

- D. Do you _____ them? Do you do it _____?
- E. Do you show displeasure by _____ emotion?
- F. Are you trying to make a _____ or make a _____?

III. God Centered Parents Nourish Them (6:4b)

- A. Your primary role is not just as a _____ but as a _____
- B. Your primary method of correction is not _____ but _____
- C. Your primary content of teaching is "God is everything"!
- D. Your primary way of relating is not by _____ but by _____

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

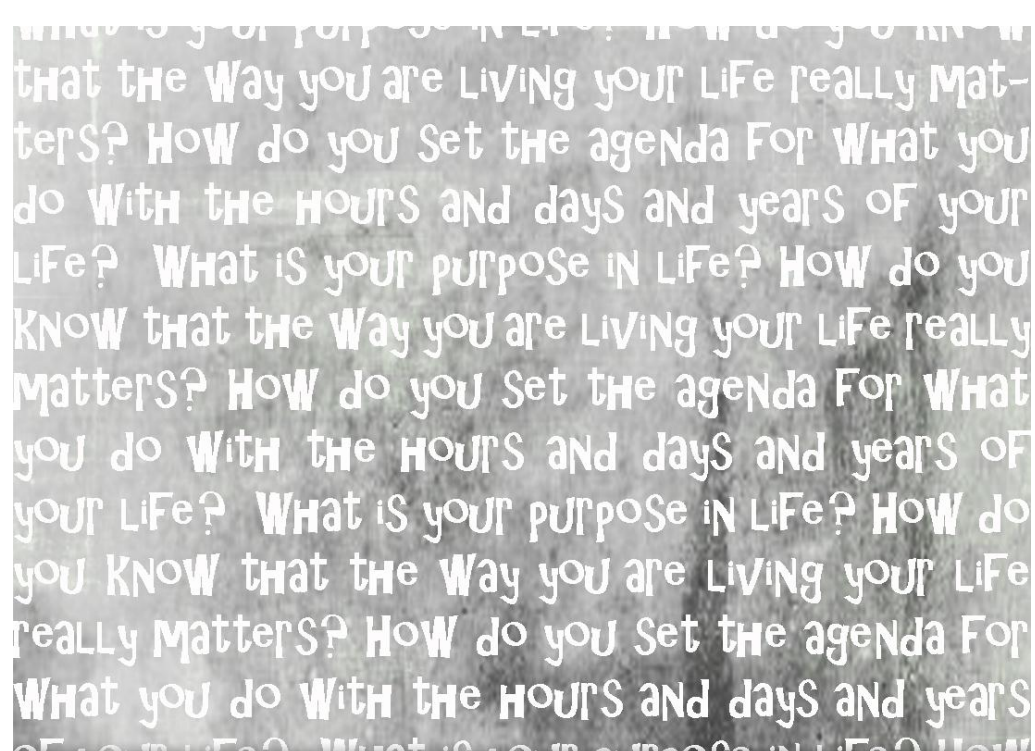
³"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

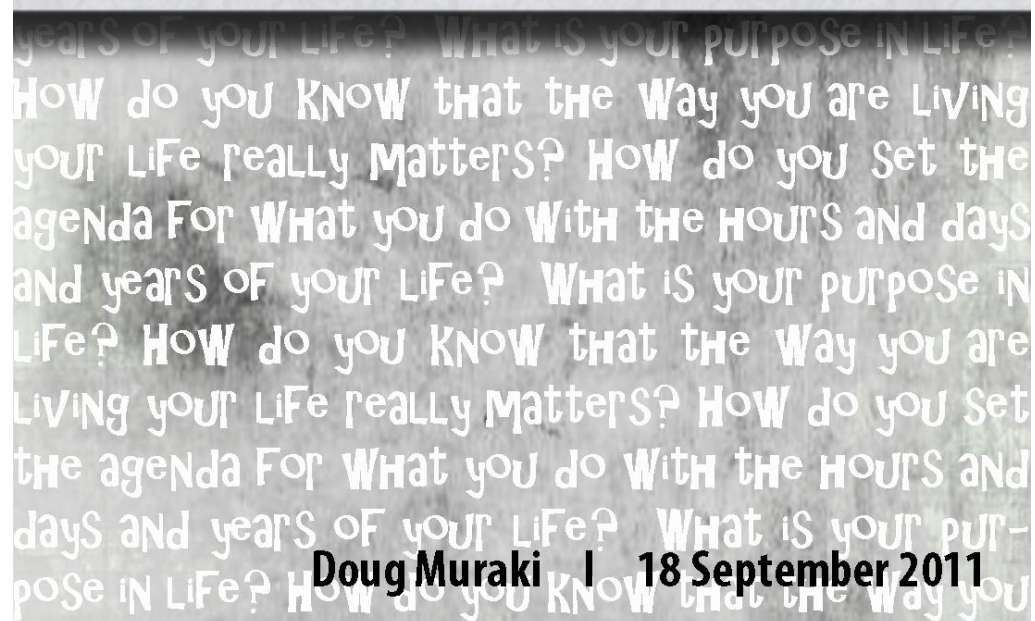
COLOSSIANS 3:20-21

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.



a **WORTHY** life



GROWING GREAT FAMILIES

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

(This is the 9th in a series of messages entitled *The Worthy Life*)

In the early part of 2010 a remarkable feat was accomplished. The Simpsons, a Fox TV production aired its 436th episode becoming #1 in the most episodes with a family theme. (It had previously become the longest running prime-time series still releasing new episodes). That's more than Ozzie and Harriet, The Waltons and My Three Sons. That's more than The Cosby Show, Father Knows Best and Little House on the Prairie.

When a show that **glorifies** just about every dysfunctionality of family including but not limited to...

- Disrespect of parental authority
- Verbal abuse of children by parents
- Bumbling and unemotionally unattached parents

I say there is something disturbing about that – **if not downright depressing**. And here's some more depressing stats that show how much things have changed in the American family.

- Every 42 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected
- Every minute a baby is born to a teen mother
- Every 4 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense
- Every 5 hours a child or teen commits suicide
- Every school day 7000 teens become high school drop outs (“Each Day in America” www.childrensdefense.org)

Obviously this is no longer a Leave It To Beaver world. It's a scary place – a potentially dangerous place to bring up a child. So if we are going to get the job done we need to be familiar with what God says in an age where values are so muddled and a “normal”

family almost doesn't exist. The wisdom we need is not the wisdom of the so-called experts that has led to a culture that doesn't even know how to define family anymore. The wisdom we need is the wisdom from God who designed the family in the first place. That wisdom is found in just 4 remarkable verses.

Idea: When it comes to rearing our children, RULES without RELATIONSHIP equals REBELLION.

I. God Centered Parents Give Them _____ (6:1-3)

- Without _____, we tell our children we don't _____ what happens to them
- However remember our children _____ selectively
- So as a parent _____ what motivates THEM – not _____!
- This means a _____ to your child's _____
- Remember above all: Kid's _____ love – _____

II. God Centered Parents Don't _____ Them (6:4a)

- Do you _____ them to others? Are your expectations _____?
- Do you show _____?
- Do you treat them with _____?