

REVIVAL IN YOUR HOME: EPHESIANS 5:18, 6:1-4 STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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TEXTS:

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:1 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 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

INTRO: Revival is in the air! I believe that we are in a Malachi 4:5-6 season. All the problems in our society are due to fatherlessness. The solution is the presence of the Holy Spirit in your home and in your lives. The devil wants to destroy and kill off our youth. Look at even the evil bills being passed by our government:

1. Prop 1: Codifying abortion into our state constitution.
2. SB 107: Making our state a sanctuary state for transgenders. 17-year-olds and under can have their breasts removed without parental notification and at our tax dollars. Both bills became law on January 1, 2023. But God!

God is moving among the young people. God wants to bring revival to your home!

I. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIAN CHILDREN

A. OBEY YOUR PARENTS

1. **Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**
2. The Greek word for “children” is the word *teknon*, which means a child under 13.
3. But for us in the USA, I believe that means those who are 18 and under, which is the voting age. As long as you are under your parents’ roof and are supported by them, you need to abide by their rules and obey their wishes.
4. I personally believe that we should obey their wishes as long as they are not asking you to do something that is contrary to what the Word of God says or what the Holy Spirit is saying to you, regardless of your age. I did my best to obey their wishes while my parents were alive, including going to seminary

again at the age of 38 for my doctorate because my parents asked me to do so. Looking back, I am so grateful that I did, even though I was very reluctant at that time. This is part of honoring them, which is what Paul says next.

B. HONOR YOUR PARENTS

1. You are to honor your parents no matter what age you are.
2. Honor is the tangible manifestation of love.
3. Take the five love languages that we covered last week. For example, honoring your parents on Father's Day or Mother's Day with a card or gift. Remembering their birthdays and anniversaries. Now, even unbelievers honor their parents on special days. Try to go to another level in honoring your parents. For example, we took our parents on a Caribbean cruise for their 50th wedding anniversary in 2003.
4. I also believe this applies to spiritual parents. We need to honor our spiritual parents. Sue and I gave to Peter and Doris Wagner a monthly financial love gift. People do that to us as well. We have never asked them to. I even hesitate to mention this because I really don't want to sound self-serving. But I want to cultivate a culture of honor in our church.

II. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIAN PARENTS

A. THE CHRISTIAN PARENT MUST LOVE THEM

1. **Ephesians 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us...

B. THE FIVE LANGUAGES OF LOVE

1. **Service:** Parents, you are great at doing this. I see this with our children serving our grandchildren sacrificially.
2. **Gifts:** Be generous, but you don't want to spoil them. I grew up doing chores like cleaning my bedroom and bathroom, mowing the lawn, washing my dad's car, and shoveling the snow. But my parents gave me an allowance for the work I did. That taught me stewardship and the principle of hard work. You have heard the one side of my testimony of how rebellious I was, but the other side is that my parents were hard workers, and they demanded that out of me. And to this day, I am probably imbalanced in how much I work.
3. **Affection:** A lot of hugs and kisses. A young boy develops his masculinity with the father's affection. A young girl develops her femininity by her father's affection.
4. **Affirmation:** Words of encouragement. Focus on character, not just looks and performance. With appreciation, by saying thank you to them, they will

learn appreciation toward God and others through your words of appreciation.

5. **Time:** Quality time. The objective is to build a strong relationship with your child. You are not going to do that without spending quality time. Family routines help build relationship. Family dinner. Daily devotions. Bedtime routine. Family vacation. "Date nights." I dated my kids as they were growing up.
6. Quality communication. Understand them before you share what you expect out of them. As parents we are too quick to teach them and correct them (because the Bible says to do so, and obviously, we have more knowledge and experience) without bringing your child through the process of understanding what you are trying to communicate. The key is to hear their heart out if they have any questions about what you are asking them to do. Understand them before you are understood.
7. **The parent must not provoke them to anger (Ephesians 6:4).** This can happen very quickly by not having a strong relationship with them and by just giving them rules without processing the rules with your child. How many times we have heard a parent say, "Because I said so!" We wouldn't treat our spouse or our employees with that kind of language. That is not honoring and loving your child.

C. THE PARENT MUST DISCIPLINE THEM

1. **Ephesians 6:4b but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
2. **Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.**
3. **Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.**

D. HOW TO DISCIPLINE EFFECTIVELY

1. The ground rules must be clear. E.g., "If you cross the street without daddy and mommy watching you, you will be spanked."
2. Never discipline in anger. Calm down and allow the fruit of the Spirit of self-control to grace you before you spank.
3. Use a neutral object, like a wooden spoon with a flat end. You don't want to use your hands. Your hands should be used for love and affection.
4. You must restore them after the spanking with prayer. Have your child repeat after you: "Jesus, forgive me for disobeying daddy and mommy."
5. Pronounce that Jesus forgives them, and daddy and mommy forgive them.
6. Finally, hug and kiss them.



7. Be consistent with spanking, otherwise it will not work.

E. THE PARENT MUST INSTRUCT THEM

1. **Ephesians 6:4b but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
2. **Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

F. HOW TO INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD

1. By teaching them the Word of God.
2. By your example.
3. Teach them the ways of God: righteousness and justice (Genesis 18:19).

III. HOW TO LEAD YOUR CHILD TO JESUS

A. PRAY FOR THEM: Three verses to claim for your family.

1. **ACTS 16:31**
2. **JOSHUA 24:15**
3. **EXODUS 20:5-6**

B. BE LED BY THE SPIRIT. Look for the right time to share with your child and how much to share.

C. SHARE THE GOSPEL

1. Jesus loves you.
2. Jesus died for your sins and rose again.
3. Explain what it means to believe: to surrender your life to Jesus and walk in obedience to His Word.
4. Share John 3:16. If you give your life to Him, God promises that you will be saved and have eternal life.
5. Lead them in the sinner's prayer.
6. Pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
7. Get them involved in church, and make sure they get baptized in water.

CONCLUSION: The harvest is young. God never emphasizes individual conversion but household conversions. Give your heart to Jesus, and your family will come to know the Lord.

