



Parenting – March 22, 2018

Verses Covered

Psalm 139:13 – 16

Jeremiah 1:4 – 5

1 Corinthians 12:11

Proverbs 22:6

Ephesians 6:1 – 2

1 Thessalonians 2:8

1 Corinthians 5:11 – 12

Galatians 6:1

We're going to talk this morning, it's a construct I always walk through on parenting. We're going to talk about how to walk through that. Now the Bible really doesn't tell you how to do it. It's going to give you some guidelines and some ideas that you base your parenting around. Now my wife has studied all this brain chemistry and all this neuropathway stuff so she can tell you how to parent because she applies it to me. But the Bible isn't going to do that. It's interesting, the Bible really does not and rarely gives details on anything. When it says to the husband, love your wife, it doesn't tell him how to do that. When it says to the wife, submit to your husband, it really doesn't define that. So the Bible assumes that you will live out a principle under the direction of the Holy Spirit. So we're going to look at a couple principles today.

I've had a number of you ask about my trip to Africa. It was really a little bit disappointing. We were supposed to train pastors; that was the idea of going over there. And the first time we had a hundred people in the room, there were like four pastors. And then we discovered pretty quickly, there were three of us teaching, all three out of, used to be Tim Skaggs, who's the pastor at Coggin, his church put this together. And then another young man who is now the pastor at First Katy that came through Central, he's in our CAPS group that we'll meet with in a month or so. But we wound up just kind of doing four days of encouragement. So if you fly over there, you have no idea what hell is until you've been on a plane for 24 hours. It's awful. It's like being married to your mother-in-law. It's just all pain and no gain. So you've got to deal with that. And I, just on a personal deal, I missed two really important funerals of people that were really huge to me in the church and I hate that as a pastor. So at any rate, it did teach me, don't let another church plan my agenda. So whenever I take a trip in the future, I'll make sure I handle that.

I am going to Bolivia in July with Compassion International. They're going to show us some orphanages and see if we can be involved in that. I think for a certain amount of money we can fund an orphanage. It's interesting because what the churches do in Uganda is they do a lot of schools. And so one of the schools, Compassion had started, and it was interesting because two of the teachers had come through the school from Compassion and were involved there. So it was great. But the kids were great. If you want to see the greatest thing in the world, I'm standing with a bunch of kids at one of these schools and Coleman, who came through A&M obviously is trying to say Gig'Em. And I taught them with great loudness that the national champion team was Alabama, not A&M. And so I have that video somewhere. But at any rate, so I got all these African kids going, "Did A&M win the national championship?" "No!" "Did Alabama win?" "Yes!" So it was great.

OK. We're going to look at three things today. We're going to look at:

Psalm 139
Jeremiah 1
1 Corinthians 12:11

Actually we're going to start with three things. Now go to Psalm 139. I'm going to fly today again. I know that's shocking. I did discover one man who talks faster than I do. He goes here. He's the former Surgeon General of the Air Force: P. K. Carlton. Who actually talks faster than I do. He did a little presentation to staff, as a matter of fact he's coming back in Tuesday to do a little training with us on triage. Now listen to what he says in verse 13, particularly.

¹³You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise You, I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written every one of them, that is, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

So he basically says that in the womb God does two things. He forms you and He sets your days. So there are two things here. What you are is what God made you in the womb. Now I realize there are genetics, but even those are tweaked, they're never perfect, and they're tweaked by the hand of God. So He does two things. He gives you your physical nature, your looks, your height, your abilities to throw a football, your abilities to ski, whatever they are, He gives you those. And then He sets the amount of time you have here.

Now this is a problem for parents. If that does not fit your timeframe. If the set time for your child means they will go before you go, this becomes increasingly difficult. Now what you have to understand from this, and it's always the risk in having children. If you have children, you've got to accept the fact that God's timeframe is His for your child. And I'm telling you, that can be awful. In one week I buried a child that was three minutes old, an eight-day old child, and then a 92-year-old lady. I think we just hit the one-year anniversary of a family in our church who lost a little four-year-old girl in Disney World. So these days are set. However they die, that's God's call. So He forms you and sets your timeframe.

