March 17, 2013 Sermon Application Handout
"God's Design for Parents" Part 3
Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Before you begin, pray for understanding (Proverbs 1:23)! Read Ephesians 6:1-4. What was the most important thing you learned and applied to your life from this passage last week?

2. According to Ephesians 6:4, what is the second command in that verse? What does this verse emphasize?

3. Read Psalm 78:1-8. List out the ways the Psalmist Asaph refers to teaching.

4. When we teach the Word of God to children or anyone, the main goal should not be just teaching them facts but to teach them about the God of the Bible. Why is this important?

5. Reread Psalm 78:4-8. Why would it be important to teach children God's Word continually? Why would it be important to instruct them to keep His commandments?

6. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Before Moses commands parents to teach God's Word diligently to their children, who does he declare allegiance to? In other words, what should all Christians give attention to before instructing others such as children? Why is that important? What would be some dangers one would run into if they do not consider carefully and heed verse 5?

7. According to Deuteronomy 6-9; what are parents to teach their children? List out at least 5 ways you can implement this truth practically. For example, what is a creative way to help your children, even small children, memorize Scripture?

8. As you will recall from last week, part of the command that Paul mentions in Ephesians 6:4 that ought to be every Christian parent's practice is bringing their children up in the discipline of the Lord. Review your notes from last week or if you did not do last week's lesson, look up the word "discipline" (paideia). What did you learn?

9. Read Proverbs 15:10; 22:15; and 29:15.What wisdom does God encourage parents to apply? In the context of these Proverbs, what are some dangers in not applying God's Wisdom?

10. Read Hebrews 12:4-11 and answer the following questions:

    a. What is the tone of this passage and what does it teach about the manner in which we are to discipline?

    b. What should be the goal of discipline?

    c. What does this passage teach us regarding what Paul meant when he said 'discipline' in Ephesians 6:4?

11. Based on what you have learned so far, in your own words, explain how Ephesians 6:4 is a command to use physical correction.

12. In Ephesians 6:4; when Paul mentions discipline, he had verbal and physical correction as part of its meaning. With regard to physical correction, the Bible does not have a beating in mind. It is supposed to be a self-controlled instruction and correction. The picture is to be a loving chastisement with the intent to get the child back on the path of righteousness. That is a picture of how God deals with every believer; it is not punishment but correction. Based on this sermon and what you have learned from the Scriptures, how might you begin to bring up your children in the "discipline" of the Lord? What can you do now to incorporate this into your parenting? How might it reflect God's example of discipline?

Resources:

- *Teach Them Diligently* by Lou Priolo
- *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Ted Tripp
- *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* by Paul Tripp
- *Gospel Power Parenting* by William Farley
- *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp
- Various messages on Parenting: http://www.calvarybiblechurch.org/site/default.asp?sec_id=180007745