

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 21 “Raising Disciples”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

D. We are taking a few weeks to study *Ephesians 5-6* about the family. This is the first institution God ever created and it is the primary revival unit.

1. We've spent the last 3 weeks talking about marriage. This is foundational because it becomes much easier to raise healthy kids if you have a healthy marriage. Ex: Danny Silk example
2. Tonight we are going to talk about how to raise kids/raise disciples. The primary way God wants to fill the earth with His glory is through image bearing parents that reproduce children with that same image.
3. This is essential to God's plan. If you are in here and don't have kids and don't want kids, this message still applies to you because many of the same principles we'll learn about raising kids apply to how to raise disciples and we are all called to do that.

II. Raising Disciples

A. **Malachi 4:5-6** This passage is prophetic of John the Baptist. It says the nature of His ministry was to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and children to the fathers.

1. The spiritual fathers of Israel (the Pharisees) didn't model this. They served themselves and not the the people.
2. This is a New Covenant paradigm shift we all need. We need to understand God's heart is for us and He wants our hearts to be for our children.
3. **John 14:7-9** A major reason why Jesus came is to reveal the Father.

- a. This blew Phillip's mind, partly because he didn't fully comprehend who Jesus was God in a flesh body, but also because He had a different expectation of what the Father was like.
- b. He was a Jew who grew up under law and had a view of the Father as a harsh taskmaster. Jesus was anything but. Jesus defied his expectations of what the Father was like. **Ephesians 6** is about to defy our expectations.

B. Ephesians 6:1-4

1. **Ephesians 6:1-3** are a quotation of **Exodus 20:12**. This verse means parents are in authority over kids and should train children (some modern thought is that kids should be allowed to do what they want and self-actualize). This is nonsense. Parents must raise their kids. They are incapable of raising themselves.
 - a. Train them who they are in Christ.
 - b. Train them what that looks like practically.
2. Children should obey. Paul makes the point that this is the first commandment with promise (of long life). Paul is saying that to emphasize how important this is. That said, Paul would also tell you we are not under the curse of the law anymore so if our kids don't obey, God isn't going to curse them with a short life.
3. **Ephesians 6:4** This verse defies expectations.
 - a. It tells us fathers aren't to provoke their children to wrath. Why? Fathers tend to do that much more than mothers do. Women have nurturing in their nature. In my house I tend to be the disciplinarian/authoritarian, so Paul is telling me to wind it back and remember their hearts. They've been called to relationship with me, not rules.
 - b. ***Paideía*** means training or nurture. Nurture means to care. We are to bring our children up by revealing our hearts to them. This doesn't mean anything goes, but it does mean we need to our heart and relationship above the rules.

C. Proverbs 22:6 We are to train our children, not just teach.

1. Fred Price story - training involves giving them opportunities and giving feedback.
2. **Proverbs 22:6 Amp** *Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents] Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
 - a. The phrase train a child up into way he should go isn't as much about right and wrong, but is about their natural inclination and giftings. When we as parents help kids discover who God made them to be, they won't want to be anyone else. There is a Holy Spirit draw to be what God created you to be. When a person does this, they tend to sin less as a byproduct. Ex: King David in **1 Samuel 11**.

b. When we invest in our kids this way, it reveals our heart to them.

D. Final Thoughts and Practical Application

1. The number one goal of every relationship is connection. Need to prioritize heart to heart connect first. Children must know they are loved and valued.
2. We must teach our kids who they are in Christ. All doing comes from our being and if they don't know who they are, they might just do anything.
3. Help them discover who God made them to be (specific gifting and calling).
4. Children need to be given increasing levels of freedom as they get older. Our goal is parents is to help them learn to be mature adults who know how to manage their freedom well.
5. We need to give appropriate rewards and consequences for behaviors. Corrective consequences need to be focused on correcting the behavior and not just be punishment (brings shame and anger). **Don't argue!**

III. Conclusion

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Offering Verse: **Luke 12:32**

C. Call Up Prayer Team