

## DOCTRINE OF PARENTING-6

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 "And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

1. The Word of God is to be the standard in every home. This means that the Word of God is to be a regular topic of conversation (“*when you sit, when you walk by, when you lie down and when you rise up*”). The context of discussion of God’s eternal truths must be done in a context of philosophical realism, which means there is a real seeking to understand the reality of the truths under discussion. This context keeps a person from using the Word of God in a religious or superstitious context as often demonstrated by Charismania and the Word of Faith movement, where the words of God are seen as giving some power just by using them whether one understands their realities or not. Talking about the Word of God habitually in the family naturally leads to many questions. This provides opportunities for the believer to get closer to the blessed of the Truth that the words are pointing to, like *Esse, esse*, the transcendentals, and the nature of truth and metaphysics in the Bible. Children should be taught to know why something is true, why it can’t be otherwise. Only then does anyone really know something.
2. Not only is regular communication of the Word of God in the family important, so is open and caring communication in general among all members of the family. Parents should be involved in their children’s lives—e.g., fathers and sons sharing in sports, mothers and daughters laughing and enjoying discussing various life issues. It is important to keep the lines of communication open. If communication lines cannot somehow be kept open, then possibilities of helping children during their teens years will become nil. There is a natural desire for young people to pull away a bit as they grow up and have more independent interests and more desire for freedom. Things that tend to disrupt communication include: 1) parents refusing to modify relationship as the young person grows up and resents being treated like a child; 2) young people who want to be treated like an adult when they have not exhibited much maturity; 3) parents who become emotionally unstable and erratic because of hurt feelings when the child rejects their viewpoints or disappoints them (parenting teens can be very hard on the ego); and 4) lack of acceptance, a child who does not feel accepted will shut down communication. It is important to never give up on communication. Don’t let little differences grow into big ones. Leadership in overcoming difficulties is always in the hands of the most mature. With doctrine and grace, all difficulties can be overcome for the restoration of a loving and open communicative relationship.

3. It is important for children to memorize Scripture. All children should be taught to memorize Bible passages. However, in memorizing Scripture the focus should not be psychological. By that I mean parents should avoid instilling “spiritual narcissism” into their kids. When the only verses a child memorizes are those passages that are filled with personal psychological or experiential truths like faith rest, supergrace blessings, or God’s love for *me*, he will come to think about God only in terms of self. His spiritual life will be all about self. Along with those wonderful experiential truths, the child needs a healthy dose of truths regarding the nature of God and the responsibilities in relation to God and others. It is unfortunate that some of the most narcissistic, rude, unloving, carnal, sensate people in the world are Christians who have plenty of Bible passages in their quiver—and they are all about them, not about God or others or responsibilities. They seem to be always blabbing and grabbing some promise for *self*, all the while blind to what loving God and others really means.
4. Parents stand in the place of God to their children. God has given them the responsibility and privilege of being objective in teaching, disciplining, and rewarding children. Parents should never try to pawn off their teaching responsibility to a local church. The parental motivation in teaching children must be from the Lord with an eye to how God treats the parents as His own children as well.
5. Parents express their true love for their children and God by teaching them Bible doctrine. Love is always doing best for the other person. Children who are not taught Bible doctrine will have to learn the hard way, which any truly loving parent does not want his child to experience.
6. All Christian fathers should take an active leadership role in teaching their family Bible doctrine. He is God’s leader for the family. The whole family should see the Word of God in His life: e.g., providing opportunities for the family to learn God’s Word, reviewing the pastor’s teachings, teaching Bible doctrine and its applications to the family, family Bible study time, virtue, integrity, prayer, reminding the family the importance of fellowship, reminding the family of the importance of God’s plan, pointing out the dangers of kosmos diabolicus, etc. It is an awesome privilege to be the leader of a Christian home. However, it is also a Herculean task in leading these human beings in the things of God when they, like he, are often like drops of doctrinal and divine influences in oceans of passions, sin natures, and cosmic turbulences. It takes a real man to be able to see where his wife and each child are spiritually and provide the appropriate teaching and leadership for each one. He is to lead and challenge them all, all with knowledge, patience, and above all: Love. This demands a very strong spiritual life and understanding that his labor in the Lord is never in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).
7. While it is more difficult to raise godly children in times of low morals, apostasy, heresy in Christianity, and degeneracy, it is also a great time for each parent to shine in this darkness. The clearest teaching and examples are manifested in the darkest times.

