



Rhythms (Habits the Change You and the World)

1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Family matters to God. Parents have a responsibility to do all they can to lead their children to Jesus and to model a life worth following.

Setting the Scene

In The Private Life of the Preacher, Dr. Kenny Kuykendall argues, "The greatest responsibility you have as a man of God is to be the best husband to your wife, and the best father to your children you can possibly be."

According to Search's nationwide study, 12% of youth have a regular dialog with their mom on faith/life issues. In other words, one out of eight kids talks with their mom about their faith. One in twenty, or 5%, of kids, have regular faith/life conversations with their dad. Approximately 9% of teenagers engage in regular Bible reading and/or study with their families.¹

⁴ *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, **bring them up** with the **discipline** and **instruction** that comes from the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

1. A Family Foundation builds on Scripture

- The family has been God's idea from the beginning.

²⁷ *So God created human beings^[a] in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, "**Be fruitful and multiply**. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:27-28*

- God desires that the family is in a relationship with Him.

⁹ *The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 2 Peter 3:9*

God's Word calls us...

To Raise Godly Children

¹⁵ *Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:15*

Who live out the Great Commission,

¹⁸ *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:18-19*

Through the Greatest Commandment.

³⁶ *"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷ Jesus replied, " "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." ^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ^[a] ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40*

"A house is actually a school and a church, and the head of the household is a pastor in his house." -Martin Luther

2. A Family Foundation builds on parents modeling their faith

¹ <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/why-we-must-talk-about-faith-at-home.html>

paidagogos (παιδαγωγός, 3807), "a guide," or "guardian" or "trainer of boys," *lit.*, "a child-leader" (*pais*, "a boy, or child," *ago*, "to lead"), "a tutor," is translated "instructors" in 1 Cor. 4:15, *kjv* (*rv*, "tutors"); here the thought is that of pastors rather than teachers; in Gal. 3:24, 25, *kjv*, "schoolmaster" (*rv*, "tutor.")²

- A Christ Following Parent would invite them into his or her life, giving access so they could imitate the way of Christ in the parent's life.
- Many people can give us information, but what we need are parents who would invite their children into their lives, providing access so they could imitate Christ's way.
- The goal is for our children to imitate Jesus and value the things Christ values.

The Apostle Paul said, "imitate me as I imitate Christ (NIV)." And the imitation usually follows along with this progression: (Spiritual Parenting)

I do --> You watch (Model) - John 15:1-8

I do --> You help (Train) – Matthew 26:39

You do --> I help (Coach) – Matthew 21:28-32

You do --> I watch³ (Mentor) – 1 Corinthians 4:17

3. A Family Foundation builds on doing ministry together.

- If your family wants to live out the great commission, what daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly rhythms need to take priority in your life?

Last Thoughts:

I believe developing spiritual rhythms will change you and this world!

Prayer – How Can I Pray?

Regularly prayer walk in your community

Service – How Can I Serve?

Look for ways to serve Jesus

Love – How Can I Be a Good Neighbor?

Intentionally look for ways to build relationships

Calling – How Can I have a stronger family?

Intentionally schedule family nights

Getting into a spiritual rhythm means aligning God's priorities with our priorities.

² Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 329). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

³ Taken from "Building a Discipleship Culture" by Mike Breen

Taken from the Book *Family on Mission by Mike and Sally Breen*. They define this movement as an extended family of faith "integrating discipleship into the fabric of our everyday lives." The idea comes from *oikos*, the Greek Word for family households. Families on a mission share several essential characteristics.

A family on mission looks like family meals, with more faces around the table. Sometimes we host other families from Church or from the community, artists my husband is working with, or neighborhood children who wiggle their way into our house at the feeding hour.

A family on mission shows up in the community. As much as possible, we say "yes" to the concerts and the Lego clubs, the neighborhood watch and litter cleanup. We trade tools and yard work, play dates and birthday invitations.

A family on mission looks like Church, no matter where we are. I'm not talking about leading public hymn singalongs or preaching on street corners. Rather, I'm talking about the things the Church practiced in the Book of Acts: breaking bread, sharing all manner of things, praying together, and serving the outcast and downtrodden.

A family on mission offers security and predictable patterns. Our own predictable patterns began with a family purpose statement. The brainchild of author and blogger Tsh Oxenreider, this statement is "a timeless, easy-to-read, holistic family mission statement that applies to everyone in the family."

Using Oxenreider's questionnaire, we spent a week discussing our dreams for our family, the values we want to exhibit, and the kind of life we want to live. From there, we cultivated intentional actions to support that vision, building security for our children and, in turn, those around us.

Families on mission parent like Jesus. If we just give the Gospels a cursory glance, we might think Jesus created a community out of nothing. After His baptism and commission, it appears Jesus set out to find His tribe. But, if we dig a bit deeper, we see a spiritual parent who listens, trains, challenges, disciplines, nurtures, and loves His friends, His *oikos*.

It's a tall order, but the same can be true for us as we live on mission with our children, churches and peers. Sometimes that means we not only spiritually parent our own children, but we may take on the role of spiritual parents for others, sharing the stories behind our choice to follow Jesus and offering space for questions, prayer, and healing.

Living as a family on mission isn't about trying to be and do all things for all people; it is about just living as a family in this world while walking closely with Jesus and inviting others to join us in following Him.⁴

⁴ <https://influencemagazine.com/Practice/5-Characteristics-of-a-Family-on-Mission>