

Your Kids Matter to God!

- **God's *view* of children**

³Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. ⁵How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127:3-5 (NIV)

- **God's *instructions* to parents**

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. ⁴And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV)

- **Summary:** Children are a gift from God, a sacred stewardship temporarily entrusted to parents for the purpose of raising godly offspring to fulfill God's agenda for His world.

- **The Question:** What does a godly parent look like?

Four snapshots of a godly parent

1. Godly parenting begins with positive, clear-cut _____!

Fathers, don't overcorrect your children or make it difficult for them to obey the commandment. Bring them up with Christian teaching in Christian discipline.

Ephesians 6:4 (Phillips)

- The Principle of Focus
- God's Dream vs. The American Dream For Your Child

2. Godly parenting demands we _____ what we _____.

¹⁴I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NIV)

- The Principle of Modeling
- "More Is Caught Than Taught"

3. Godly parents build relationships that _____.

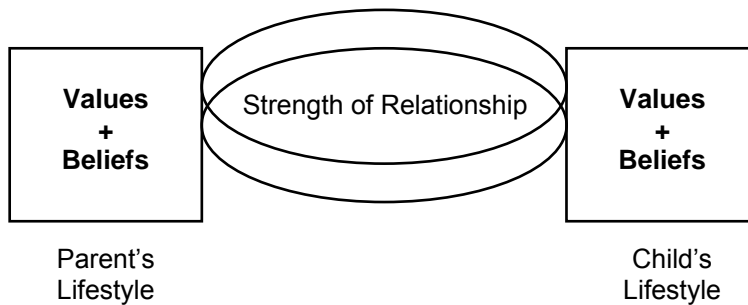
... ⁷but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NIV)

¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)

- The Principle of Relationship



- **Eight “Keys” That Build Relationships That Bond**

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

4. Godly parenting requires _____ and

_____.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

- The Principle of Process

- 5 Magic Words - _____!
_____!

- It's Never Too Late!

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how positive of a parent are you?
2. Discuss which point was most helpful to you. Why?
3. Where do you need to focus some parenting energy? What specifically will the next step look like?