

Series: God's Design
JUST A PHASE

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I. SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

A. Old Testament - Deuteronomy 6

1. Every moment of life is an opportunity.
 - To model relationship, priorities, character, compassion
 - To teach truths, life lessons, common sense
 - To demonstrate spirituality, commitment, and values
2. Scripture places this responsibility squarely on parents.
 - Others may assist, but parents must not forfeit their role in their child's life
 - Parents must show courage and initiative.
3. The Exception - *Exodus 22:21-24*
 - OT—Families formed the basic economic unit—how God's blessings were distributed.
 - Those with family were supposed to bless those without a family

Summary of children in the OT:

B. Gospels

1. Gospel is a higher priority than family. (*John 2:4, Lk 8:21; 12:53*)
2. Family is more important than anything else. (*John 19:25-27*)

C. Ephesians 5:22-32 and Colossians 3:18-22

1. Context is the preceding verse. *Eph. 5:18; Col 3:16*
2. Chiastic structure of the household code
 - Wife/Husband
 - Children/Parents
 - Slave/Master

D. Why Family? Why is family so important to God?

1. A family that functions well is the greatest source of joy imaginable.
2. A family that functions properly reveals God.

II. PARENTING PRINCIPLES:

A. From Exclusive to Inclusive

1. OT—Focus is on blood lines
2. NT—Focus is on spiritual lines.

B. Environments for Effective Parenting.

1. Parents help create identity.
 - Parent asks, "Who did God create my child to be?"
Child asks, "Who am I to God?"
 - The answer to both is "Like Christ!" *Eph 1:3-14*.
 - Holy and blameless
 - Adopted as His sons
 - We have redemption
 - We have forgiveness of sins
 - Lavished grace on us
 - Chosen
 - For the praise of His glory
 - Sealed with His mark
 - Ready for our inheritance
2. Parents help create a faith community.
3. Parents create a dependence on God—out of their comfort zone
4. Parents create a lifestyle of responsibility.
 - Ability to take ownership before God for one's life, gifts and resources
 - Ability to take responsibility for those in our family and our spiritual family in Christ
 - Ability to seek out in love those who are hurting, poor, and spiritually lost.
5. Parents create an ability to learn from discipline.