



Parenting – April 11, 2019  
Chris Osborne

**Verses Covered**

*Psalm 139:13 – 17*

*Jeremiah 1:4 – 5*

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Ephesians 6:1 – 4*

*1 Thessalonians 2:8*

*Proverbs 13:24*

*1 Corinthians 5:12 - 13*

*Galatians 6:1*

Alright guys, we're going to talk about parenting today. We've talked about husbands. We've talked about wives. We're going to talk about parenting. If you're a grandparent in here, I still think you can apply these principles to your grandchildren. Don't minimize who you are. When I was in seminary in the 70's, most of the kids that I knew, of course the baby boomers are coming out of a rejected parent generation, but most of the kids I knew in seminary, their grandparents were the ones that had impacted their life. So we're going to walk through some things about parenting today.

You have 3 "G's" you want for your kids: Godly, gainfully employed, gone. You want those 3 "G's". At some point they will leave and you hope the other two are true when they do leave. Now we're going to look at a few places here. I want you to go to Psalm 139. It says several things in here, but I want you to look beginning in verse 13.

<sup>13</sup>You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me when as yet there was none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

So he says, one, You formed me. Number two, You have a time frame for me. And three, I am on Your heart. So he says those three things about children. Now hang on a minute and let me show you a couple of verses and then I want to come back to make a point.

First chapter of Jeremiah. Here's what it says in verse 4.

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations”

Now there's Psalm 139. So he says prior there was a purpose for life. Now we won't go there, but in 1 Corinthians 12:11 it says the Holy Spirit gives to each Christian spiritual gifts as He desires. Now if you put these three verses, these passages, together, God did the forming. He's done the timeframe. You're on His heart. He has His purpose for your children. It's a great reminder to you that they're not your kids. They're not your children. They're His. He formed them. He's decided how long they'll live. It's His purpose in their life. And even when they get saved, He will decide what spiritual gifts they get; not you. So they aren't your children. They're His. So they're on loan to you to train up in a particular way.

Now this is always a problem. You may not like His timeframe. I mean in one week, eight days, I buried a 3-minute-old, an 8-day-old, and a 96-year-old. So you've got somebody's daughter who lived 96 years. You've got two kids who lived 8 days and 3 minutes. It's His timeframe. It's His choice. You may not like it. And the problem is the way He's formed your children, you may not like. You may not like their personality. You may not like their particular giftedness. You may not like their proclivities. It doesn't matter because it's not about what you like or don't like. It's about His purpose. So you have to lock down in your live that they are not your children. So understand that. There's the first thing.

Now before we get started looking at children, let me just give you one real piece of advice. Don't let them ruin your marriage. Your children will take away your marriage. What will happen is, when you have a child, they're so cute, you enjoy them, you come home from work, you both spend time with them, you bathe them, you get them ready for bed, they go to bed, you talk about them. They get older, you're running them to all sorts of sporting events, you're doing everything with them, and you lose your relationship with each other. You take date night where you get the kids down, you don't talk about them anymore. You go on date night, you don't talk about your kids. You talk about each other. You've got to maintain a relationship. I can't tell you how many people I've seen who don't do that. And when the kids are gone, they don't know what to do with each other. And the problem is they didn't realize over the years that they don't like each other. And now they've got to rework the relationship which is a whole lot harder because you have no buffer there. Now it's just the two of you straight on. So do not let the kids mess up your relationship.

Now what is your response to having children? Number one, you will learn a very great truth. It is not your wife that is going to take your money. It is your children. They are a black hole of money sucking stuff. So they're going to take your money. Not your wife. But you do have certain responsibilities. Go to Proverbs 22:6. Before you go there I want you remember. It says this in Genesis prior to sin.

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother, hold fast to his wife. They shall become one flesh.

And then Proverbs 22:6.

<sup>6</sup>Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

So you have this responsibility that you are to train your children. Train them for what? For God's plan. You're not training them for what you want. You're training them for God's purpose. So your training is to get them out of the house, to let them find God's purpose. Now part of that purpose is to leave you. Now I'm going to probably hurt some feelings in here, but I'm telling you. I do not understand, and I'm not saying this to be mean, but I really don't understand parents who move and run to where their children are after they're grown. I don't understand that. The Bible's clear. Part of your responsibility is to train them to leave you. So when you chase them down, I think there's a very real sense in which you're violating scripture. So part of your training is that they leave your house. That they go on a leave because it's not your purpose for their life, it's God's purpose for their life. So you're going to train them and you want them to find Jeremiah 1.