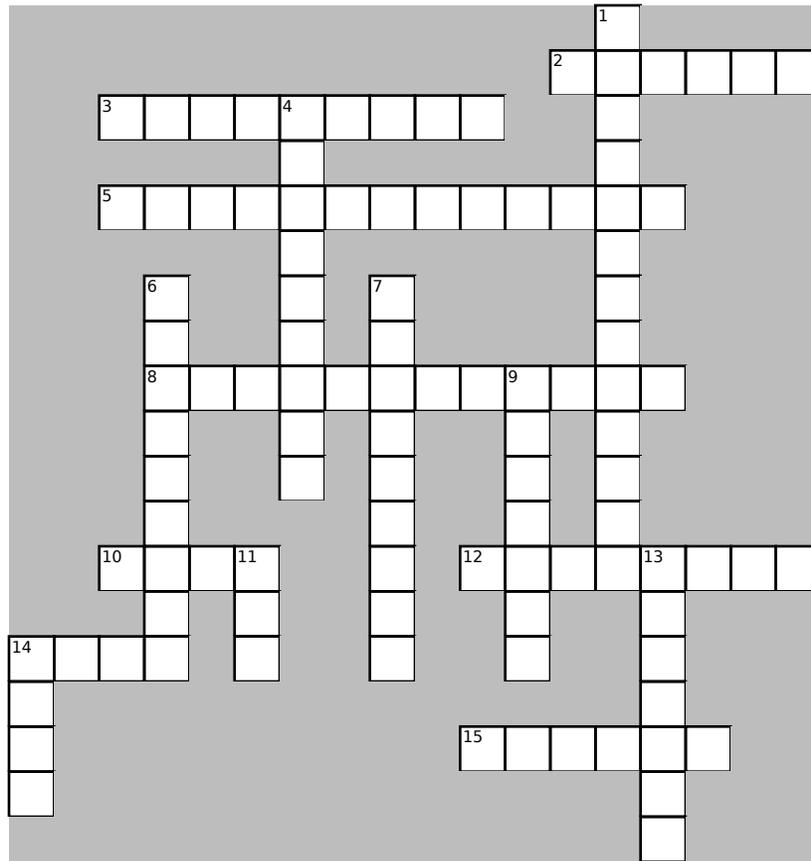
8. All parents make mistakes and experience regrets from time to time. It is important to keep the main thing the main thing: Bible doctrine in the context of marvelous and matchless grace—TRUTH AND GRACE!
9. In the absence of male spiritual leadership, the mother can still make a phenomenal impact on her children. Consider Timothy: he was a third-generation believer. His mother and grandmother both had had a vital testimony for Christ. Timothy followed their example:

2 Timothy 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don

# Parenting 6



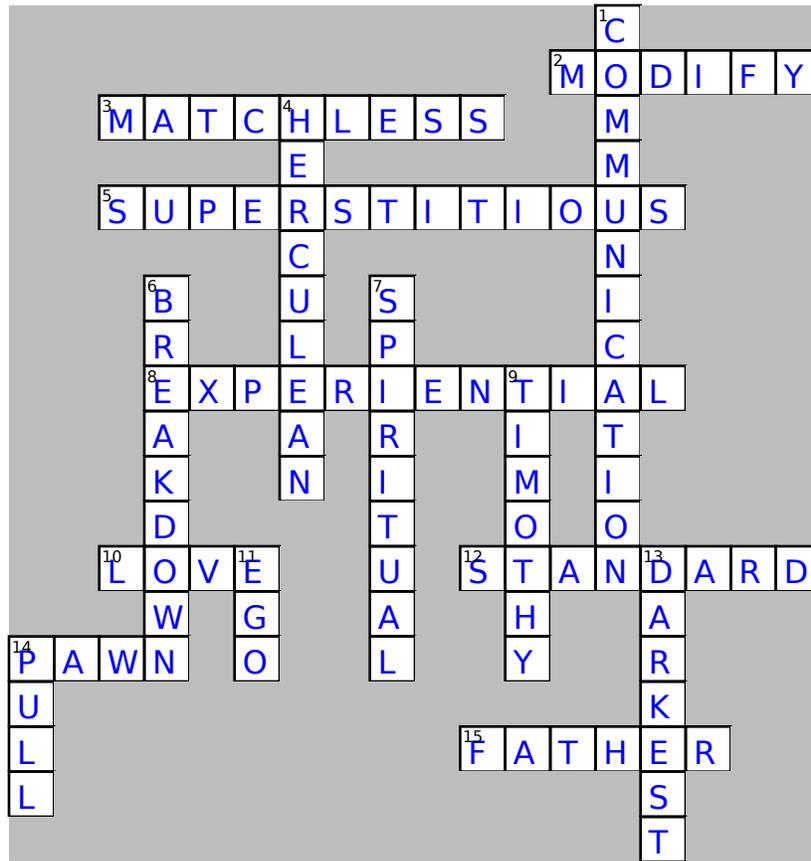
## Across

- 2 Parents who refuse to \_\_\_ their relationships with their child can cause communication problems.
- 3 Keeping the main thing the main thing revolves around Bible doctrine in context of God's \_\_\_ grace.
- 5 The Word of God must never be taught in a \_\_\_ context.
- 8 Children need to memorize Scripture, but not just \_\_\_ truths.
- 10 Parents express their \_\_\_ for their children by teaching them Bible doctrine.
- 12 The Word of God is to be the \_\_\_ in every home.
- 14 Parents should never \_\_\_ off their responsibilities in teaching children God's Word to the local church.
- 15 God's designated spiritual leader of the family.

## Down

- 1 A child who does not feel accepted will shut down \_\_\_.
- 4 Being spiritual leader of the family is a \_\_\_ task.
- 6 When young people want to be treated as adults but do not act mature, it causes friction and \_\_\_ of communication.
- 7 Christian fathers must have a very strong \_\_\_ life.
- 9 He did not have fatherly male leadership, but he became a great believer (2 Tim. 1:5) due in no small part to influences of his mother and grandmother.
- 11 Parenting teens can be hard on the \_\_\_ and emotions.
- 13 The clearest teaching and examples are most manifest in the \_\_\_ times.
- 14 It is natural for young people to \_\_\_ away a bit as they grow up.

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