

## **FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE: PART VIII FROM GREAT MARRIAGES TO GREAT FAMILIES**

**BACKGROUND:** Children of great marriages do not have to spend a lifetime overcoming emotional scars. Society is paying a huge price in allowing the displacements of fathers in families.

***CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS.*** You can explain to a child that he or she has a “throne” in his or her life. On this throne you can put self, who does not want to get along with others, share with others, or obey mother and father; or you can put Jesus on your throne, and He will help you to do these things that are pleasing to Him. (**Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1, 2, fn 6:1, 2, Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, fn 5:16, I John 1:9, Ephesians 5:18**) *How could you encourage your children when they need to be corrected by asking the question, “Who’s on the throne of your life?”*

***FATHERS, DISCIPLINE YOUR DISCIPLINE.*** Help children learn to honor (to respect or put a high value on) their parents. They should also be taught to respects others (their siblings, those in authority, and people in general), and to respect the parental boundaries that you and your wife have established for them. Do not be too exacting with them. (**Colossians 3:21, fn 3:20, 21, Ephesians 6:4, fn 6:4, Proverbs 22:6, fn 22:6[1<sup>st</sup>], fn 22:6[2<sup>nd</sup>], Hebrew 12:5-11, fn 12:5-11, Ephesians 4:1, 2, fn 4:1, 2**) *How could discipline your children and at the same time be controlled by the Holy Spirit?*

***FATHERS, PROVIDE AN ATMOSPHERE:*** (1) Of learning. The Scriptures show that fathers are ordained for their role and that they, like God, must hate ignorance. (2) Of care. The physical needs of children must be met. (3) Of joy. Help your family to experience the fruits of the Spirit daily. (4) Of love. This starts with the fathers loving the mothers unconditionally and the mothers showing the fathers unconditional respect. This mutual love and respect between their parents gives the children great security. (5) Of Jesus. When your family looks at you, they should look through you and see what Jesus is like. (**Colossians 3:2b, Ephesians 6:4b, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, fn 6:4-9, Galatians 5:22, 23, Colossians 3:12-17, fn 3:12-17, Ephesians 5:33**) *What do you need to do to provide an atmosphere for a great family?*

*Pray with each of your children at bedtime!*

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