Now look at Jeremiah chapter 1 beginning in verse 4. He says:

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb”

So before he sets his days, before he makes them, so Jeremiah is prior to Psalm 139. He says:

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

So he says prior to Psalm 139 He has a purpose for that child. His purpose. So what is He doing? He forms the child and sets the time for this purpose to be lived out. Now look at 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 11. So we're talking birth, now we're talking in 1 Corinthians, a rebirth that I have according to John 3. Here's what he says. He's talking about all the varieties of gifts. He says:

¹¹All these gifts are empowered by one and the same Spirit who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

So at rebirth, I am given gifts for a purpose of ministry in the church. So here's what's going to happen with your child. God's going to have a purpose for him. I hate the word secular and sacred, but I don't know any other way to phrase it. He's going to have a purpose, let's say career, that he's knitted him together for and set an appointed number of days for a career purpose. He's going to have certain talents and abilities and gifts that God gives him at birth because of a prior decision for what his purpose is. When he's reborn, the Holy Spirit is going to give him gifts for a new purpose of ministry inside God's church. Now there are some instances in my case, where these two are the same. For me there is no difference. What God prepared me for, He utilized the gifts and so this is all wrapped in one package for those of us that are in the ministry. For most people that are not in the ministry, you've got two different packets. A packet where you're going to work outside of the home and a packet where you're going to work inside the church.

Now when you put all this together, and this is really the important thing for you to understand, this kid is not your kid. He does not belong to you. He belongs to Jesus. He's not yours. Now this is hard for parents. It's extremely difficult. But this isn't your child. You didn't do the knitting. You didn't create the purpose. You didn't give him the gifts for ministry inside the church. Therefore, it's not yours. So at some point, now we're going to talk a little bit about training here in a second, but at some point then you have to let your kid go. Now that's a difficult thing, I understand. You have them eighteen years, until Sunday night, and then Monday morning they're at Mary Hardin Baylor and they're gone. There's always a question, what does that mean, how do I control them in college. I think you've got to give them, when they get into college, you're still in control, but they're pretty much gone. What we told our kids was, “Here's the deal. You can go to any church you want to in town. That's fine. You don't have to go to Central any more. Here are our rules. For the next four years, we will pay for your education. You go out and get drunk, not paying for it. You flunk, not paying for it. You get a tattoo in these four years, I ain't paying for it. You can tattoo up when you get out, but that's the deal.” You really do have to let them go. You have to start with the understanding you're going to let them go.

The hard thing with children is if it works well, which it did with ours in some ways and I'll explain some things. They're really a joy. The problem is that joy then drives what you do with them. Let me encourage you with one other thing to help you come to a place where you get rid of them. As a matter of fact, there are three "G's" you want for your children: Godly, gainfully employed, and gone. You want those three "G's".

You really have to, in your marriage, I would encourage you, when you get your kids down at night, don't talk about them anymore. You've had the day with them. You've had part of the nights with them. You and your husband need to engage in conversation outside the children. What most couple with children actually, and I'm not being funny here, they take away your marriage. You have them, you're involved with them, you finally get them to bed, you talk about them, they get older, you take them to all their games, you're exhausted. I think the best thing you can do is once you get them down, they're done. You play with them in the morning, but you don't talk about them anymore. You re-engage in your marriage. So they're not yours.

Now what do I do? Look at Proverbs 22:6 and then Ephesians 6. One thing, you guys are going to flat know the Bible when we finish. Obviously a verse we all know.

