



## GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

### “How to Raise Your Parents”

*Eph. 6:1-4 & Prov. 6:20-23*  
Sept. 29, 2013 A.M. Worship

#### The Command – For Children

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Them
- ✓ Honor & Respect Them

#### The Cause – The Reason to Obey

- ✓ Because It is \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Because God Commands Us To
- ✓ Because in Obeying Your Parents You Are Obeying \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Because There Is a Promise & \_\_\_\_\_

#### The Call – The Best Thing You Can Do

- ✓ Understand Them
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ for Them
- ✓ Love Them (Tell them and show them)
- ✓ Share with Them
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Them
- ✓ Be \_\_\_\_\_ for Them

#### The Connection – The Importance of Caring

- ✓ Be \_\_\_\_\_ to Your Brothers and Sisters
- ✓ Show \_\_\_\_\_ to Your Brothers and Sisters

#### Our Response:

1. The only way to have a love that will last a lifetime and a great marriage is to love the Lord Jesus first. Do you have that personal relationship with Him? If not, then why not do that today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **A**dmit to God you are a sinner, **A**sk for His forgiveness, **B**elieve Jesus is God's Son, **C**onfess Him as Savior & **C**ommit Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. In order for you to grow, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us!
3. First and most importantly – how would you rate your personal walk with the Lord right now? (*1 being low and 10 being the highest*) This is a key question for it will help determine the answer to the next question. Why is that number where it is? What specific ways this week can you do to make that number higher so that you can be the student or child you need to be?
4. How would you rate your relationship with your parents on a scale of 1-10? (*1 being low and 10 being the highest*) Why is it at the number that it is? What would it take to get the number higher? Name some specific ways that you can work on your relationship with your parents this week that would get that number higher?
5. Take a look at the two areas – Where are doing well in your relationship with your parents? Where do you need to improve? Ask your parents to honestly tell you how you are doing and how you can improve. The other area of how you treat your brothers and sisters – how would they say you treat them? In what ways can you be more kind to them and show Jesus to them in what you say and how you live your life? They are watching!
6. Moms and Dads, are you creating an environment where they can obey and honor you? Are you helping them to see their role by how you treat them? How willing are you to seek their forgiveness and say you're sorry?
7. Ask the Lord to bless this Series and be willing to be a part of a LifeGroup and go through *Honor Begins at Home* and *The Resolution for Men* or *The Resolution for Women*

## **MAKING FAMILIES WORK: FAMILY FIRST**

*“How to Raise Your Parents”*

**Ephesians 6:1-4 & Proverbs 6:20-23**

September 29, 2013 AM Service

**ILLUS: Cosby Family Clip – 4 minutes**

As we continue through our series here that focuses in on the family, children the same requirements apply for you to – We must be filled up with the Holy Spirit and also submit to one another. This is Christ’s call on your life and we will see this morning how that fleshes out in your life. Parents, this is what you should expect from your children and require from them and this will help set the table for our discussion on parents next week.

For many students, the hardest place to live out our Christian faith can be at home – it was by far the hardest place for me. It’s challenging because we know they love us and care for us, and that is often times where we let it all hang out. When a person becomes a Christian, he is not released from normal obligations of life. If anything, his faith in Christ ought to make him a better child in the home.

**ILLUS: What you See on TV** – most every TV show today depicts parents as dumb, incompetent, inept, confused, unsure what to do with their children, children run the house either by rebellion or making their home a living hell. That your parents aren’t smart enough to raise, that it isn’t their job, that is a school’s job, a society’s job, a nation’s job – and that simply isn’t true – It is a mom and dad’s job! **Quote:** “The world today has much to say about so-called children’s rights. But the emphasis should be on responsibility. Emphasis on rights – whether by children or adults – weakens and destroys relationships on every level. It is the sense of responsibility that builds right relationships as well as right character.” McArthur This is never the picture God intended and though you may think you want all the freedom you can stand, you really don’t. And the reason is, God didn’t design it that way.

**ILLUS: Young Lady** – Just wish that my parents would tell me no – She could do as she pleased, anytime, anything, anywhere. The life I thought would be heaven on earth – no rules, no curfew, no was never a word

spoken in her house (**ILLUS**: Looked back on parent sheet I filled out and saw my one complaint was my parents were too involved in my life – Thank God that they were! Oh how foolish I was!)