Now go to Ephesians 6:1 – 2. You should be able to find Ephesians if you are here on Sunday mornings. Listen to what he says. It really says two things. One other thing, there are no rules in the Bible on raising children. No rules. There are principles. But there are no rules. Why? Same reason there's no rule when it says, love your wife. It doesn't tell you how to do that. It tells you to do it. Why? Because every wife is different. Every wife's needs are different. Your kids, you're not going to have any rules because every kid is different. So you're going to have to adjust what you do based on your child. But there are two principles that you're going to drive into your kids' life.

<sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land. <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

So you want your kids to obey and respect you. There are two guiding principles in parenting. If your children are in high school, they're not obeying and respecting you, then you failed in raising them. Those are two definite directions. It's a little harder today. When I came up, all the TV sitcoms were Father Knows Best, Andy Griffith, Family Affair, Leave It To Beaver. They were all a nuclear family. If they weren't a nuclear family, interesting, it wasn't single moms raising their children. It was single dads. Andy Griffith was a single dad. Family Affair had a single dad. So there were all these great moments of great men in their kids' lives. Or it was a nuclear family. The kids in all the sitcoms did braindead things, I remember Beaver got his head stuck in some road grate. I mean they did stupid things. But these two things, were inside the home. You didn't see the kids on TV being smart alecks and abusive. You fast forward to today, that's virtually every sitcom now. Kids are smarter than their parents. They're abusive to their parents. They're disrespectful to their parents. It's interesting. The one show that stopped that was the Cosby Show. The Cosby Show, I remember when it first came out. I watched the pilot and Theo is doing really badly in school. So Cosby goes in the bedroom, it's all messed up naturally, he walks in and he tells Theo, "Look man, you've got to get your act together. You're doing badly in school."

Now it was interesting how it played out. Theo did this little soliloquy. Where he basically said, “You know, dad, maybe you should just love me for who I am.” So he finishes that and the people, it’s a live show, and the people applaud. So I’m about to turn it off because I’m thinking, “Same old junk.” When Cosby goes, “No wonder you make bad grades in school. That’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever heard.” And he rips Theo up and down and then says, “Now, we love you, son.” Then what was interesting, the audience went crazy, double-applauding that because I think inherit in all of us is this understanding, this is what our kids should do with us. And if they don’t respect and obey us, then there’s an issue. And it’s critical they do that with the parent. Because if they don’t do that with you, they’re not going to do it with anybody else in their life. One of the struggles we have in our school system is kids don’t obey and respect the parent and thus they don’t obey and respect the teachers. I was stunned, I was at a faith meeting with a bunch of other pastors, primarily African-American pastors, and we were with Christie Whitbeck, the new superintendent of Bryan, and it was interesting to me. She was asking us for help on certain levels. But one of the things she said to us was, “I want you to help us teach the kids not to say GD/MF in the hallway.” And I’m sitting there thinking, “How is it our responsibility as pastors to teach the kids in your school you have not to GD/MF all over the hallways?” Because they don’t have that in the home. And the school can’t impose anything. And I’m telling you, those kids are not going to listen to us as pastors if they haven’t listened to the parents. So this is critical. You’ve got to teach them that.

Now how do I do that? Best verse in the Bible on parenting. 1 Thessalonians 2:8. Now if you’re in Ephesians, slide over to the right. 1 Thessalonians 2:8. Now here’s what it says:

[<sup>8</sup>So being affectionately desirous of you,](#)

That’s automatic when you have a kid. I don’t know what it is with a kid, you have to work to love your wife. She has to work to love you. The minute you hold that kid in your arms, you’d die for the child. They’ve done nothing for you and they won’t do anything for you for quite a while. They’re just going to poop on you and spit on you and demand that you get up a God-awful hours of the night. And yet you’re willing to die for them. So you have this automatic love. Now here’s what he says. This is how he led the Thessalonians to Christ.

