7) “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

3. Children should be obedient to their parents in all things.

Paul then turns his attention to children. He says that children should be obedient to their parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. A child’s obedience is ultimately unto the Lord, because his parents are the authority that God has put over the child.

(Col 3:20 “Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

Paul gives only two thoughts about a child’s obedience. First, **a child is to be obedient in all things.** A child does not get to decide what commands to obey and which commands can be ignored. A child is to obey in all things. That is really hard for children as they get to be teenagers. All at once, they know more than their parents so it is hard to obey your parents when you know more than they do about what is right and wrong. The key is to instruct the children in the ways of the Lord while they are young and before they get to become teenagers.

When a child is very young, his obedience needs to be instant and without questioning. As a child gets older, it is important to give understanding to the child. It is important for the child to learn to obey God and His word. The Greek word for obedient that is used is **hupakouo (Strong’s G5219), which means to listen under, or be attentive.** It is generally translated as obey or obedient, because a child who fully understands shows by his obedience. This is the Greek counterpart of the Hebrew word shama, which means to listen intelligently, or to understand. Throughout Proverbs, Solomon uses the term, “hear o sons.” He is telling children to listen to the instructions of the father. A child was to listen with understanding. A child was to be attentive, and fully understand what was being taught to him. A child was then expected to act upon those instructions, showing that he fully understood.

(Pro 4:1) “Hear (shama, Strong’s H8085), O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding,”

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In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses said, “hear (shama), o Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” This is known simply as the Shema. It is recited in their prayers in their morning and evening services. It is also recited at night when putting children down for bed. Observant Jews consider the Shema to be the most important part of the prayer service in Judaism. In our Christian walk, we are to listen intelligently with understanding and obedience to God’s word. This principle begins in the home with children listening to their parents.

(Deut 6:4-5) “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! {5} “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

The principle of honoring and obeying your parents was given to Moses in the Ten Commandments and is found in Exodus 20:12. Children are to honor their mother and father so that their days may be prolonged in the inheritance that the Lord was giving.

(Ex 20:12) “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

Paul mentions this in his letter to the Ephesians. He tells children to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. He then quotes Moses, saying “honor your father and mother so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.” He also adds that **this is the first commandment with a promise**. If a child wants to do well in life, he should learn to honor and obey his parents. When a child learns to honor his authorities in the home, he will know how to honor his authorities at school, in the work place, and in society. It all begins in the home.

(Eph 6:1-3) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”

4. Parents should not exasperate their children.

Paul’s final instructions for a new family life is given to parents. He says, “fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.” Parents are not to exasperate or stir up anger in their children.

(Col 3:21) “Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”

In Ephesians 6:4, Paul says, “fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Both accounts tell fathers not to provoke or stir up anger in our children.

(Eph 6:4) “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

I said that these instructions are for parents, not just fathers. The Greek word is pater, which is normally translated as father. In fact, it is used 465 times and it is translated as father 464 times. The only exception is in Hebrews 11:23, where it is translated as parents. It says that “Moses, when he

was born, was hidden by his parents (pater), because they saw he was a beautiful child...” When we go back to Exodus 2, we find that Moses’ mother was the one that actually hid him. Obviously, Moses’ father was fully aware and in agreement with hiding him. My point is that the word pater is translated sometimes as parents. **Father or pater could also mean parents.** I believe that in Ephesians 6:4 and in Colossians 3:21, it should also be translated as parents.

(Heb 11:23) “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.”

(Ex 2:2-4) “The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. {3} But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. {4} His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him.”

In most homes, the mother is with the children more than the father. In my childhood, my father worked a two and one schedule, meaning he was out on the rigs for two weeks, and then in the office the third week. In the week he worked at the office, he was home every night. Therefore, my mother was the one that was with us most of the time.

I left home at age 13 to go to boarding school. They only had classes through the eighth grade at the company school. After that, the company paid for children to go to boarding school. So I did not run away from home; it was a planned and normal thing for families working overseas. When I left home, I was bitter at my mother. It was not my father who provoked me to anger; it was my mother. I have a good relationship with my mother now, but I was bitter at that time.

In many families, the youngest child gets spoiled and receives preferential treatment. My little sister fit that description. When there was a quarrel in the home, my sister’s word was taken. I would be disciplined, even if I was not at fault. I am not saying that I was always innocent, because I was not. But the point is that my voice was never heard; I was automatically guilty in any quarrel with my little sister.

One time, my mother decided to take away my go-kart as punishment and give it to my sister. I had not done my homework and so she just gave away what belonged to me. There was no warning and no discussion about it; she just did it. This caused me to be very angry and bitter towards my mother. So, when I went away to boarding school, I was actually quite happy to be leaving home. This is what Paul is talking about. Parents should not do things to exasperate and provoke their children to anger.

How do parents provoke their children to anger? Here are some ways that children are provoked to anger by their parents.

A. Children can be provoked to anger by partiality. (Gen 37, James 2)

Joseph is the prime example. His father showed favoritism towards him, and it angered his brothers. They eventually sold him as a slave and told their father that he had been eaten by a wild animal. What would drive them to do such a thing? It was anger over favoritism.

In the book of James, the church is warned about showing partiality towards the wealthy. In the home, it is frequently shown to the youngest, or to the only boy or only girl. Partiality in the home or in the church causes anger and divisions. James tells us that it violates the royal law, which is love.

