

Psalm 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Psalm 127:1-5

*Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it* [A man trying to build a house for his family must consider the LORD in everything that will ever happen in that home]: *except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain* [A man watching for the attack of enemies must have the LORD with him to protect the city]. <sup>2</sup>*It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep* [It is useless to work long hours neglecting your family; be with them and get the rest you need]. <sup>3</sup>*Lo, children are an heritage of [are a treasured gift from] the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* <sup>4</sup>*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth* [As a skilled hunter sends his arrows straight to their target, so the children must be prepared for life when they are young]. <sup>5</sup>*Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate* [the man and his family can stand boldly when his enemies seek for a peaceful agreement at the gate of his city].

## I. Introduction

Part I is about our relationships with our family, Part II (next week) will be about our relationship with God Himself.

Context: Pastor Chappell found out this week that his mother is near death. He went to visit her as her time in this life was ebbing. As a result, he had done much thinking about what is important in this life.

The three relationships that should be constant, no matter what else happens in this life:

- A. Our relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. Our relationships with our family
- C. Our relationships with the people and leaders in our local church

Relationships with God and the local church often start in the family, as was the case for Timothy:

<sup>2</sup> Timothy 1:5–6 *When I [Paul] call to remembrance [When I remember] the unfeigned [sincere] faith that is in thee [Timothy], which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.* <sup>6</sup>*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance [Now I want you to remember] that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands* [that you fully use that special gift from God's Holy Spirit which you received at the moment I put my hands on you].

Three Gifts My Mother Imparted to Me (which should be an example to all parents):

## II. Teaching of the Scriptures

### A. Personal to the Parents: A relationship with God.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 *And these words, which I [God, through Moses] command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: <sup>7</sup>And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. <sup>8</sup>And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand [write them down and carry them in your hands], and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes [and post them so that every time you open your eyes they will be there to read]. <sup>9</sup>And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

1. A personal love for the LORD, apart from any relationship with other people or any church

Proverbs 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence;** for out of it are the issues of life.

Deuteronomy 6:5 *And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

2. A personal walk with the LORD everyday

Psalms 86:11-12 *Teach me thy way, O Lord; **I will walk in thy truth**: unite my heart to fear thy name [show me if my heart is divided between You and anything else, see James 4:8]. <sup>12</sup>**I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.***

Genesis 17:1 *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram [the Lord appeared to Abram when he was 99], and said unto him, **I am the Almighty God; walk before me** [behave as if you could see me standing right next to you always], and be thou perfect.*

3. A personal separation to the LORD, distinct from the world, just as God commanded the Israelites

Leviticus 20:23 *And ye [the nation Israel, as they were ready to enter the land God promised their forefathers to give them] **shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you** [don't live like the people who now live in the land I'm giving you]: **for they committed all these things** [sacrifice their own children, worshipping idols, cursing your parents, adultery, incest, homosexuality, many other awful sins (read Leviticus 20:1-22 for the whole list)], **and therefore I abhorred** [I am disgusted with] **them.***

## B. Presented to the Children

Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil* [if you are not willing] *unto you* [the Jews who had just conquered the land that God gave to their forefathers] *to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood* [other side of the River Jordan, meaning idols like the one described in Leviticus 20, above], *or the gods of the Amorites* [another idol], *in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD* [].

1. A faith you have, that you develop for yourself. Children should know your relationship with God is a priority in your life.
2. A faith you share with other believers, developing traditions that can comfort you during bad times.

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ* [Bible]  *dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing* [patiently warning]  *one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

## III. Testimony of Life

### A. Testimony of Moderation

1. The teaching of children is the responsibility of the parents

Colossians 3:21 *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

Four ways to provoke anger in children:

- a. Modeling Anger: Not having your temper under control
  - b. Over protection of a child
  - c. Favoritism for a particular child
  - d. Passivity: Not correcting a child when they misbehave
2. The teaching of children should be based on the Word of God, see Deuteronomy 6:7 (above)
  3. The teaching of children should be consistent with the parent's testimony  
Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
  4. The teaching of children should be patient and loving, but strict  
1 Thessalonians 2:11 *As ye know how we* [Paul, Silas, and Timothy, as pastors]  *exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,*

## B. Testimony of Admonition

Children need both nurture (positive reinforcement of teaching, usually from the mother) and admonition (negative reinforcement, usually from the father)

Nurture can come from either parent. Everyone needs it.

Proverbs 4:1-2 *Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding* [give me your attention so that you will understand what I'm trying to teach you]. <sup>2</sup>*For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law* [never forget what I'm teaching you].

Admonition can come from either parent. No one develops without it.

Proverbs 29:17 *Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.*

## IV. Tenderness for the Lost

### A. A Realization of Eternity

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Proverbs 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; And he that winneth souls is wise.*

### B. A Burden for Souls

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* [As a result of sending people to declare the gospel (see verses 14-15), faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of God].

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves* [and this is not something you can do yourself]: *it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

## V. Conclusion: The foundations of good relationships are:

- A. A sure relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. A strong relationship with your family through Biblical teaching, nurture and admonition
- C. A sure relationship with the local church through friendships developed in a godly environment