[we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own selves because you have become very dear to us.](#)

So he says there are two things. We shared truth and we shared ourselves. Now there’s the next principle. I think you’ve got to bring both into the lives of your kids. It’s interesting to me. Your kids want you. They really don’t care about what gifts you give them. My kids are grown. If you ask them what they got on their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday, they don’t have a clue. But you ask my kids about a single vacation, any vacation we ever took, they’d remember every single vacation we went on. I remember we went, and it’s a great time to abuse your wife and get away with it. We went one year to Yellowstone. My wife is one of those women that wants everything to be a memory. So we’re at Old Faithful. Geyser’s erupting. My wife goes with the kids, they’re young, she said, “I wonder what the Indians thought when they first saw this.” Well, that became the mantra of the rest of the trip. We’re driving down the road, there’s the McDonald arches, “Hey Mom! Wonder what the Indians thought when they first saw the arches.” I mean we wore her out that trip. It still

comes up once in a while. Just that moment of glory. And so my wife's abused and it's not my fault. But they remember that kind of thing because you're in their life. There is no such thing as quality time. You don't have quality time if you don't have some quantity time. That is a stupid definition. So you have got to be in their life. You've got to give them yourselves. You've got to spend some time with them.

Now we won't go there, but the second thing is, you can look up Deuteronomy 6. You've got to teach them truth. And I think obviously when you talk about Deuteronomy 6 you're taking about God's spiritual principles in the word of God. You're going to teach them the principles. Why? Because you want them to find God's purpose and be able to live it out. And now you hear that? You're not teaching them God's principles so they won't embarrass you. You're teaching them God's principles for the purpose of them finding God's plan and living that out correctly. And it has nothing to do with your reputation. I had a weird thing. When I was in college, I went to a Baptist school in Mississippi, and there were a ton of missionary kids who were there. Not a single missionary kid was living for Christ which I thought odd. So finally one day I got three missionary kids and took them to lunch in the cafeteria. And I sat down and said, "OK, I've got to ask you something. All your parents are missionaries, right?" "Yes." "But you guys don't care one whit about Jesus. Why?" Every one of them had the same response. They said, "Well when we were missionaries, our parents pretty much put on our back the responsibility for the success of their ministry. And we got exhausted with it and we all got tired of it and we all quit on Jesus." That was the take. So understand, you're going to teach your children truth. But for them to find His plan, not so that they won't embarrass you by getting pregnant when they're in high school. It's not about you. You're teaching them truth so they can live out God's plan. They're on loan to you for that responsibility.

Now there are two ways you're going to do this. You're going to do it directly. You're going to do it indirectly. You're the head of the home. I think as a dad you need to do some kind of Bible study with your kids. My wife and I did that for a time. It was hard for me because my kids, we were in a rural church, they came into every worship service, and so they came Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night. Heard me. So it was a little harder for me to direct. That was just basically overkill for them. But you've got to have some time where you directly teach your children. There are a ton of studies out there, some good stuff. I think you've got to do that.

Number two, I think you've got to teach your kids indirectly. What I mean by that is you've got to spend some time with them. The best thing Stephen and I ever did was we played a ton of golf together. The great thing about playing golf, you're not competing against each other. You both compete against the course. And we would carry our bags and walk. And when you have three hours with your son and you're just walking enjoying the day, boy you'll cover everything from sports to God to the Bible to church. I mean you can cover just a ton of subjects indirectly. And you can use so many things to hit your children. You take a Tiger Woods. You look at your kids and say, "Son, here's why you don't act like an idiot. He's lost everything." You look at Miley Cyrus, used to be Hannah Montana. You can take her and say, "Son there was a time when every mother in America wanted their daughter to know Hannah Montana." There's not a mother in America now that wants their daughter near Miley Cyrus. So you have all these opportunities today to teach your children indirectly about the benefit of living out God's purpose in their life.

Number three, now I realize there may be some extreme circumstances where you need to do this. But I'm just telling you, 95% of the time, don't you hand your kids off to a counselor. I don't know how many times I have parents come to me and say, "Man, my kid's going through this. Do you know a good counselor?" There's no counselor in the universe that knows your kid better than you do. Nowhere. There's no person in the world, if you're training them correctly, that your kid trusts more than you in the world. So if you're the best trust factor, and you know them better, there's nobody better to talk to them than you. You're the best counselor in their life. So don't hand them off to somebody else. I mean there may be some extreme instances. Child's been molested, you find out, that's one thing. But unless it's something in extremis, I think you're the one to counsel them. So don't turn them off.