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

So my responsibility is to train my child. But really, I'm training His child. I think that's almost the best way to begin to process your thinking. You're training His child. And then look in Ephesians chapter 6. He really says two things. He says to the children:

¹Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother,

So there are two things inside this text. Obey and respect. So the Bible doesn't tell you how to train. Why? Why doesn't He give us details? Each child is different. Every kid's different. So it doesn't tell you how to train because you can't. What you do with the one kid you can't do with the other kid. But it does give you two directives for every child. Every child is to obey you and respect you. Why? Because you're creating the first understanding of this. If they don't obey and respect you, they're not going to obey and respect Jesus Christ. So you've got to move them into an obedience and a respect for you. Now this is the major alteration in our culture. When I grew up, you had Father Knows Best, you had The Andy Griffith Show, you had Dick Van Dyke, you had all these shows and in none of these shows did the kids ever do anything but obey and they were never disrespectful to mom and dad. Every sitcom today, the parents are ignorant, the kids are cute and funny, they don't do what their parents say, they're disrespectful. This is the cool aspect of our culture and your kids are watching that. So you've got to create an obedience and a respect inside your children.

Now that is absolutely a fundamental key. Now how are you going to do that? Let me show you, go to 1 Thessalonians 2:8. He's going to tell you three things. This is what he did to win the Thessalonians to Christ. Here's what he says:

⁸So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own selves because you have become very dear to us.

So he says three things here. He says we love you. We gave you truth. We gave you ourselves. Now this is how you're going to do this. With some discipline. This, when you have a kid is automatic. I know this is a terrible thing to say, but I don't think you can really get insight into God's love for you until you have a child. I mean I remember just holding Stephen. Immediately when you hold that child, you're thinking, "Boy if anybody came into this room, I would give my life up for this child." There's an immediate love. You fall in love with your spouse, but this is immediate. So you don't have to worry about this. This is going to be an agenda. You're going to give them God's truth, not Baptist directives. You're going to give them yourself. Now this is the key. Your kids want you. You ask your kids when they're grown up, "What present did you get on your ninth birthday?" They won't have a clue. But you ask them about any vacation that you took with them, they'll remember every single detail because they want you in their life. They don't care anything about what you give them. Now we unfortunately, sometimes have locked into gifts instead of time with our children.

My wife was always very good at this. She always wanted to make trips a big event which played into my hands perfectly. One year we were visiting Old Faithful and my wife was wanting to make this a big thing for the children and we're watching this and she said something like, "You know, I wonder what the Indians thought when they first saw this?" So for the rest of the trip, that became our mantra. We're driving down the road and I looked at the kids and I said, "You see those McDonalds arches? I wonder what the Indians first thought when they saw those McDonald arches." And so for the rest of the trip, that became our mantra to torture their mother. And the great thing is, we still do that when we go on a trip. At some point, "Hey, mom, I wonder what the Indians first thought when they were diving on this reef in the Caymans." So you want to give them yourself no matter how that is. But my kids remember that. It's interesting, we're watching our son do exactly what we did with him. He's moving his kids out as much as he can, spending time. So I think this is really key.

You want to give them time, you want to give them God's truth, you want to love them, you're going to train them, and this is going to be the purpose of what you're trying to do. Now obviously in doing this, one of the things you're going to have to do is you're going to have to discipline your children. Now discipline in the scripture particularly, comes from this word, it's *paidagogós* in the Greek. We get the English word, what, from this? Pedagogue. We get the idea; this was the head slave in a home. And his job was to do two things with the children. The Romans dumped it on the slave, but his job was to do two things. His job was to teach the kids and to physically discipline them in their disobedience. Now you have got to, Proverbs over and over and over talks about this. The one thing it does say, how do we know this, it talks about don't spare the rod. My favorite line is, if you beat them, they will not die. So obviously there's some physical discipline. Now let me give you a couple principles to walk you through. When you teach them, and you're going to have to teach truth to them, they will adopt where these things match. When what you teach them that they see in their relationship with you, they'll adopt. Now that's a fundamental key. My son throws golf clubs because of his mother. So you're going to see them adopt that position. Where your life contradicts the truth on a consistent basis, they will not adopt it because

you don't adopt it. So you have a tough deal in front of you. And I'm not trying to add guilt, but it is a difficult concept.

