

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Marriage and Our Maker
April 10, 2024 | “Marriage, Our Maker, and Our Children”

Five Biblical Principles for Raising Children:

- 1) Get a _____ for your kids’ _____
(Prov 22:6; 29:17–18)
- 2) Make _____ a _____ in your kids’ lives
(Eph 6:1–3)
- 3) With love, discernment, and self-control, use the _____
(Prov 13:24; 22:15 23:13; 29:15)
- 4) Move your kids from compliance to _____ obedience
(Eph 6:4)
- 5) Do everything in your power to avoid _____ your kids
(Eph 6:4; Col 3:21)

What about Marriage and Children?

- 1) Don’t let your kids _____ you as a _____
- 2) Create an expectation that your kids will _____ your _____
- 3) _____, your first obligation as a parent is to love your kids’ _____
- 4) _____, your first obligation as a parent is to love your kids’ _____
- 5) Chill out about _____, _____ related matters

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Ephesians 6:1–4. Why is a child’s obedience to his or her parents pleasing to the Lord? Why should children obey their parents? How is obedience to parents part of a child’s obligation to Christ? Should parents insist on making their children obey them?

What does God want fathers to not do to their children (cf. Eph 6:4; Col 3:21)? What does God want fathers to do instead? What are some ways that fathers (and mothers) exasperate their children? How do you avoid exasperating them?

What does it mean to raise children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord”? What’s the difference between “discipline” and “instruction”? How do we balance the two? Does the balance shift as our kids’ age?

GET PERSONAL

What are some of the enjoyable aspects of being a parent? List some of the things that your parents did in raising you that were positive and beneficial. What are some things that you do the same way as your parents did? What are some things that you do differently?

How is the Lord to be the center of the parent-child relationship? What is the one overarching vision for parents with their children? What are some competing, non-biblical visions that parents have for their children? How are you making the Lord the priority in your child-raising activities?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Reread the five principles above that relate to Marriage and Children. Are you struggling to implement any of these principles? Which one do you need to work on with your spouse? Which one are you and your spouse excelling at?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Look again at Ephesians 6:1–4. How is obedience (6:1) similar and different from giving honor (6:2–3)? Is obedience a universal, permanent command for all children? Is honor? Why or why not?

Discuss the following statement, “Some parents cannot be admired because they are evil. Some parents cannot be loved because they are unlovable. Some parents cannot be obeyed because they command wickedness. But all parents everywhere must be shown honor. This is a universal command and that is why it’s recorded as one of the Ten Commandments.”