Now you're going to have to face a time when your faith becomes their faith. That's a hard time. They're going to wrestle with what you've taught them. This particularly happens when kids generally get out of high school. We see so many kids come here as freshmen, they come here a couple weeks, they're gone. They're back junior year because they spent two years trying to process their faith. They've got to decide if whether or not what you taught them is legit for them. So you're going to have to give them some time to probably step away from you for a period of time. And you're going to have to let them find their faith.

Now my wife and I did this. There's not a maxim in scripture, but I think when your kids get to be, we did it at sixteen. There's no magic day. When they hit sixteen, my wife had this great idea, I don't remember where we got it, but she had everybody, we did it with both Stephen and Lauren, but she had everybody in Stephen's life that had any meaning at all, friends and a ton of adults, write him a letter on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Some sort of, you know, it could be funny, but some sort of encouragement. So we compiled those and put them in a book. My kids still read those letters. We had a birthday party for them where the people who wrote the letters came and just sat down and had a great time. Had a few of those people share about them in a public setting. There's something about a public affirmation and then a long time written affirmation that's impacting on your kid's life. And when they hit 16, whatever age, that was just the deal for us, you want to affirm them if they're walking right.

You're going to have to discipline them. Now look at Proverbs. Last thing we'll look at. Well not the last thing. Proverbs 13:24. Listen to what he says. This is the accurate translation.

[<sup>24</sup>Whoever spares the rod, hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.](#)

Now you need to discipline your children. I'm in, I don't remember where I was the other day, I think it was H-E-B. And I hear this woman in another section going, "Johnny, that's 2. I don't want to have to go to 3." And I really wanted to just yell over, "Don't wait for 3. Bust his little butt right now." You've got to physically discipline your children when they're young particularly. There's a great principle a family taught us. And we're not talking abuse. Let me tell you something, your kids butt will live. I remember, and it's effective, I remember when I was in Junior High School, a buddy of mine and I, we were in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and we get out of class and we go down, we have a hall pass, and we go down and we pass this other classroom where there's this young single teacher. And she's got some good looking girls in there. And so we're doing this, young single teacher comes out, marches us down to the classroom we're supposed to be in, I'm

not making this up, my teacher's name was Mr. Nail, crew cut, ex-marine, big dude. Marches us down there and she said, "These boys are disrupting our class." You could almost see the joy erupt in this guy. He said, "I've got this." Now this is the old days. You can't do this today. But he bent us over, in class, in front of the girls, took a paddle, and swatted both of us twice. There's nothing more embarrassing in your life. Because if you've ever had that happy, buddy, that stings like fire. You don't die from it. But I'm walking back trying not to cry in front of all the girls. I will tell you this, I never did that again. Good looking girl walked by, she could have been naked, I'm walking right to class. I don't care. I am not jacking with Mr. Nail. So your kids are not going to die if you bust their butt. And there is a point at which you have to physically discipline your children. Now there's a great principle a family taught us when our kids were young. You don't want the joy of the rebellion to overrule the pain of the discipline. The pain of the discipline should overrule the joy of the rebellion. They should think, "Man it was fun doing that, but it's not worth it." See I had great joy in rebelling against the hall pass, but when he finished with me, that pain overwhelmed that joy and I never did that again. And it was not abuse. We need some more abuse in our schools. So I'm not talking abuse. But there is a point at which, particularly when they're young, you're going to have to exert physical discipline. When the Bible talks about a rod, that's what it's talking about. It's talking about some physical discipline. Now, again, that physical discipline needs to be immediate. You don't count. You don't do that.