Now you're going to teach directly and indirectly when you teach truth to your children. I think you do need to have some kind of devotional time with them. I've always struggled with that in my own home because my kids had to come Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, all that kind of stuff. Peg did a great job with doing some devotionals. Then you are going to teach them indirectly as they grow up. One of the best things my son and I did, he took up golf and it's one of the best sports for a dad and son, or a dad and his daughter, either way. It's a great sport because unlike tennis, if you play tennis together, you're trying to beat the other person. On a golf course, you're both playing the hole. So there's no intense, direct competition and my son's not a competitive guy, and his father is intensely competitive. So I would have just destroyed him growing up. So this way, we kind of walked, hung out, and when you carry your bags and you're walking on the golf course together, you're spending 2 ½ to 3 hours together. You're just talking. You're just shooting the breeze. It gave me the opportunity a lot of times to direct the conversation into spiritual arenas he didn't know we were going in. But it gave me the chance to do that. So you're going to teach your kids truth directly and indirectly. You want to make sure you figure out some way to do both those.

Now I want you to listen to me carefully here. I cannot tell you how many times I get a phone call from somebody whose child has gone through some traumatic experience and they'll say to me, "Brother Chris, do you know the name of a good child counselor?" You are their best counselor. Do not take them to somebody that does not know who they are. You know who they are. You know their ins and outs. You know their gifts. You know what they struggle with. You know what their fears are. Nobody loves them more than you. Nobody knows them better than you. You counsel your own children. You say, "But..." There's no but to that. You take them to a guy that doesn't know them and doesn't love them, and you think they're going to do better than you who love them and would die for them and know everything about them and you have the truth that they need. Why do you think God gave them to you? If this is true and this is true, He gave them to you. So you do the counseling.

Obviously this teaching is going to alter over time. There will become a point, and this is always one of the hardest points for a parent. There will come a point where your child has to make your faith his faith. And that's hard. Most of the time that's going to start somewhere in late high school or early college. Now you're going to have to let them work through that. So let me encourage you to do one thing. You're in a really good situation here at Central. We have a program called Zeal and we have a ton of college kids that we use to minister and to disciple. When my son was in high school, he had a young man, Brett, who came through Central, an Aggie, and he took my son, I think it was his senior year, he took him out just for a coke, like once a week. And just talked to him. So I would encourage you to grab Wes or Jeremy and I would have, particularly their senior year, your kids pulling away from you, and should. I'd get somebody into their life beyond you. You've done your deal. And let somebody now come along side you that loves Jesus, believes the truth. And high school kids think college kids are cool. So you've got a great advantage. And I would allow someone else to come in and disciple my kid at that point. Because they're going to make the shift from your faith to their faith.

I can't remember, I think my wife came up with this idea, there's the Quinceañera thing the Hispanic culture does which is really, really good. I would do a similar thing with my children. We did a thing on their sixteenth birthday where we had everybody in their life that loved Jesus particularly, write them a letter. And then Peg took them to Kinkos and bound them in a book. Sixteenth birthday, we had a big birthday for them. We had some of these people share in the room with them and then we gave them the book which they still read. I mean it was a powerful, powerful moment. But you want a moment where you're honoring who they are in Jesus Christ. And where you have other people come alongside you and value them as well. So they have a number of people who are looking at them and saying, "You're doing well right now." Almost similar to when Jesus is baptized and God makes the statement, "This is my son in whom I am well pleased." You're really kind of making that statement about your children. Now obviously if they're not doing well, you're going to have to back that off which is why 16 is good. They haven't had a chance really to go crazy yet. You still have a shot there. But I think it would be good to do that.

Now you're going to have to physically discipline your children. Here's your principle. If they're like me, my wife's a rule following, I am a rule breaker. If they're like me, they love breaking the rules. And your kids may do that. So you're going to have to discipline in a way that the pain of the discipline, outweighs the fun of the rebellion. If you don't, then the discipline's not going to have any affect. If I have more fun rebelling than I do getting whipped, which is really part of what happened in my life, my parents and I, I've shared with you, had no relationship. So there really was no discipline in my life. So I became engaged in a lot of crazy things. And here's the interesting thing. They've done studies that children that are, not abused, but are correctly disciplined, love their parents more than parents that don't discipline. Do you know why that would be? Because you're giving them boundaries. They feel loved when you give them boundaries. When you don't give them any boundaries, they don't feel loved; and they shouldn't. If you're kids fixing to walk into the street and you don't tell him, you don't love him. So you're going to have to bring some physical discipline in their life.

