

BIBLICAL PARENTING 101



Week 2: The Basics of Biblical Parenting

The culture wants to destroy families. Christians have a duty to be counter-cultural.

Los Angeles Times

Sept. 11, 2024

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Los Angeles Times

LOG IN



OUR CLIMATE
CHALLENGE

Climate change and L.A. life

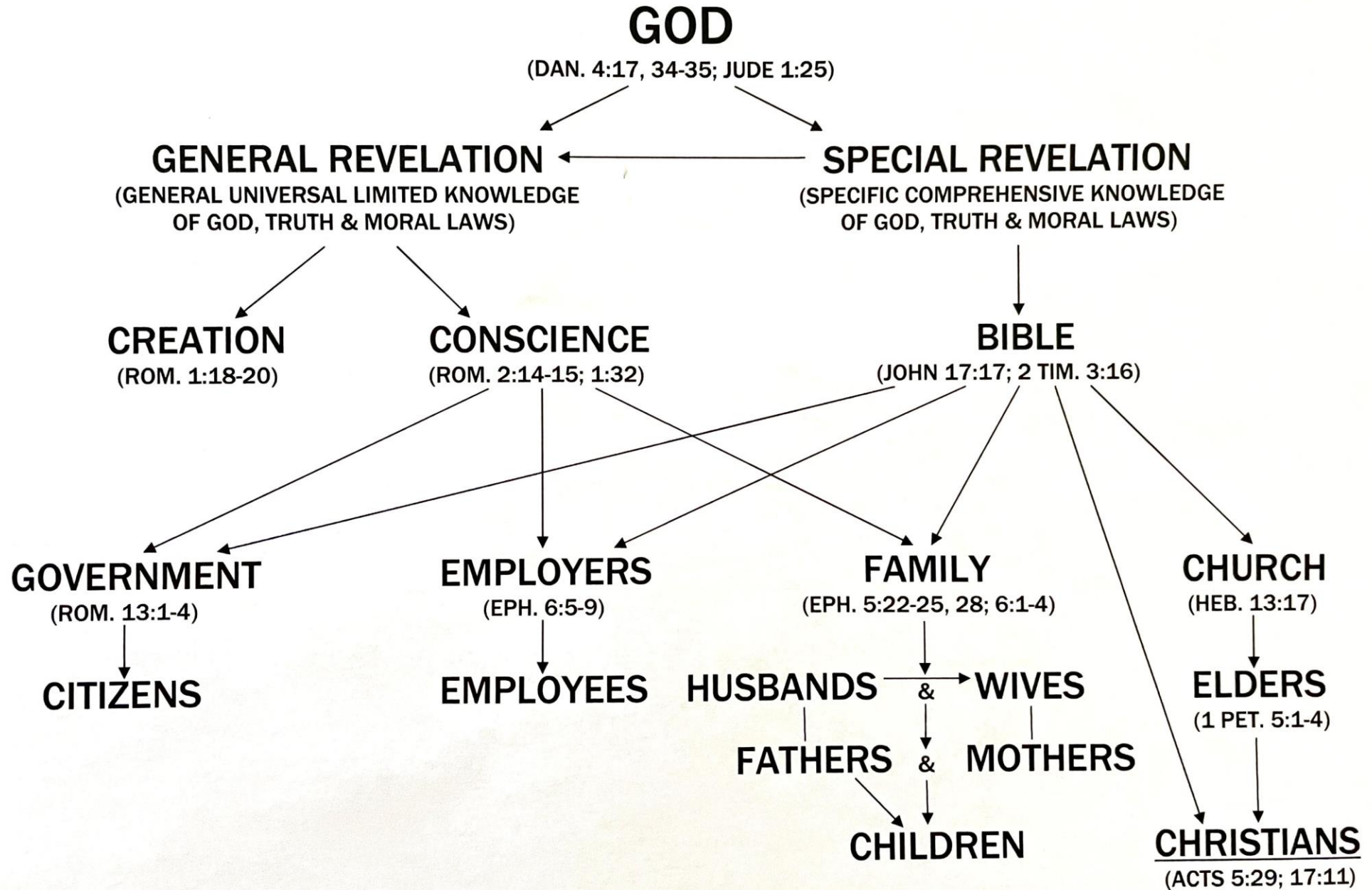
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CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

‘It’s almost shameful to want to have children’



AUTHORITY & RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WORLD



2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Children:

- Obedience (vs 1) and Honor (vs 2)

Reasons or motivations for the commands:

- 1) In the Lord (vs 1a)

Malachi 1:6: “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the LORD of hosts.”