Now, when it's immediate, there are two things you do in response to that. Before you discipline them, you explain to them, clarity, why they're being disciplined. You don't just whack them. You tell them why. When you finish with the discipline, you hug them. Now your kids are going to respond differently. My son, when we would discipline him, he immediately wanted to be back in the family. Not my daughter. My daughter had the concept, "I'm not coming back into the family. I'm going to punish you." So she would go back in her room. You'd hug her and she'd run back to her room. And then eventually, you'd look around and her head would be around the corner and she'd go back. It took a little while for her to get back in the family. But you're going to discipline your kids, explain why you're disciplining them, and then you're going to pull them back into the family. You're going to hug them. You're going to discipline rebellion, not personality. Your kid rebels, that's fine. You discipline. You don't disciple a personality that's different from your own. My wife pointed out one time. She said, "Our family was three Daffy Ducks and one Elmer Fudd. Which is pretty much an accurate assessment. There are three of us, Me, Peg, and Lauren, that are pretty much Type A driven people. I've got a son that is the antithesis. He is not driven. When the kids were little, if we told Lauren to turn the light off, she'd have the light turned off and be back with us before it dimmed. I'd tell Stephen to turn the light off, he's going to walk around, he's going to look at stuff, not because he's in rebellion, it's just his personality. He's not driven. My son has no competitive urge, which drives me bonkers. I mean I am violently competitive. He has zero. Once in a while it would come out of him. We were playing golf together at Pebble one year. And I won't say who they were, but we'll say Bob and Bob. These two guys, brothers, said, "Hey, why don't we play together." And we said, "OK." So we get on the first tee box and Bob and Bob start mouthing him. And my son looked over at me and he said, "Let's just drill them down, Dad." And we did. So it was great joy to have my son with me as we beat the fire out of somebody. Stephen and I also won at Pebble Beach, but no, this was Pebble Creek. We did go to Pebble Beach, and I'm just telling, if you take your son, take the credit card that has a big max.



Now I think this physical discipline changes over time. I don't think you beat a 16-year-old daughter. So you've got to switch that to whatever is the most pain for them they can endure. You take away their phone. You take away their friends. You take away Facebook, whatever they have. But you do whatever you have to. 1 Corinthians 5, Galatians 6:1. Now your kids are going to sin. I want you to listen to two different passages. 1 Corinthians 5 is about a guy sleeping with his step-mother. Verse 12 says:

<sup>12</sup>What do I have to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? <sup>13</sup>God judges those outside. Purge the evil person from among you.

I would even translate that in a family. What do I have to do with judging other families. Is it not those inside my family whom you're to judge. You have a responsibility to judge your children. And so there will be times when you employ 1 Corinthians 5. But then listen to Galatians 6:1. Listen to what he says.

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, restore him in a spirit of gentleness; keep watch on yourself, lest you also be tempted.

These are the directions you're going to go with your children. When they get older, they may live a lifestyle that demands you release them from the family. If it's not that kind of lifestyle, then you do everything you can to restore them. There will be times you may have to release. That's exactly what the father did in 1 Corinthians 5. It may, in fact, be what you have to do. When the new rage today is same-sex. Your daughter struggles with that. She's off in college, she's got a girlfriend. She comes home and says, "I'm coming home for Christmas and I'm bringing my girlfriend." I think that's a point at which you have to say, "You can do that, but you're not bringing her in this house." So there are times when you have to employ principles that demand exclusion. There are other times when it's the opposite. When my daughter, when we got the call that my daughter was pregnant, man that was tough. But she was immediately repentant. As a matter of fact, she had come to us prior to that and shared some things. And there are extenuating circumstances I can't go into, but our response was to employ this because she was repentant. She's written a blog about our, my and her, response which is pretty accurate and pretty tough, even for me to read. But I pulled her back into the family through a comment I made to her to pull her back. Yet even then she was treated differently. I remember she shared with me one time. She said, "You know, dad, when I was pregnant, you didn't treat me like you did, you didn't talk about me like you did Courtney when she was pregnant. I said, "Well, hon, your pregnancy was not correct. Courtney's was." And so there are things you have to do. There are sometimes you've got to exclude your children and sometimes after their failure, you pull them in. But it's going to be based here in this line on whether or not they're repentant. If they're repentant, boy you do everything you can to restore them. If they're not repentant, and particularly if it's an egregious sin, you may have to let them go. If you don't do this, you're going to enable your children to stay inside something that's going to destroy them and us. It's a tough thing. And I'm telling you, raising children is not for the faint of heart. But it's the coolest thing in the world. When they do go out and they do it right and they marry and they achieve, and you watch that, it's really great. And again, your purpose is to allow them to find God's purpose. They're on loan to you. You don't own them. And when they do leave, I wouldn't chase after them. You stay with your wife. You build your home wherever you are. But I don't think you chase after your children.