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Faith Bible Church
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>
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DOCTRINE OF PARENTING-4

Ephesians 6:1-2, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

1. Note in verse two that both father and mother are mentioned: both parents are to raise the children.
 - a. It is unfortunate that many children today are no longer raised by their original parents. The traditional family is increasingly breaking down.
 - b. The attitude that it does not make any difference if the child is raised by a traditional biological mother and father or by a single mother or a single father or by two lesbians is indicative of an anti-theistic and depraved mindset (Rom. 1:28). Attempts by some in Hollywood to define the family in terms of personal choice is unnatural and nothing short of being perverted.
 - c. The source of the perversion of believing that definition of a family is simply a matter of personal choice is the philosophy evolution and nominalism. Evolution teaches that man in his evolutionary history has merely settled on what works for him *socially*. We just happen to live in an epoch where monogamy is the settled *opinion* in our country. In other words, traditional marriage and family are only human conventions. This is in stark contrast to the theistic view that marriage is not only a divine institution, it is a natural institution rooted in the very nature of man for his flourishing.
 - d. Upper-level truth (theological revelatory truth) supports traditional family. Support for the fact that traditional marriage is a divine institution is found in Genesis 2:24 (Note that there were no children when the command was given).

Genesis 2:24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- e. Lower-level truth (philosophical realism; based on self-evident principles of being) supports traditional family. It is self-evidently natural that the duty of rearing the child belongs to both parents and not to one alone. That this duty belongs to the mother is clear from the fact that she naturally bears the child and nurses it: this is the natural way for the baby to survive from the first days of life. The father is equally the cause of the child's existence, and therefore *naturally* is equally charged by his nature with the child's welfare. Together they gave the child life (biological) and together

they must care for him, not in lives apart and independent, but in that joint life which makes up society of the family. It is natural and in keeping with what is self-evident about being that the two individuals who brought the child into the world are to work together for the raising and nurturing of the child. Who but they bear the greatest responsibility for a child than they who brought into the world? Naturally mother and father have different capacities that are psychologically as well as physiologically complementary. It is natural for a child to learn of the father's sternness as well as the mother's grace and charm. In light of these philosophical principles, it is absurd to aver that traditional marriage, family, and child-raising is a mere human convention with no objective basis in reality.

- f. It should be pointed out that what is argued for here is the ideal, natural realities of marriage and family. It is acknowledged that the ideal is not always possible. Often a parent dies or leaves and a single parent bears all the responsibility. Although this is not the natural or ideal state (surely, this does not have to be argued), God's grace is always available for any parent or child to turn around any *bad situation*. With grace one can fly higher than ever thought possible.
2. **“Which is the first commandment with a promise”** is a reference to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Consider the Decalogue along with its establishment principles in light of our present national condition.

Commandment #1: *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* This was given to protect the nation of Israel. This command was to make God number one priority—something lost today even among many doctrinal believers. Parents always illustrate their priorities to their children. Values in parents often become values in the children.

Commandment #2: *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.* This was given to protect the nation of Israel and to keep her from the evil of idolatry. Idolatry saturates our land today. We are told in the New Testament that all one has to do to move into idolatry is have greed, Col. 3:5. One of the worst things a parent can do is to instill greed or covetousness into their children. Children are to be trained to excel in all things (virtue), but to be content with what they possess.

Commandment #3: *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.* Consider the cursedness among children today who habitually [=vice = a developed habit] take the name of the Lord in vain constantly in and out of school. Some even hear it from their parents. Taking the name of the Lord in vain does not refer to “hells” and “damns”—though that language is inappropriate for any child. It refers to *using* God. Furthermore, taking the name of the Lord in vain is more than some wanton swearing by using the Lord name in vain (cursing), it refers to using God's name to advance one's agenda. It would include

invoking God's name simply to make one look better. God's name is constantly taken in vain by TV evangelists to get more mullah. This is far more despicable than the drunk who probably does not think what he says when he swears with the Lord's name.