Now do it immediately. I'm in the grocery store the other night. I hear on another aisle this kid going nuts. And I hear the mom going, "Alright little Johnny. One. Two." I'm on the other aisle thinking she doesn't know who I am and I almost said, "Beat his little butt!" But God controlled my tongue and I didn't say that. Spare the rod, spoil the child. If you beat them, they will not die. Do it consistently. Now that's hard. You've got a Chris Osborne in your home, you're going to beat that little punk all day long. I can't tell you, I think I shared one time, I come home in Midland, I come home from the office. I open the front door and I jump back because my wife is standing right there with both kids just like this. And you won't understand this position as a wife, but as a husband, if you come home and you see the fury in your wife's eyes, your whole prayer is, "Please, God, don't let it be me." And so whatever she's furious at now, you're like, and this is my wife's quote, "We are raising a juvenile delinquent." And I'm like, "I hate him too." They didn't have cell phones in that day. And I looked at her and I said, "He's four. I think we have some time." No response. My wife simply took the kids, handed them to me, and said, "I'm going to the mall. I'll be back when I want to." "OK, baby. I'm good." It's exhausting, particularly if you have a Chris Osborne. Do not discipline their personality difference from you. My wife had a great description of our family one time that we have three Daffy Ducks and one Elmer Fudd. My wife and I are both Type A's, my daughter's a Type A, my son is a, we don't even know what his type

is. When they were little, if you were to tell my daughter to turn that light off, she'd be over there and back, I mean the light would be off, she'd be ready for the next thing. You tell my son to turn the light off, he's going to look, he's going to get caught around, he's nuts. The kid cannot just go do something because he is an Elmer Fudd. And there was a tendency to really want to whack him because he's not like the rest of the family. So you want to make sure you ID your kid's personality. Do not discipline that personality.

Now this discipline is going to change over time. What you do, I think there's obviously a point where it's more rod, a little teaching; then it becomes a lot of teaching, probably not rod, but other disciplines. Whether it's taking the cell phone away, whatever it is. Now let me just tell you one thing. You do this time out stuff, you do this, "I'm going to ground you." You need to understand, when you ground them, this is your punishment because now you're stuck with a whiney teenager. I heard a comedian say the other day, he was talking about his teenage kids and he said, "This is God's discipline on the race that I would create a being in my image that will not acknowledge my existence." So that's pretty much a teenager. I think the premise you want to use with a teenager, if they're unhappy with what you're doing, you're absolutely correct. So your discipline is going to change over time, particularly with them. You've got to face the differences in discipline between the two kids. We whipped our son, boy pretty quick he's in there hugging, he wants to be a part of the family. You discipline our daughter, she's in the room, she's mad, she is not coming out. And when she does come out, she'd ease out and she'd look around the corner. If you saw her, she'd jump back. And then it took her a while so we just let her do her thing. And finally she'd come back in and be a part of the family. So you've got to understand your kids are different. Which is why the Bible doesn't tell you how to discipline. Because you've got to do it differently with every kid. You've got to face that.

Now they will fail. Your children are going to sin. When the Bible says train up a child in the way he should go, he will not depart from it; it doesn't mean they will not sin. So there are two poles scripturally that you're going to wrap around your children. 1 Corinthians 5 and Galatians 6. You're going to wrap these two poles around your children. Now I'm going to read you one verse out of 1 Corinthians 5. You're going to hate it, but you're going to have to live with what it says. 1 Corinthians 5:11 – 12. Here's what it says:

¹¹And now I'm writing to you, not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler, not even to eat with such a one.

Then you go over to Galatians chapter 6, you have the opposite statement.

