

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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God's Design for the Home - Parenting

By Derek Long

Under normal circumstances, God intends for children to be reared by a loving father and mother who are married to each other. Due to rampant fornication in our society today, many children are born to unwed mothers. God restrict the sexual relationship to a husband and a wife (Hebrews 13:4). As a result, God's intent is for children to be the offspring of married couples. Individuals who have committed the sin of fornication and become pregnant can certainly work hard to do their best in raising their children but such is not God's ideal pattern.

God intends for children to be brought up "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NKJV). The goal of every parent should be to make sure their children are taught about God and what God expects of them. Parents sometimes pour a lot of energy in making sure their kids have the greatest toys, clothes, education, technology, etc. While it may not be wrong to give your kids some of these things, it certainly becomes wrong when it becomes our focus. Parents need to remember God has entrusted to them a human being who possesses a soul which will spend eternity in either heaven or hell. Parents need to be impressed with how valuable the soul of their child is (Matthew 16:26). If parents provide their kids with all the greatest things of a material or temporal nature but

neglect their spiritual training, such children have truly been deprived.

God places the primary responsibility for the training of the children upon the father. Ephesians 6:4 is addressed to fathers. Men are given the position of leadership within the home and as a result are ultimately the ones responsible for the training of the children. It appears in many homes the spiritual training of the children rests primarily and sometimes exclusively upon the mothers. Such homes are not being run according to God's pattern. Fathers need to take seriously their responsibility to rule their own houses well (1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Titus 1:6). Are we as fathers doing our part to make sure our children are brought up knowing about the Lord?

God tells us of the great influence a godly mother can have upon our children. Paul speaks of the genuine faith which Timothy's mother and grandmother possessed and instilled in Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). Mothers are tasked with bearing children. Bearing children involves more than simply having children but would include the raising of those children (1 Timothy 2:15; 5:14). Mothers need to take advantage of the great opportunities they are afforded to teach their children of God and His ways.

God's plan is for children within families to obey and honor their parents. Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth'" (NKJV). Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord" (NKJV). Disobedience to parents is something the Bible

teaches is very serious (Proverbs 30:17; Romans 1:28-32; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Our society seems to expect children to disobey their parents but God's word expects children to obey their parents. Things such as teenage rebellion do not have to be the reality. Another thing children must have toward their parents is "honor." It is possible to outwardly comply with a parent's instructions but not truly honor and respect them. Children who learn how to honor their parents are learning a skill they will also need to apply toward others in positions of authority throughout their lives (1 Peter 2:17). Honor for one's parents includes helping to care for our parents as they age (1 Timothy 5:4).

God teaches parents to use the "rod and rebuke" in the training of their children (Proverbs 29:15). Parents need to provide their children with discipline in the form of instruction and verbal correction at times. Parents are also taught to provide their children with discipline in the form of corporeal punishment. Many Proverbs point out the importance of using the "rod" in the training of children (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14). God's word never teaches parents to abuse their children. It does teach us the need to provide loving discipline though. Abuse is sinful but it is equally sinful not to provide the correction God commands parents to provide for their children. Our society seems to look down at times upon the use of the "rod" and yet if we are going to follow God's plan for the home we will love our children enough to discipline them (Proverbs 13:24).

Let's seek to have our homes follow the pattern God has given us for how the home ought to function!