Commandment #4: *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.* ⁹ *Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:* ¹⁰ *But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:* ¹¹ *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.* The Sabbath has always been on Saturday; this command does not apply to New Testament believers. However, Sunday was traditionally a day off from work and school to attend the local church and learn about God and the Bible. Sundays throughout American has become about sleeping in, playing, watching sports, or complaining about having to get up early for church. The principle of the fourth commandment is one of grace. God told the Jews to take a day off to commemorate His grace. Who even thinks like that anymore?

Commandment #5: *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.* This is the command Paul has in mind in our passage. Our current generation of kids no longer respect their parents or elders like previous generations. This is no wonder given the fact that society continues to undermine such honor on TV or in many schools. Paul makes the point that there is a connection between a child learning honor and respect and having capacity to flourish and being blessed with longevity. Respect for authority always provides stability and capacity. Teaching your children respect for your authority is the greatest establishment principle you can instill in your children—it is the greatest thing you can do for your child and your country.

Commandment #6: *Thou shalt not murder* [not a prohibition against killing in war or in capital punishment]. We have increasing number of children who commit coldblooded killings. Recently in our own city a 17-year old beat his mother of 56 years old to death by bashing in her head with the butt of a shotgun about twenty times. For the grizzly story see

http://www.tulsaworld.com/specialprojects/news/crimewatch/article.aspx?subjectid=450&articleid=20130125_11_A1_CUTLIN29593

Commandment #7: *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* Although children do not commit adultery (fornication is another story) they live in a culture that often celebrates adultery in the “entertainment” industry.

Commandment #8: *Thou shalt not steal.* Children are often exposed to movies that glorify theft. Respect for other people's property is eroding as an increasing amount of people think it is OK for the government to take from the rich and give to the poor. After all, this is the never ending mantra from our current president.

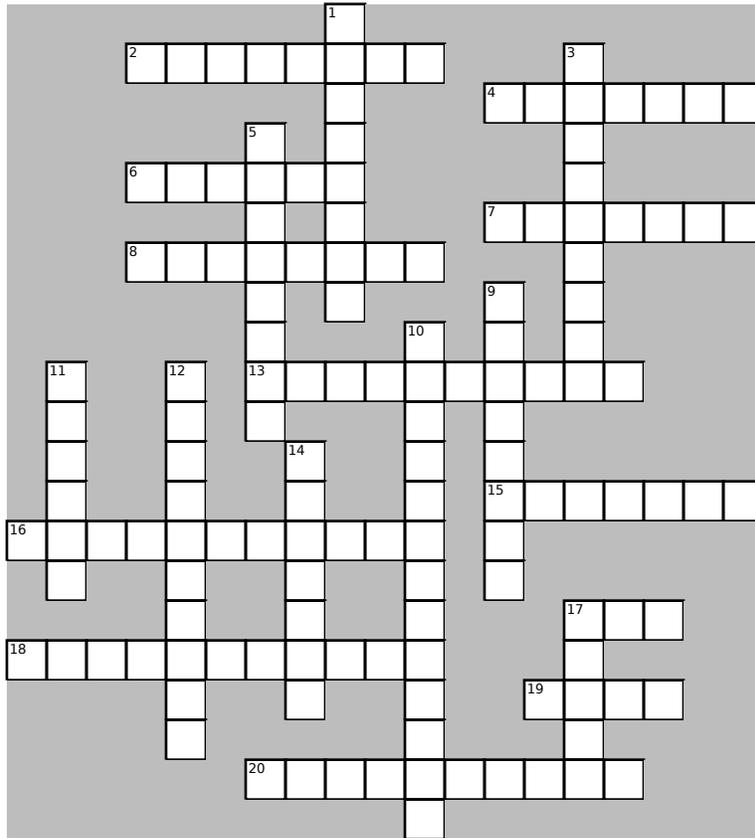
Commandment #9: *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.* What kind of chance do children have today to respect honesty and integrity when they see false testimony everywhere from politics to TV talk shows?

