**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Has the Nuclear Family Bombed? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Exodus 20:12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1854 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Exodus 20:12 represents the first commandment with promise.
      1. We are commanded to honor our parents that we may live long in the land that the Lord has given us.
   2. There are many in today’s society who are trying to redefine the values we hold.
   3. Many are attacking the values of our Christian families and the nuclear family itself.
      1. God created the nuclear family.
   4. Why did God give us families?
      1. For living.
         1. The family unit is a little part of the Garden of Eden that we have carried with us.
         2. Children need families
      2. For learning.
         1. The Ten Commandments were given primarily to the home.
            1. Not to the schools, industry or government, although they apply to each.
         2. We are to teach the Ten Commandments in our homes.
      3. For lasting.
         1. Exodus 20:12
         2. When the home begins to decay, the nation begins to decay.
   5. It is the parent’s responsibility to teach children to honor father and mother.
   6. The message today will help us learn how to live in such a way that our children can give us honor.
   7. Since Adam and Eve, no parent has ever been perfect.
      1. Our children are not perfect children.
      2. As parents, we cannot guarantee how our children will turn out.
         1. Proverbs 22:6
            1. The book of Proverbs is a book of proverbs, not promises.

A proverb is a proverb, a promise is a promise, a precept is a precept, a parable is a parable and a prophecy is a prophecy.

A proverb is a general principle that when generally applied brings a general result.

A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.

Ex. “Early to bed, early to rise will make you healthy, wealthy and wise.”

* + - 1. God gave all children a will.
         1. This is why we should not set goals for our children.
         2. We have desires for our children; we set goals for ourselves.

Our desire is to have godly children; our goal is to be a godly parent.

* + - 1. We should not pretend to be perfect.
         1. Our children already know that we are not perfect.
         2. They don’t want to know that we’re perfect; they want to know that we are real.
         3. Children will learn far more from watching you handle your mess-ups and failures and problems, then from our phony perfectionism.
  1. How do we become parents that children can honor?