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, should restore him in a spirit of gentleness; keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

It's interesting the Greek word here, *katartizo*, is restore. It's actually the Greek word that's used in the New Testament for mending a net. The net has a hole, they didn't fish with rods and reels back then, they fished with a cast net, net has a hole, you fix the hole and that's what this Greek word means. And that's the word used in Galatians 6. So there are two poles here. There are certain people in the church living in sin we have to remove. There other people in the church

living in sin that we fix. There will be times in your children's life that the discipline you have to bring is harsh. And you may, in fact, have to say, "No you can't come home." There are going to be other times you do everything you can to fix your child. That is the difficulty in having children. Your children are going to sin and you have to address that.

So you have two things here, right. You have corrective, because that was the purpose in this, corrective discipline. And you have love. Now love is behind both of these, but this actually does work because this guy winds up in 2 Corinthians, Paul writes to them and says, "Listen, he's been punished enough. Bring him back in the church." Now they're both governed by love. But this is love with healing. This is love with discipline. You're going to have to do both in the lives of your kids. I think most of you know the story of my daughter. She came home, I think I was in staff meeting when Peg called me and I had staff leave the room. But she called and said she was pregnant. So we were wrestling through a really tough time. And so we did the best we could to bring both these to bare. There were two things that my daughter said. She wrote a blog on Facebook the other day. Really tough about how we loved her through this. But there was also this aspect. I remember distinctly one time my daughter telling me, she said, "You didn't treat me in my pregnancy the way you treated Courtney, Stephen's wife, and her pregnancy." And I said, "No, hon, your pregnancy wasn't inside God's parameters." So you have to deal with both when they fail. Now they may not fail in an egregious way, but they're going to sin because it's what we are. So you're going to have to be ready to employ both. If your kids, and I get this all the time, your kid grows up, turns into a same-sex agenda, he's got his lover, wants to bring him home for the holidays, I think you have to look at him and say, "No." This is always easy. This is really hard. But the reason you employ both is because they're not your kid. Now we're back. They're His kids. So you have to employ His parameters on His child. That's a hard thing to deal with when you have children. But you have to do that.

We don't have time today. I'm going to walk you through how to lead your kids to Christ. We may look at that next time. As a matter of fact, we may do that next time because I have a section on how to lead someone to Christ, so we'll just walk the children into that as well.

Questions

Q. For those of us who are single, I know that you said, *couldn't hear part of the question because Chris was crinkling a wrapper too close to the microphone....*

A. That's a great question, Emily, you're not going to feel that love. I'm not sure I have an answer for that. I think it's one of the main reasons why the Bible says they are a blessing to us. Because they offer us a glimpse into the Father that's difficult to get. I don't really know the answer to that. I will tell you this, all kidding aside, I'm not trying to be funny, I'm not trying to be cruel in any way here, that would be a disadvantage for being single. But the advantage in being single is now you're not dealing with the hurt and the pain that comes with a child. So it's kind of a give and take thing here. So you have some advantages because children, they'll break your heart. And here's the hard thing for those of you with kids at home, I have some bad news for you. Here it is. It gets worse when they leave than when they're at home. When they're at home you can control them. When they leave, and when you watch them hurt after they leave, my daughter's up in Dallas,

pregnant, alone; man it was a hard thing to deal with. So I think there's advantages both ways.

Q. I have a question and it's concerning adult children. A gentleman yesterday, just at the store, and sometimes the things that parents have done to them in the past, it carries on for their lives. This grown man didn't know me from anyone, but he started telling me, "This is Easter and, you know, I'm closer to my step-mother than I am to my mother." He never had a close relationship. And so when you see in the scripture, children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, adult children....

