

## Holiness and the Family – Part 7

### Recent Changes in the family units

- Past 50 years the family unit has changed radically
- Ask a school teachers re: family structure of today
- What first graders fear most – 1950, 2000
- Over one half of “all” marriages end up in divorce
- Role reversal – non-working mother is the minority
- Feminist movement led to feminine dominance
- Man rejected God’s pattern for the blessing of the family – Deut. 6:1-3
  - Possessing the land – v. 1
  - Prolonging the life – v. 2
  - Prospering in His promises - v. 3

The Instruction of the Father

The Example of the Mother

The Testimony of the Children

### The Instruction of the Father - Deut. 6:4 – 9

(Three things Father’s were instructed to do)  
1. **Set the Example of Holiness in the Home – v. 4-6**

We can’t expect more of our children than what we demand of ourselves.

- v. 1 “ye might do them”
- v. 2 “fear” and “keep”
- v. 3 “hear” and “observe to do”

Comments of Walter Elliott – v. 8

Our actions will set for them life priorities – is God put first in all things?

- v. 5 Definition of holiness – our all is His
- Robert Crawford Allison – African Proverbs – Chief & his servant

### 2. Teach the Principles of Holiness – v. 7

Must go beyond the sermons of Sunday morning - Eph. 6:4  
Christ’s Lordship must be seen as a reality, not just a Biblical concept  
Teach through the experiences of daily living  
– search for “teachable” moments. – v. 7

### 3. Maintain an Environment of Holiness – v. 9

Could I tell your home was that of a believer by walking through it.  
How do you control the “spiritual temperature” of the home – Phil. 4:8  
Guard the entrance ways of your home against the World, Satan  
Poem “A Sad Choice”

## The Example of the Mother - Titus 2:3-5

(three things older woman are instructed to do)

### 1. A behavior or demeanor which becometh holiness

Living the life of “transferred ownership”  
All that I am and have belongs to God.

Balance of negative and positive instruction.

### 2. Teachers of good things.

- Two forms of teaching used here:
  - v. 3 – didactic or instructional
  - v. 4 – to school or train through being sober minded
- Subject matter is relative to family life.  
“do not permit a woman to be a teacher” - I Tim. 2:12  
(context is Church order – 3:14-15; Acts 13:1)

The woman finds her “wholeness, fulfillment” in those duties relating to the raising of a family – I Tim. 2:15; 5:14

- Mothers are contracting out their God-given responsibilities for Professional careers, higher standards of living, forsaking the home.

“Keeper at home” – Titus 2:5

- workers at home (Wuest)
- stayer at home, good house keepers (Strong’s Dict Grk)
- Two Greek words:
  - oikos = house; ouros = keep or guard

“as becometh holiness” - her home is not her own – it belongs to God

### 3. Giving honor to the Word of God - Titus 5:5

- By living in agreement to the “word of your Master” that owns you
- Examples of “living in blaspheme”
  - Hypocrisy of Israel – Rom. 2:23-24
  - Rebellious servants – I Tim. 6:1-2
  - Neglectful mothers – Titus 2:5

The world may expect more of us than what we are willing to expect of ourselves. God expects us to live “Holy” lives unto Him.

## **The Testimony of the Children - 2 John 1-4; 3 John 1-4**

How do we evaluate our Children's success?

(physically, socially, academically, professionally, financially)

Two Standards of Evaluation given by John

1. Prosperity of the eternal soul (eternal values) - 3 John 2
2. A walk or life according to truth - 2 John 4
  - a. Truth which dwelt in the parents - 2 John 2
  - b. Truth preserved as received from God - 2 John 4
  - c. Truth testified of by the "brethren" - 3 John 3

Assemblies seemed to have lost a generation - 40's & 50's

Were the principles of holiness taught with

- reality of daily life by the fathers?
- modeled by example by the mothers?

**It is encouraging to see a new generation of Timothy's coming alone in our Assemblies.**

Continue in what you have learned - 2 Tim. 3:14-15  
Stir up the gift within you - 2 Tim. 1:5-6  
Start now on the next generation - 2 Tim. 2:1-2

200 years ago Alexander Pope said "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined"

2000 years ago the Apostle Paul said "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

3000 years ago Hosea the Prophet said "They have sown to the wind, and they shall reap to the whirlwind".

**Let's commit to start today with the next generation:**

- bending the twigs toward the holiness of God
- planting the seeds of the truth of God's Word.