

## Raising Godly Children II

### Review

Things that children need:

- (1) Unconditional love
- (2) A good, consistent value system
- (3) A Christian faith & worldview

### Today:

(4) Models that support truth

- Family
  - The chances are fairly high that you *will* pass on to your children your faith, whatever that is.
  - *“What one generation does in moderation, the next generation will do in excess.”*  
Bill Gothard (youth expert)
- Peers
- Extended family in church

(5) To be believed in

- *It's hard to believe in yourself if a 'significant' person does not believe in you.*
- Rom. 8:31 - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is **for** us, who can be against us?*

### Three formative stages:

### Issues:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| (1) Early childhood (2-7)   | Love & obedience  |
| (2) Early teens (12-15)     | Gender identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Many divorces happen when children are around 12!</li></ul> |
| (3) Early adulthood (19-24) | Success, values, worldview  |

We need to especially be sure to impart these five values in these important formative seasons (chart).

**Mal. 2:15-16**

*But did He not **make them one**, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? **He seeks godly offspring**. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 “For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.”*

The main reason God says He wants us to be one and that He hates divorce is – the effect on *children*. It plays into Satan’s plan for their life.

*15 Didn’t God make you one body and spirit with her? What was his purpose in this? **It was that you should have children who are truly God’s people**. So make sure that none of you breaks his promise to his wife (GNT)*

1. Issue with God is godly children
2. A committed godly marriage is His plan to realize that.

Epidemic in the Bible belt – lack of the fear of God.

*Pr 14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have a place of refuge*

Discussion question:

Which one of the five values do you find it most challenging to impart into your family?

Next week: The Mystery of Marriage