

PRIORITY MATTERS

Proverbs 24:3 NCV - *It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong.*

Knowledge is learning. Wisdom is application - You might have knowledge..time to apply

There are no quick fixes to a great family. Just like building a home takes time...building a family takes time...it has to have the right foundation...good walls, good wiring.

Psalm 127:1 - *Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*

Top 3 priorities of families

GOD MUST BE THE FIRST PRIORITY

Matthew 22:37 - *37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

- We can spend so much time making the things we are trying to save the priority, but we are powerless to save them if God is not the priority.
- **Proverbs 14:26** - *In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.*
- It's out of this relationship that the other relationships flow. It's THIS priority relationship that sets the tone for the rest of the house.

Joshua 24:15 - *"Choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

SPOUSE MUST BE THE SECOND PRIORITY

- Adam had a relationship with God first then God gave him Eve. It's the second level of relationships we see in the scripture.
- *Unity in your marriage will set the tone for unity in your family. If mom and dad are not unified there will be divisions and factions within the family.*
- **Matthew 12:25** - *"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."*
- **The church family fills in the gaps where the natural family is lacking.**

Your kids are a temporary assignment but your marriage is a lifetime commitment.

KIDS MUST BE THE THIRD PRIORITY

- After God gave Eve to Adam, he gave them children. The third level of relationship we see.
- This doesn't mean they aren't a priority...they are still a priority just not the highest priority

Matthew 10:37 ESV - *“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”*

YOU SHOW PRIORITY BY WHAT YOU GIVE INTENTIONAL TIME TO

Time is the commodity that when spent has the greatest return.

You can't develop a relationship without quality time spent together.

1. Time with God

- **The best parenting advice I can give you is spend as much time with God as you can.** He's the perfect parent. He has all the answers. When we are with Him we change.
- Daily intentional time with Jesus. Prayer, prayer together, worship together.

2. Time with Spouse

- Date night - doesn't have to be out. Can be in. Put the kids to bed at 7pm and say...don't leave your room! Mom and dad are on a date.
- Have meaningful heart to heart conversations about dreams, desires, your relationship.

3. Time with Kids

- All of the families I see that I want to be like. I want to model...when I ask them how they did it...these 3 priorities emerge. They always talk about time spent together in this order.
- You need, at a minimum, 10-15 minutes of uninterrupted time with each kid per day.

BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR SCHEDULE

- Family dinners together - no tv and no devices (*let dinner movies be special*)
- Don't let your kids do 8 sports at a time where they are never home with you.
- Put down devices, phones, iPads, games - Have conversation

The temporary assignment doesn't minimize the assignment, it emphasizes the important of the time you have with them. It's important that we get the priority right.

One of the most important things you can do for your family's future is get the priorities right today.