A. That's a great question. Once you reach adulthood which to me is when you're, this is arbitrary, but I think once you're out of college, or you don't go to college, once you leave home, you're an adult. I don't think you obey your parents. My parents, let me give you a classic example, as a matter of fact, I saw the daughter the other day. I had a white girl in my church marry Rod Bernstein, young black player in the NFL. I called Rod at training camp in San Diego and he told me he was a believer, so I did their marriage. And I made the mistake of telling my parents and my mother, my dad called me and he said, "You can't do this. It's going to wreck your ministry." My mother called me and she said, "You know, this is wrong." I said, "Mom scripture's pretty clear. It's not interracial, but interreligious that's incorrect Biblically." And then my mother said, "I don't care what the Bible says, you know in your bones it's wrong." So we didn't talk for three more years until Dad had a stroke. And then she called my secretary and I wound up going home. So I think there's a point at which, particularly as an adult, you don't ever obey your parents anymore. They're done. If I'd done what my parents wanted me to do, and part of it is my fault. I remember I had one semester of Greek, when you have one semester you just think you are the man. So I go home, back then there's really only King James and Good News Bible, the only two translations. I walk home and I look at my parents, after one semester of Greek, I said, "We should burn all the King James Bibles." What an idiot. So sometimes it's my idiocy, but I think as an adult child, you do not obey your parents. There guard on your life is gone. And that includes single moms.

Q. Going along with that, don't you still honor them? Because in the Bible it tells us to honor them.

A. It does, as a child. I think the idea is you're in the home. I think you come to some point where it depends on what you mean by honoring. And, again, that's not defined. I don't think I ever attacked them or hated them. I don't have the right to do that. But I quit honoring my parents and respecting my parents, I don't know when that happened.

Q. If parents do as scripture tells them to do in rearing their children then that honor and respect will be there.

A. You hope so. I think it really does depend on the child and how soon your faith becomes his faith. Sometimes kids go through a number of years where they really struggle. So yeah, I think if you do it right, they will come out and honor and respect you. I think that's true.

Q. I know a young man who's about 19 now, his parents are divorced, and he uses this 1 Corinthians 5, do not even eat with them, he considers the divorce a sin and I don't know how to counsel him.

A. Yeah, I know who you're talking about. I don't think you can counsel him. Seriously, he's got his own agenda. It's myopic, but I would say to him, there's a distinction between, sometimes you can commit a sin that even if you repent, you have consequences that you're going to live with. Some people divorce and they're going to be divorced until the end of time. They may say, "Hey, this wasn't the best thing we did." But they're divorced, they're not going back together. And sometimes I think you take them where they are that day. When my daughter comes home and says, "I'm pregnant." Well this comes into play. When she begins to say, "This was wrong. I shouldn't have done that." When there's repentance, now Galatians 6 comes into play. And I think sometimes we do some things we can't correct and so I don't look at the non-corrective issue and make it the basis of 1 Corinthians 5. I think this is an ongoing act of repentance. And the problem is, I don't have time to go into 1 Corinthians 5, but this is an egregious sin.

Q. So along those lines, 1 Corinthians 5 would be a sin that is obvious, egregious, and so if it appears that the sin has stopped, but you're not living every day with that person, you don't know.

A. You don't ever pass judgment on a secret sin. If we did, we'd be passing judgment on each other all the time. It's got to be, based on 1 Corinthians 5, loud and public. That's the idea of egregious. If it's not public and it's not loud, then we don't bring 1 Corinthians 5 in there.

Q. I want to say one thing. There is hope. I have a prodigal son that has returned. I celebrate.

A. That's a big thing. You ought to celebrate. Which proves you didn't fail. Here's the other thing. One last thing before we go. Your kids are going to sin. That doesn't mean you failed. Now you did fail because you gave them your nature because you sin. But because they sin doesn't mean you failed. So do not take that hit. A guy gave me great wisdom one time. He said, "If your kids are doing something you did not teach them, then it's not on you." I didn't teach my daughter to have sex outside of marriage. We didn't do that. If your son struggles with alcohol and you don't drink in the home, then you didn't teach him that. So you lock that away. Your kid is going to fail. My son throws golf clubs. I know that's on me because he learned that from his father. He's not as smart as I am about throwing it. He threw it one day playing high school golf in the back yard of this mean dog. So he had one of his buddy's stand over here and engage the dog. He jumped the fence, grabbed the club, and got back before the dog got him. So he's not a real smart son. But if they do what you taught them, it's on you. But if they're doing what you did not teach them, it is not on you.