Commandment #10: *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.* Our whole culture is insatiable, wanting more and more and more to try to fill the emptiness that only 'Ehyeh can fill. How many kids even hear a message that God can fill all needs? How many parents want to hear this? How many really care? Why is there so little enthusiasm for Esse and the things of God, let alone His Glory/Beauty? It all has to do with Mr. M of Matt. 6:24. People think they can do it all, they only fool themselves.

In 'Ehyeh

Pastor Don

Parenting 4



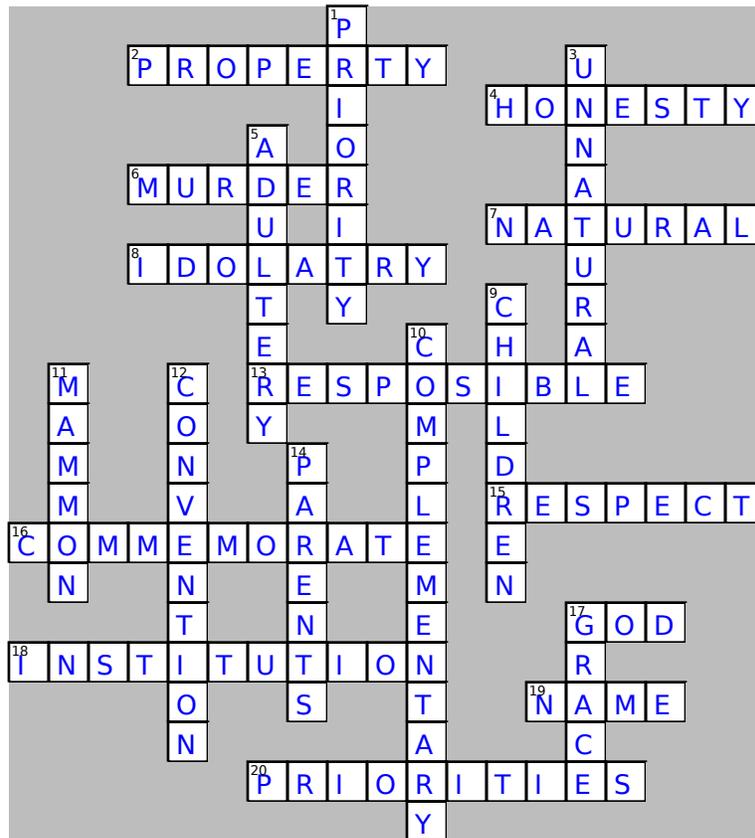
Across

- 2 The eighth commandment teaches respect for other's ___.
- 4 The ninth commandment teaches the importance of ___.
- 6 The sixth commandment is a prohibition against __, not killing.
- 7 Philosophical realism demonstrates that the traditional family is ___.
- 8 The second commandment was given to Israel to protect her from ___.
- 13 Naturally, the two people who brought the child into the world are the most __ for the child.
- 15 The fifth commandment is all about teaching children __ for authority.
- 16 The fourth commandment was to give the Jews a day off to __ His grace.
- 17 People think they can do it all (serve God & materialism), but end up running out of energy for ___.
- 18 Genesis 2:24 shows that marriage is a divine ___.
- 19 The third commandment is violated by anyone who uses God's __ vainly, e.g., by religious people to make a show or money.
- 20 Parents are always showing their children their own __.

Down

- 1 The first commandment was given to protect Israel and to make God her ___.
- 3 It is __ to define marriage and family in terms of a personal choice.
- 5 The seventh commandment prohibits ___.
- 9 Who suffers when adults decide to change the nature of family?
- 10 Naturally, a mother and father have ___ natures.
- 11 Who is Mr. M of Matthew 6:24?
- 12 Those influenced by evolution believe marriage is only a human ___.
- 14 In Proverbs 1:8; 6:2 and 23:22 both ___ are involved in child training in the Lord.
- 17 ___ is always there for the parent who does not enjoy a traditional family.

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