

Home Group Questions

the week of 6/17/2018

Various Passages

FATHER'S DAY

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Wayne Rice spoke about fathers and the very important role they play in the family that was established by God.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-29. This passage deals with the God-given roles that husbands and wives have. We know the Bible clearly teaches that both men and women are of equal value in God's eyes and both are created in the image of God. However, God has also established roles for a healthy and growing marriage/family.

From the passage above, discuss the various principles that pertain to the wife and to the husband.

(Don't get caught up in long discussions about "well what happens if a wife is being abused by her husband." Of course, God's Word doesn't allow for abuse of any kind and the church needs to address it through the elders and pastoral staff.)

Men, spend some time developing ways in which you can best pursue the heart of your wife more...practical ideas, while the women listen.

Women, spend some time developing ways in which you can best pursue the heart of your husband.

2. Being a caring father demands that fathers have a desire to listen and understand the needs of family members.

Read James 1:19-27. What are some ways in which we can live out the principles of this passage? How can spouses build the principles of this verse into their marriage? What are some practical steps that would flow out of the James passage you have read?

3. Scripture certainly affirms the worth of each child in God's eyes which implies that our homes create an environment where that worth is not only communicated to them but lived out in the home. **Read Ephesians 6:1-8.** This passage focuses on how those in authority should treat others and how those under authority should treat those over them. Discuss the important principles that you find in this passage.

Focus on the list below of "wrong things to do" when trying to build family unity and love...what are some lessons you have learned over the years (share stories, anecdotes, etc.) that highlight the items listed below as important traits to avoid as parents and ways in which you have sought to do the opposite of what is highlighted in this list?

Ways that parents can provoke children to wrath:

- Live by a double standard
- Use explosive anger to control them
- Battle over trivial externals while ignoring the heart
- Be emotionally distant from them
- Show favoritism to other kids
- Have unrealistic expectations
- Don't discipline them (or inconsistently)
- Don't admit when you are wrong
- Neglect teaching them biblical boundaries

MOVING FORWARD...

Spend some praying for the Lord to give you wisdom in dealing with specific things in your family and/or marriage. Lovingly encourage one another in these areas.