This girl ended up with serious anorexia – ended up on Oprah, somehow survived that and now she is foul-mouthed, sarcastic, bitter young lady who has a girlfriend instead of a boyfriend – she is messed up and it is all because she didn't have parents who loved her in the way that the Bible describes that makes families work right. Now I will encourage your parents next week, so hang in there for that – but this is for you today! Let's take a quick flyover of some Scriptures that shed light on this idea. [Exodus 20:12](#) & [Deuteronomy 5:16](#) [Deuteronomy 21:18-21](#) [Proverbs 3:1-4; 4:1-4; 6:20-23](#) [Luke 2:51-52](#) – Jesus

### **The Command** – *Obey & Honor Your Parents*

#### ✓ **Obey Them in the Lord** - **This has to do with our actions**

Obey means to hear under – to listen with attentiveness and to respond positively to what is hard. There is no if here, or why, or etc.

[Colossians 3:20](#) **all things** - This is your sole responsibility is to accept the authority of your parents in your life. By the way, this goes against your natural desires – we are born rebels and we want our own way. So obeying is not always an easy thing to do!

#### ✓ **Honor & Respect Them** – **This has to do with attitude**

Paul goes further – we can obey them, but with a cruddy attitude or not in a Christ-honoring way. This means that our attitude matters – how we obey them – even in if they don't see us or hear what we say, or even what we are thinking.

Honor – means to esteem and value as precious, to hold in the highest regard and respect – do you see them that way – well you don't know my parents. Do you show respect, reverence, kindness, courtesy and obedience to them? It's your manners - Yes sir, no mam, etc.

And by the way, that command to honor them does not stop when we move out of their homes – we are to honor and respect them the rest of our days, as long as they are living we have that responsibility.

### **The Cause** – *The Reason to Obey*

#### ✓ **Because It is Right** It means correct, just, righteous.

What the Bible says here, it's right, the right way and the only way a family can thrive and be all that He created it to be. Again, this goes against your nature and quite frankly that of your parents – it would be easier to let you do what you want – but in the end that only brings destruction and chaos – right means that it works. Not perfection, but it works.

- ✓ **Because God Commands Us To** It's an obedience and love issue. It is not multiple choice nor is it an option – If I am a follower of Christ, then I will love and obey the Lord. That is my greatest desire. Not always easy to do, yet that is His call on your life. The only time this is not expected (and this is RARE) is if they ask you to do something that is contrary to the Word of God – that would make you disobey the Lord.
- ✓ **Because in Obeying Your Parents You Are Obeying God** Sometimes I couldn't make this connection, but it is right on. If we disobey our parents, we are essentially disobeying God because He put them there for us – to give us the guidance and direction that we need.
- ✓ **Because There Is a Promise & Prize** The only commandment He substituted "earth" for "land" and tells us that the Christian child who honors his parents can expect two blessings. It will be well with him, and he will live long on the earth. This does not mean that everyone who died young dishonored his parents. He was stating a principle: when children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives. But life is not measured only by quantity of time. It is also measured by quality of experience. God enriches the life of the obedient child no matter how long he may live on the earth. Sin always robs us; obedience always enriches us.

**ILLUS: It's Your Move**

### **The Call – *The Best Thing You Can Do***

- + **Understand Them** It's not easy being your parent – in fact it is harder than ever – the onslaught of this world and culture on your family is more than you can imagine! You didn't come with a manual to figure you out and know exactly what to do for you and how to raise you.
- + **Pray for Them** Seriously, pray for them every day, their jobs,

their friends, their marriage, and raising you. Ask your parents how you can pray for them specifically – they will be shocked, but grateful!

- + **Love Them** (Tell them and show them) Don't be embarrassed by what your friends say about it – most of the time if they were honest, they are jealous of your relationship. Don't slam your parents especially in front of lost friends. Yeah, you will be mad at the sometimes, but share that with a Christian friend and pray about it. One of the ways you can be a witness to your friends is by how you treat your parents and family.
- + **Share with Them**
- + **Trust Them** That they will do what is right and best for you even when you don't understand it. They are seeking your best interest and trying to do what they believe the Lord would have them to do!
- + **Be Thankful for Them** Look around you, you are blessed – you have been given a tremendous advantage – All kinds of research and studies show that children raised in a godly home have a greater chance of being successful in life.

**The Connection** – *The Importance of Caring*      **ILLUS: SS Class**

- + **Be Kind to Your Brothers and Sisters** Same as obeying here  
Yeah, but they are mean, they don't deserve it, I don't like them – all reasons you might offer – but Jesus' call to us all is that we are kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. Be kind to them even if they are not kind to you.
- + **Show Jesus to Your Brothers and Sisters** Do see the connection, your parents are the most important role, but yours is vital! They are watching every move that you make – can they see Jesus in you and also by the way that you treat them!

**ILLUS: We love you and please be careful**

**Teenage Resolutions – If Time**