

CHRIST-LIKENESS IS THE GOAL.

Warm up

- Am I willing to consider that God's design could be **best**?
- What are my next steps to follow God's best for me, my family, and my relationships?

Colossians 3:18-21

*Wives, submit to your husbands, **as is fitting in the Lord.** ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, **for this pleases the Lord.** ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Parenting according to God's design

- Take **responsibility** for your child as Jesus took responsibility for you.
- Aim for their **heart** rather than on merely following the rules.
- Consider your current priorities.
- Protect them from evil vs. Build a monastery.
- Prepare with **Proverbs**: Read and teach them the book of Proverbs.
- Repair: Model repentance and share your **failures** so your children won't have to repeat them.
- Teach them what sin is and its consequences (Ten Commandments). We have to realize we are sinners before we see our need for Jesus Christ.

Loving and cherishing in marriage

- Have the "Value Conversation." How do you feel most valued? What do I do or say that makes you feel most valued/respected? What do I do or say that makes you feel devalued?

- Build up your “Relational Bank Account” with consistent acts of love and **respect**.
- Ban the “D” Word: We will not flirt with covenant breaking. For our testimony, for our children, for our own well-being, and for the glory of God, we no longer threaten or hint at **divorce**.

Preparing for marriage and family

- Follow Jesus Christ now: Repent and trust Jesus Christ, be baptized, and tell others.
- Don’t shortchange yourself by cohabitating. Wait for God’s best.
- Maximize your singleness by investing in serving Jesus Christ.

Further questions

- 1) Can you identify your family’s area of dysfunction?
- 2) Can you identify your part in your family’s dysfunction?
- 3) Are you willing to draw near to God so that He can change your family by changing you?

Resources

- *Focus on the Family*: www.focusonthefamily.com
- *Grace-filled Parenting* by Paul David Tripp
- *How to Bring Your Children to Christ and Keep Them There: Avoiding the Tragedy of False Conversion* by Ray Comfort
- *The Art of Marriage* by Family Life Ministries
- *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim & Kathy Keller