- 2) It is morally right and fair (vs 1b)

- 3) God commands it (OT quote vs. 2 – the 5th Commandment in Exod. 20:12)

- 4) Personal benefit/ reward promised (vs. 3)

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Children:

Reasons or motivations for the commands

The fountain (source or root) of genuine obedience and honor comes from the heart as it is rooted in both love and fear of God (first of all), and parents

The streams (fruit) of genuine obedience and honor is respect for parental authority (while under the roof) and later their needs (when old and dying —cf. Matt. 15:4-6)

The Definition of Obedience

A willing submission of a child's heart to the parental authority God has placed in their life.

The Principle of Parental Obedience and Honor in Proverbs

Proverbs 1:8-9

Hear, my son, your father's instruction
And do not forsake your mother's teaching;
Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head
And ornaments about your neck..

Proverbs 6:20-23

My son, observe the commandment of your father
And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;
Bind them continually on your heart;
Tie them around your neck.
When you walk about, they will guide you;
When you sleep, they will watch over you;
And when you awake, they will talk to you.
For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light;
And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline,
But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father who begot you,
And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 30:11

There is a kind of *man* who curses his father
And does not bless his mother.

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocks a father
And scorns a mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it.

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Children:

Examples of children obeying parents

Jacob obeys parents – Gen. 28:7

David obeys Jesse – 1 Sam. 17:20

Esther obeys her uncle Mordecai – Esther 2:20 (cf. Esther 2:7)

Jonadab's sons – Jer. 35:14, 18-19 (note Jonadab was blessed by obedient sons)

Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary – Luke 2:51

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Parents:

- Exercise Loving Authority (implied by vss 1-3 and larger context)
- Discipline and Instruction (vs 4)

Parental love and authority work together.

William Gouge says, “Love, like sugar, sweetens fear, and fear, like salt, seasons love.”

Authority and the Battle of Wills

The basic impulse of sin is to be your own God, your own authority, to buck God’s authority and the authority of everyone else. When a sinner comes to Christ for salvation “they no longer live for themselves” (2 Cor. 5:15). There is a fundamental change of allegiance from self to Christ.

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Parents:

Authority and the Battle of Wills

Authority is the most important heart issue for every child. You are never just dealing with words and actions. You are dealing with the fundamental desires of the heart. It is essential to establish who is in charge early on, the moment the first signs of resistance occur.

Abusing authority is just as dangerous as no authority (See Matt. 20:25).
Children must experience both a FIRM and a LOVING hand

REMEMBER: You are both (1) under and (2) a representative of God's authority (Eph. 6:4). Your responsibility is to put your home under the Lordship of Christ and point your children to Him. Otherwise, you "provoke your children to anger" and facilitate their natural bent toward rebellion. How you exercise your authority gives them a picture of God.

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Parents:

Discipline and Instruction

Discipline = Training in a structured environment that includes encouragement as well as reproof and correction (via disciplinary measures) when disobedience occurs.

Hebrews 12:4-11

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

⁵ and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,

NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,

AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

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

⁹ Furthermore, we had ^[b]earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of ^[c]spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

Basic Responsibilities of Parents:

Discipline and Instruction

Instruction = “To place or set in the mind” meaning to establish truth in the heart and mind. Of course, the Bible is our instruction manual.

Instructing our children includes helping them see why they act the way they do. They must see their corrupt hearts and be pointed to Christ. Therefore, fruitful discipline must be accompanied by instruction. We don't just dish out discipline, otherwise children will not understand the bigger spiritual issues that are at the heart of their lives.