



Building a Foundation of Priorities
Selected Scripture
January 8, 2017

Introduction:

Chinese Proverb: "It is harder to lead a family than to rule a nation."

Ronald Reagan:

"We fear that government may be powerful enough to destroy families, but we know that it is not powerful enough to replace them."

Three Foundational Priorities for our Families:

1. The Priority of Encouragement.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Warren Wiersbe:

"When God examines our priorities, His scrutiny isn't placed primarily on what we say we believe; it is placed on what we practice."

2. The Priority of Nurture and Admonition.

Ephesians 6:4 But bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Four key areas of nurturing:

- A. Intellectually
- B. Physically
- C. Spiritually
- D. Socially

Randy Alcorn:

"America is a culture that wants it all. The irony is that we have gained everything material and external and lost everything meaningful in the process. Our culture has laid God and family on the altar of our pleasure and success, only to find that what we have gained is empty when we don't have peace within our hearts and homes."

3. The Priority of Discipline.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Josh McDowell:
"Rules without relationship bring rebellion."

Parental Proverbs of Discipline:

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 23:14 You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

4. The Priority of Instruction.

Deuteronomy 6:2 That thou might fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

The reason we have so many "church going parents" turn out children who eventually forsake the church, is because many parents don't understand the difference between being church going parents and God loving parents.