1. BY LOVING OUR CHILDREN
   1. Love is not giving our children what they want but giving them what they need.
   2. How do we love our children?
      1. By touching and hugging them.
         1. Luke 15:20
         2. When parents are affectionate toward their children, and are properly affectionate toward each other, it can help protect their children from sexually immoral relationships.
         3. Children need to understand that in order to be huggable and lovable, that they do not have to be into sexual intimacy.
         4. Hug them often, hug them affectionately, hug them supportively, hug them tenderly, hug them playfully.
         5. Parents, let your children see you hug one another.
      2. By blessing them.
         1. By simply, lovingly telling our children that we bless them in the name of the Lord.
      3. By comforting them.
         1. When little children hurt, their pain is real.
      4. By listening to them.
         1. One of the finest forms of communication is saying nothing, but simply listening.
      5. Steadfastly and consistently.
         1. They need to know that their parents love them regardless.
         2. Give them time to go through their different stages.
         3. We need to love them and show them love consistently.
      6. We need to love them through our prayers.
         1. We must prayer for our children by name and pray for them often.
2. BY LIFTING OUR CHILDREN
   1. Wise encouragement is better than lavish praise.
      1. Parents need to learn the difference between praise and encouragement.
      2. Colossians 3:21
   2. Praise is not wrong or bad, but children also need encouragement like plants need water.
      1. Children need to be encouraged over and over again.
      2. Catch them doing something right and let them know through your encouragement that you believe in them.
      3. Let your speech affirm them; be positive.
   3. Encouragement is twice as powerful as praise.
      1. For instance, praising a child because they made good grades, or cleaning a room.
         1. This says to a child, “You get approval when you do something good.”
         2. Children think they can earn approval.
         3. “When my performance is good, my approval rate goes up; when my performance is bad, my acceptance goes down and my self-image goes down with it.”
      2. Praise says, “You are great because you did something.”
         1. There is nothing wrong with praise.
         2. We do not need to only praise children without encouraging them.
      3. Encouragement says, “It is great that something was done, and I really appreciate it.”
      4. Encouragement values the child, not primarily for what the child achieved, but for who the child is who is achieving the task.
3. BY LIMITING OUR CHILDREN
   1. It takes firm restrictions to set children free.
      1. As parents, it is our responsibility to liberate them by limiting them.
      2. 1 Samuel 3:13
         1. Eli did not set limits for his children.
      3. Our children need limits.
      4. In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed, but He also set some limits.
   2. When we set reasonable limits for our children, our children will test these restrictions over and over again.
      1. If those limits move after being tested, the child will have no security.
      2. But, if the limits are firm and reasonable, and you love, when they push against those rules and they do not move, then they have security.
         1. Josh McDowell: “Rules without relationship bring rebellion.”
      3. If parents do not place limitations or restrictions upon children, to them it implies rejection.
      4. Inwardly, we all desire limitations.
      5. If parents do not conquer their child’s will, someone else will.
   3. Setting rules is one of the toughest and most needful things we are to do for our children.
   4. According to a Josh McDowell Survey:
      1. For the most part, our children, church kids, echo the world’s view.
      2. 57% of youth cannot say that an objective standard of truth exists.
      3. 85% of kids are liable to reason, “Just because it is wrong for you, does not mean it is wrong for me.”
      4. 55% believe that everything in life is negotiable.
         1. Their idea of distinction between right and wrong is fluid and subject to change.
   5. Psalm 11:3
   6. Ted Koppel said in a speech to graduating students:
      1. In the place of truth, we have discovered facts.
      2. Moral absolutes have been substituted by moral ambiguities.
      3. We communicate with everyone and say nothing.
      4. We have reconstructed the tower of Babel into a television antenna.
      5. Thousands of voices making a parity of democracy, where everyone’s opinions are afforded equal weight regardless of substance or merit.
      6. Opinions of real merit tend to sink with barely a trace in television’s ocean of banalities.
      7. What Moses brought down were not ten suggestions, the are Ten Commandments.
      8. The brilliance of the Ten Commandments is that they codify in a handful of words, acceptable human behavior; not just for then or now, but for all time.
   7. According to a Hollywood producer, for any television script to be commercially successful, it must violate at least three of the Ten Commandments.
   8. Situational Comedies (Sit-Com’s) are designed to make us laugh at things.
      1. When you laugh at something, you can no longer take it seriously.
      2. We have a generation that is laughing their way into Hell.
         1. They are being systematically seduced.
4. BY LEADING OUR CHILDREN
   1. Proverbs 22:6
   2. To teach our children without training them is to fail in our task.
   3. The emphasis today is on: sports, grades, physical health, popularity and ability, but not on character.
   4. We need to show our children how to live and love God, not just tell them.
      1. Show them and train them how to be:
         1. Content
         2. Courageous
         3. Courteous
         4. Discerning
         5. Fair
         6. Friendly
         7. Generous
         8. Gentle
         9. Helpful
         10. Honest
         11. Humble
         12. Kind
         13. Obedient
         14. Orderly
         15. Patient
         16. Persistent
         17. Self-controlled
         18. Tactful
         19. Thankful
         20. Thrifty
         21. Wise
   5. Parents need to compliment character more than talent.
5. BY LAUGHING WITH OUR CHILDREN
   1. Our homes should be filled with joy and happiness.
   2. We need to learn to laugh in our homes.
   3. The Bible says many wonderful things about a merry heart.
   4. The human species is the only creation of God that can do three things:
      1. Laugh, weep and blush.
   5. God made us in His image, and He gave us the gift of laughter.
   6. Psalm 2:4
   7. Genesis 21:6
   8. Luke 6:21
      1. Jesus tells us that laughter is a blessing.
   9. Our children need to see us laugh
   10. Our children need to see us laugh, not at our sins, but at our mistakes.
   11. We need to learn to laugh at ourselves.
   12. Serious situations call for a lot of laughter.
   13. Let your children bring their friends over, and let your house be known as the happiest place.
   14. Our children should be able to see us laugh in times of trouble because it means that God is over it all.
6. CONCLUSION
   1. The first step to begin to be honorable to our children is by, first of all, honoring our Heavenly Father.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16