B. Children can be provoked to anger by injustice. (Gen 27, 2 Sam 13:32-33)

Jacob's mother showed favoritism toward him, and it angered Esau. Not only did she show favoritism, she helped her son steal her brother's birth right. There was an injustice done.

Another example is in David's family. He had a beautiful daughter named Tamar, and his son Amnon violated her. An injustice had been done and David took no action. Therefore, Absalom became embittered and angry, and took things into his own hands. He plotted and had Amnon put to death. All of this was caused by injustice.

(2 Sam 13:32-33) "Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother, responded, "Do not let my lord suppose they have put to death all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead; because by the intent of Absalom this has been determined since the day that he violated his sister Tamar. {33} "Now therefore, do not let my lord the king take the report to heart, namely, 'all the king's sons are dead,' for only Amnon is dead."

C. Children can be provoked by hypocrisy. (1 Pet 5:2-3)

In Deuteronomy, parents are told to love the Lord their God with all their heart and to keep all his commands. Then, they are told to teach them to their children. The most effective teaching is by example. The same principle is true in the church. The leadership in a church is not to lord over the congregation, but to prove to be examples to the flock. Jesus was consistently rebuking the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is one of the most common comments about what turns people off from the church. Hypocrisy provokes people to anger in a family, church, and community.

(1 Pet 5:2-3) "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; {3} nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."

D. Children can be provoked by belittling. (Pr 14:1)

Parents who belittle their children provoke them to anger. Children, like anyone else, need to be encouraged and built up. Solomon said that a wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands. Our households are the people in them. A wise parent builds up the people in the house, and encourages them. A foolish parent tears them down by belittling them, putting them down publically, and showing no confidence or trust in them.

E. Children can be provoked by nagging. (Pr 15:1)

Parents sometime tell their child over and over to do something. When the child does not obey, the parent simply says it louder or yells. Both the parent and the child end up getting provoked. A wise parent will tell his child once and expect results. Children must be taught to immediately obey. If the

child does not obey, the child should be disciplined.

(Pro 15:1) “A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

If the child is not disciplined improperly, it can also provoke the child to anger. Children should not be disciplined in public, but privately. They should not be disciplined in anger, but with love and with a goal of restoration. Striking children in the face, or in anger tears down and provokes to anger.

Those are just a few ways that children can be provoked to anger. I want to close with one final thought about losing heart. Paul says the end result of children being provoked to anger is that they lose heart. The Greek word is *athumeo* (Strong's G120b), which means to be disheartened. The prefix *a* is a negative prefix and *thumos* means to breathe hard. *Thumos* is also translated as passion, or anger. Children that are provoked to anger lose passion for God and for the kingdom of God. We wonder sometimes why children leave the faith, even though they were brought up in a Christian home. Well, many times they were provoked or exasperated through poor parenting and have lost their passion for the Lord. God wants parents to teach their children and to role model God's ways to them. God wants parents to have relationship with their children. When parents do this, we will see children passionately serving the Lord.

Conclusion

Our vision at East Mountain Vineyard is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We also want to love our neighbor as ourselves. Finally, we want to reach out in love to those who do not know Christ. If we are going to passionately love God, and our children are going to passionately love God, we have to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. Our family lives need to be in order. Husbands need to love their wives with the same kind of love that Christ demonstrated for the church. Wives need to submit to their husbands and honor them. The marriage relationship is vital to having a successful family life. Our children need to honor and obey their parents. Finally, parents need to teach and role model God's principles to their children. They need to be careful about doing things that will provoke their children to anger. If we are going to reach our community for Christ, we must be committed to having successful family relationships.

Let's pray.

Introduction (2 Tim 3:1-4, Col 3:18-21)**1. Wives should be subject to their husbands.** (Col 3:18)

- Subject (hupotasso, Strong's G5293) means under proper _____ and _____.
- Sarah was _____ to her husband and obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. (Gen 12:13-19, Gen 20:1-7, 1 Peter 3:1-6)
- Sarah hoped in _____.
- A wife's submission to her husband is ultimately unto the _____. (Eph 5:22-24, Acts 4:19-20)

2. A Husbands should love their wives and not be embittered against them. (Col 3:19)

- Husbands are to love their wives as _____ loved the _____. (Eph 5:25-32)
- A. Love your wife by _____ yourself up for her. (Eph 5:25, Phil 2:3-5, John 15:13)
- B. Love your wife by _____ her. (Eph 5:26-27)
- C. Love your wife by _____ her. (Eph 5:28-29)
- D. Love your wife by _____ her. (Eph 5:28-29)
- Husbands are not to be _____ against their wives. (Col 3:19)
- Husbands should live with their wives in an _____ way, and give lots of grace. (1 Pet 3:7)
- Husbands must practice _____, and take initiative to resolve conflicts.

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3. Children should be obedient to their parents in all things.
(Col 3:20)

- A child is to be obedient in _____.
- Obedient (hupakouo, Strong's G5219) means to _____ under, or be _____. (Pro 4:1, Deut 6:4-5)
- This is the first commandment with a _____. (Ex 20:12, Eph 6:1-3)

4. Parents should not exasperate their children. (Col 3:21, Eph 6:4)

- Father could also mean _____. (Heb 11:23, Ex 2:2-4)
- A. Children can be provoked to anger by _____. (Gen 37, James 2)
- B. Children can be provoked to anger by _____. (Gen 27, 2 Sam 13:32-33)
- C. Children can be provoked by _____. (1 Pet 5:2-3)
- D. Children can be provoked by _____. (Pr 14:1)
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