

SERIES:

SUBJECT: Evidence of The Filling Of The Spirit 3

READING: Eph 6:1-9

Introduction:

The trouble found in the family began with the Fall the family in Eden which has plagued the family with problems of every sort that weaken, undermine, and threaten to destroy it and society with it.

- **The first cause of those problems**—as of every human problem—is the sinful nature with which every person is born.
  - The curse of the Fall is built into the family.
  - It is the curse that causes men to be chauvinistic, women to usurp the place of men, children to be disobedient to their parents, and parents to be abusive to their children.
  - **Only where Christ is in control as Savior and Lord** can a family live up to the standards and fulfill the ministry that God commands.

The Minnesota Crime Commission, demonstrating the truthfulness of the biblical view, issued a report which said, in part:

*Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it: his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toys, his uncle's watch, or whatever. Deny him these and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness which would be murderous were he not so helpless. He's dirty, he has no morals, no knowledge, no developed skills. This means that all children, not just certain children but all children, are*

*born delinquent. If permitted to continue in their self-centered world of infancy, given free reign to their impulsive actions to satisfy each want, every child would grow up a criminal, a thief, a killer, a rapist.*

- **The second cause of family problems is the satanic world system in which we live.**
  - Because God's plan is to build, strengthen, and protect the family, Satan's plan is to undermine, weaken, and destroy it.
  - Satan can do a lot with a corrupted individual, but a corrupted family is a factory whose products bear the seal of the brand!
  - By every means possible he designs to push the family into the mold of his world system of values, so that it cannot function as God intends.
  - The Christian who is weak and uneducated may try to find a niche in the world's mold! But the educated Christian finds there is no place he fits in the world's philosophy. He should not fit at all.
  - From the beginning it was God's intention for His people to be different and distinct, to be separated from the ways of the world.
- **A third major factor in the destruction of the home is the perverse influence of humanistic philosophy.**
  - At almost any secular college today one can hear so-called futuristic ideas being promoted by faculty members, visiting speakers, and campus organizations.

- One popular speaker says that he looks for a world where there will be no schools, no families, and no parent-child relationships. He says, *"To free the child, we must do away with parenthood and marriage, we must settle for nothing less than the total elimination of the family."*
- It is my observation that this goal is tragically well on its way to becoming a reality!
  - Marriage is being eliminated unless you are homosexual!
  - A family with two moms or two dads is seen as the new normal among committed relationships!

**Among the things from which humanistic groups believe children must be liberated are:** traditional morals and values, parental authority, physical punishment, religion, nationalism, patriotism, and capitalism.

**Among the things they believe children should be allowed to do and have are complete sexual freedom,** including the right to homosexual "marriage," abortions, and free information and devices for contraception.

Serious proposals have been made for children's rights to do such things as sue their parents for being forced to attend church, be paid minimum wage for doing household chores, and be allowed to choose their own family.

**It is little wonder then that the family is in real trouble!** But for those who love God God's plan is the only course to happy families, well adjusted children and stable society is bound up in the order God has established for the Family and for Society that is made up of Families!

**God's built a nation He would call Chosen.** As the father of this Nation God chose a man from a family of Idol Worshipers, Abram! His reason for choosing him is revealed in Gen 18:18-19 *Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? (19) For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

**There is a basic principle in the Old Testament that has never been supplanted either by social change or by New Testament truth,**

**Deu 11:18-22** *Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. (19) And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (20) And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: (21) That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. (22) For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;*

**When God called the Hebrews to be His chosen people, He destined them to be the people through whom "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).** Israel was to be a witnessing nation, a witnessing people, for God. They were not called to be simply a repository of God's truth and blessing but to be a channel for His truth and blessing to be shared with the whole world.

The heart of God's truth is about God Himself. The central truth of Old Testament revelation is: **"The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!"** (Deut. 6:4).

The corollary truth is about man's response to God: Deu 6:5-6 **And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (6) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:**

That is the message Israel was to take for herself and then pass on to the world.

The first step in promulgating God's truth was to pass it on to their children. Deu 6:7 ***And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.***

Parents were to continually speak about the things of God, so that knowledge and love of Him would become a matter of life and breath for the family when the parents were not speaking the testimony would continue.

Deu 6:8-9 **And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. (9) And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.**

Even when the parents were gone, the testimony remained, because it was to be written "on the doorposts and on the doors of the house! Everywhere they were; everyplace they looked there was God's word. It was a part of who they were not just something they knew!

To this day it is God's plan for His Word to be passed on from one generation to the next from one family member to the other. His primary agent was and is the family.

## I. It begins with The Submission of Children

. (Eph 6:1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

- a. Tekna (children) does not refer particularly to young children but to all offspring.
  - i. Sons and daughters still under their parents' roof are to obey and honor them.
  - ii. Obey has to do with action, and honor has to do with attitude.
  - iii. Although, as Paul has just mentioned, men and women are no longer under the authority of their parents once they themselves marry (5:31), *special respect and concern for their parents should continue as long as they live.*
  - iv. The child who is brought up to obey and honor his parents will always be sensitive to their wisdom, counsel, and welfare.
- b. Hupakouō (obey) literally means "to hear under," that is, to listen with attentiveness and to respond positively to what is heard.
  - i. Children are to put themselves under the words and authority of their parents.
  - ii. **In the Lord** refers to the sphere of pleasing the Lord, to obeying parents for the Lord's sake.

- iii. Children obey their parents as reflective of their obedience to the Lord.
  - iv. The context makes it clear that in the Lord applies to honor as well as to obey.
  - v. Parents are to be obeyed and honored because to do so is to obey and honor the Lord.
- c. **Parents stand in the gap, so to speak, between children and God while the children are too young to have a full and mature relationship with Him themselves.**
- i. Parents are God's stewards, His proxy authority, for their children, who are simply loaned to them in trust by their own heavenly Father.
  - ii. That is why children are commanded, "**Be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord**" (Col. 3:20).
  - iii. The only exception to that obedience is in the matter of doing what is wrong.
  - iv. Every believer should refuse to do anything that is clearly against God's will as taught in Scripture.

He should say with Peter and John, "*But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*" (Act 4:19-20)

- v. Otherwise, however, a child is to obey his or her parents "in all things."
- d. The basic reason for children to obey and honor their parents is simply that it is right.
  - i. The rightness is not based on psychological case studies or other human evidence or theory, but on God's standard of right.
  - ii. God's declaration makes it right.
- e. Dikaios (**right**) refers to that which is correct, just, righteous—to that which is exactly as it should be.
  - i. For children to obey and honor their parents is dikaios, exactly as it should be, because everything God commands is dikaios.
  - ii. Ezra declared of God, (**Neh 9:13 Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:**
- f. The right attitude behind the right act of obedience is honor (timaō), which means to value highly, to hold in the highest regard and respect.

Children are to honor both their father and mother, to hold them in the highest possible respect.

When God first introduced His written law in the form of the Ten Commandments, the first law relating to human relationships was, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Ex. 20:12)—and that is the law Paul reiterates in this text.

It is the only commandment of the ten that relates to the family, because that one principle alone, when obeyed, is enough to secure the right relationship of children to their parents.

Not only that, but it is the key principle behind all right human relationships in society. A person who grows up with a sense of respect for and obedience to his parents will have the foundation for respecting the authority of other leaders and the rights of other people in general.