

Functional Parenting

God created everything in the universe, the earth, the things on the earth and said it was GOOD. Then God created Man and Woman and He said it was very good and then it went VERY BAD!

Adam and Eve acted on Impulse, they acted without Boundaries and they Blamed (see last week's message) everyone else for their sin and then they had BABIES.

The First Family Environment:

1) Was marked with Pain

a) Ge. 3 The results of their sinful decision

Pain is the word used by God to describe their new world... their new environment. This word translated pain is only used 3 times in the bible. It describes hurt and difficulty.

- i) Eve (Ge. 3:16 NLT Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you) – Her sin would bring her Painful Pregnancy and Labor in Childbirth.
- ii) Adam (Ge. 3:17,18 NIV To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree... "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life) – His sin would bring him Painful Toil when providing food for his family.

2) Was covered by the Blood

Ge. 3:20-21 Adam named his wife Eve, ^p because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

a) God covered them by the Shedding of Blood

- i) I find it interesting that God would cover their shame before they would bear children.
- ii) God would not cover them with materials made from plants... Blood would have to be shed.

Note: They sinned and they suffered as a result, yet God is already at work creating an environment where their dysfunctions can be covered!

Note: Could this be why God accepted Abel's animal sacrifice while rejecting Cain's fruit of the cursed ground?

b) God protected them from their New Harsh Environment by the shedding of blood.

- i) Thorns and thistles instantly began to grow creating a painful and dangerous environment for them physically.
- ii) And we see God protecting them with skins. Once again it was the shedding of blood that enabled them to be protected from their NEWLY Dangerous Environment.

Note: Could this be God's first prophetic act concerning His Covenant Families

Ge. 12:21-23 NIV Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your **families** and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, **he will see the blood** on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the **destroyer** to enter your houses and strike you down.

- c) If by the blood of animals, God covered and protected the first family from their harsh environment, how much more are we covered and protected by the Shed Blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God.

3) The First Family and the Destroyer

- a) God gave Eve 2 sons, Cain and Abel.
- b) God is still very involved with this First Family. God is still communicating with Adam and Eve. And He is also speaking to their sons!

Ge 4:3-7 NIV In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.

3 Parenting Dysfunctions

1) Unloving Environment

- a) 99.9% of parents love their children but many are not good at showing it.
- b) Keep the Destroyer out of your House by Loving your Children.

Children need to know that your love does not depend on his or her accomplishments. Mistakes and/or defeats should be expected and accepted. Confidence grows in a home that is full of unconditional love and affection.

- c) How to say “I love you” to your children.
 - i) **Use Eye Contact:** Give your children your eyes when you say, “I love you.” Hearts touch when meaningful eye contact is made during moments of intimacy.
 - ii) **Use Meaningful Touch:** A pat on the back, a hug, or a high-five will add meaning to verbal expressions of love. Take your child’s hand in yours when you say, “I love you,” and add a physical component to your words.
 - iii) **Use Names:** The sweetest sound in any language is the sound of your own name. Names get our attention and help us connect. Sadly, some children only hear their own names when they are in trouble. Add your child’s name to your expression of love.
 - iv) **Use the words “son” and “daughter”:** These two words can add intense intimacy to your verbal expressions of love. “I love you, son,” or “I love you, daughter,” will create an emotion filled statement that will invite an equally emotional response..
 - v) **Add non verbal signals:** Smile, wink, and add pleasant facial expressions to your words. Make sure the message on your face is matches the signals coming out of your mouth.

2) Uncertain Environment

- a) “Love” obviously is the first element that produces security in your home. But let’s go a few steps further.

Family Fundamentals needed to assure safety and security in your child.

- i) A Commitment to the Marriage.

The scripture tells us that God hates divorce. The traumatic affects of a broken marriage has on children is no doubt why God’s word encourages married couples to work out their differences. If at all possible parents must work out their differences for the children’s sake.

- ii) A Commitment to Self-control: Anger and Addictions.

