

(Proverbs 17:6) NLT
“How Faith Shapes A Family”

~ INTRO ~

- Mother’s Day brings joy for many...
 - But for others it brings grief / regret / & disappointment.

TODAY...

- I want us to recognize how much faith shapes our families.

IDEA #1 – FAITH IN THE HOME MATTERS:

IN (2 Chron. 12:14) Solomon’s son Rehoboam began to reign at **41-yrs...**

- And the Bible mentions his mom in one sentence as an “*Ammonite.*”
 - A woman who didn’t have relationship with the God of Israel.

THIS REMINDS US...

- That spiritual influence within our homes matters!
 - Rehoboam grew up around divided spiritual influences...
 - (Mom went this way & Dad leaned that way).
 - AND Rehoboam eventually chose to reject the Lord.

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- “*Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged;*
 - *parents are the pride of their children.*”

THIS DESCRIBES...

- An ideal pattern of wisdom BUT it’s NOT a guarantee.
- Some faithful parents will experience the rebellion of a child.
 - AND some children grow up without honorable parents.

BASIC PRINCIPLES:

#1) **Grandparents**

- Spiritually invest in grandchildren.
 - Because *our influence matters* greatly.
- Our legacy **MUST** be more than money...
 - It’s faith / character / and wisdom passed onto our grandkids.

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#2) Parents

- Live in a way your children can honor.
 - Because kids learn more from our example...
 - Then they do from our instruction.

#3) Children

- Honor your parents...
 - By being grateful for the blessings they’ve given you...
 - And the sacrifices they’ve made for you.

(Eph 6:1-3) NLT...

- These truths need to be taught early in life.

MOM / DAD / LADIES / GENTLEMAN...

- Our first order in this world is to know Jesus personally.
- And out of that relationship...
 - God makes blessings flow to the rest of our lives:

- 1) **Power** – From God’s Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- 2) **Purpose** – God gives direction for our lives (Jer. 29:11)
- 3) **Praise** – Children bless / spouse praise (Prov. 31:28)

But maybe you’ve suffered a set-back in your family?!

IDEA #2 – ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE HEARTS:

(Gen. 3:20) NKJV

“Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”

- She was the first woman...
 - She was the first wife...
 - And she was the first Mom.

BUT REMEMBER... (Gen. 4:1-2)

- Adam & Eve had two boys early on... (Cain & Abel)
 - And the interesting thing...
 - Is one responded to God & the other rejected Him.

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- BUT... both came from the same environment.

THINK ABOUT IT...

- Jesus selected 12-disciples...
 - And gave them all the same care & instruction...
 - YET... Judas chose to be corrupted.

IDEA #3 – PARENTS INFLUENCE YOUR KIDS FOR GOOD:

(Proverbs 31:10-31) *Is an example of what godly influence looks like.*

- These are lessons a mom taught her son – (Bathsheba & Solomon).

BUT REMEMBER...

- This mom (Bathsheba) developed character...
 - By growing thru struggles / mistakes / & pain herself.
 - She learned what to aim for by wrestling things out.

IN (Proverbs 31)... she takes her past experiences...

- And uses them to explain the practical things...
 - Her son can benefit from.

(vv.10-12) **In marriage**

- She's faithful...
 - She's trustworthy.
 - The lesson: *Become a person with a good reputation*

(vv.13-24) **In behavior**

- She stays active & industrious (vv.13-17)
 - NOT self-indulgent & wasting time!
 - She's compassionate & giving (vv.19-20).
 - She's put care into her appearance... (v.22)
 - She makes her husband look good. (vv.21 & 23)
 - The lesson: *Become a person with healthy habits*

(vv.25-27) **In character**

- She's consistent...
 - She's honorable...
 - She holds to high standards...
 - And she's NOT lazy OR filled with excuses.

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- The lesson: *Become a person with character*

(vv.28-29) **In family life**

- Speaks of excellence.
 - Her kids & husband celebrate her because of whom she is.
 - The lesson: *Become someone who invests in what matters*

(vv.30-31) **In spiritual life**

- Our society is caught up on external features...
 - But this woman is greater than her skin.
 - In time she knows her hair will turn gray...
 - And her skin will wrinkle...
 - So she recognizes her worth is from God...
 - Which can never be stripped from her!

The lesson: *Be a person that balances the eternal over the temporal*

~ IN CLOSING ~

The hope of the gospel is not that perfect families save us.

- The hope of the gospel is that Jesus redeems sinners...
 - He restores broken people...
 - And He changes hearts that parents can't.