(1) Overcome Anger Issues: Yelling, screaming, cursing, lashing out in anger often times causes children to retreat emotionally into a life of anxiety.

(2) Alcohol and Drug abuse is a problem in many homes.

- (a) Most children affected by alcohol and drug abuse become abusers themselves and often times marry a person with the same problem.

- (b) Children who suffer from being raised in a home of Anger and or Addictions almost always live isolated and often times struggle submitting to authority figures.
- (c) The Answer: Your relationship with God! Redeemed people have the help of the Holy Spirit. In fact, one of the results of God's spirit is the fruit of Self-control (Gal. 5:22,23)
- (d) A new addiction to social media by the parent has become problematic.

(3) A Commitment to Resolve Family Conflicts.

- (a) The Bible tells us to resolve conflicts quickly. ("In your anger do not sin; do not let the sun go down while you are still angry" Eph 4:26)
- (b) Long term tension between parents will often lead to anxieties and fears in your child.

iii) A Commitment to establish Consistency.

Avoid strange mood swings. This can be devastating to your children.

Children need to understand the boundaries. Children develop well in routines.

Sleeping and waking hours, keep them consistent. Expectations regarding household chores should also be consistent.

- (a) Be consistent with your Expectations
- (b) Be consistent with your Discipline
- (c) Be consistent with your Affection
- (d) Be consistent in your Relationship with God

3) Unguided Environment

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it"

Eph 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

PARENTAL GOALS

- a) First time Obedience. Instead of counting to three, the idea is that we expect our children to obey instantly, not later on. This helps to teach them the importance of obedience.

b) God-Controlled Behavior

- i) Think TRAINING not PUNISHMENT. This mindset must guide your actions every time you are required to correct wrong behavior.
- ii) While punishment may sometimes be a part of discipline, much more is involved in moving a child from parent-controlled behavior to self-controlled, independent decision making and ultimately to a God-controlled lifestyle in which the child learns to make wise, God-honoring decisions on his own (**Heb. 12:10–11**).

c) Guidelines for Discipline.

- i) Love is the only motivation for proper discipline. **Proverbs 13:24** “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”
- ii) Make sure all instructions are heard by your child and clearly understood.
- iii) Teach your child the reality of consequences.
 - (1) Reward good behavior. But understand the difference between rewards and bribes!
 - (2) Penalize bad behavior. Make the penalty fitting for the crime. For example, don't give them 20,000 lines because they forgot to brush their teeth.
- iv) Watch out for willful defiance.
 - (1) Willful defiance is a deliberate act of disobedience in which a child knows what his parents expect, then chooses to do the opposite.
 - (2) This is to be distinguished from childish irresponsibility, resulting from forgetting, making mistakes, having a short attention span or low frustration tolerance, or immaturity.

d) Should I Spank my Child? HOW?

Proverbs 29:15 “The **rod** of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.”

- i) Spank for defiance and rebellion only.
- ii) Discipline should be delivered promptly at the time of the offence. This helps you catch wrong behavior patterns before they get set in.
- iii) Make sure the child clearly understands that the behavior was wrong.
- iv) Never spank a child in anger. Many parents use spanking to release their own frustration.
- v) Use an instrument of correction and not your hand.

- vi) Minister to the proper area of the body...the rear end affectionately known as the, “the seat of learning!”
 - vii) Always, reaffirm your love with tender words and physical affection.
- e) How do I guide my teenager?
- i) Be a parent not a peer
 - ii) Establish rules of the household.
 - (1) Write them down so they are clear
 - (2) Enforce the rules with consequences
 - iii) Stay engaged with the teenager’s private life.
 - (1) Require family time which involves the teens.
 - (2) Cell phones; Social Media, tv, etc...
 - iv) Partner with them concerning their future.

Final Thoughts: It may seem like all we do is correct. Don’t be frustrated that is our JOB as parents. Training takes time, effort, our own discipline, and repetition. **Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.**