

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 57 (#912237)
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 57 – Parents Instruct Your Children In The Ways Of
The Lord**

TUESDAY

OPEN

When God gives you a child, he gives you the privilege of shaping the destiny of that child, of growing that child up, of maturing that child, of nurturing that child, teaching and disciplining that child. That child is the future of your nation. That child is the next generation and if you can grasp God’s precepts of life for you now, you can know this, that you can live on. Your legacy can continue through your child.

PART ONE

When Jesus stopped the disciples when they were trying to stop the children from coming to him, and he said, “...Suffer, [permit] **the little children to come [to] me..., for...such is the kingdom of [heaven].**” (Mark 10:14, KJV) What he did was he took children and he put them in a whole new

class, because apart from Judaism and apart from Christianity, you had a Roman Empire that had very little use for children. As a matter of fact in that time, infanticide was a very common practice. Kids were cheap and especially if you were a girl. When I picked up the book “Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization”. I got an eye opener into literally the impact that the precepts of God had upon that culture. Women introduced a whole new level because they were living according to the precepts of God. They used to look at children as simply a means of making a sacrifice to god. As a matter of fact the Carthaginians would go and if they didn’t have a child to sacrifice they would go to the poor, and they would buy a child from a poor family. And they would take that child and they would sacrifice that child to their gods. This is the value of children in those days. It became so bad that women usually only allowed one girl to live in the family. And so there became a shortage of women. The culture was anti-family. The culture was anti-marriage. The culture was anti-women. The culture was anti-children. And so when you come to the Word of God, what you see is you see the contrast between the thoughts of man and what God had to say. Remember what we saw in Ephesians chapter 3, it said that “**...every family in heaven and...earth derives its name**” from God. **(Ephesians 3:15b)** So when you look at God the Father, when you look at God the Son, when you look at God the Holy Spirit, what you do is you see God’s family and you find a pattern by which we are to pattern our lives and our homes and our families. So God not only speaks to the husband and the wife but he speaks to the children and he speaks also to the parents. Let’s look at it, Ephesians chapter 6 verse 1. “**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and [your] mother (which is the first commandment with promise),**” so that it may be well with you, **...that you may live long [up]on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:1-3)** Well when you go back to the Ten Commandments, when you go back to Exodus chapter 20 verse 12, I want you see what God says. Exodus chapter

20 verse 12. Now remember these were the commandments, these were the statutes, these were the regulations by which they were to live as they left Egypt and moved into the Promised Land. In Exodus chapter 20 in verse 12 it says this, **“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord...God gives you.” (Exodus 20:12)** If you were going to go on and you were going to study what he says in that law, you would find that if a parent had a rebellious son, a son that would not submit, a son that would not honor them, a son that would not obey them, they were to put that son to death. Why? Because they were forming the next generation. Remember he is the God of Abraham and Isaac, the son of Abraham and Jacob the son of Isaac and the 12 tribes of Israel. Remember there was a family of David, there was a genealogy that was going on and you and I are raising the next generation. So his word is first, to the children. And he wants the children to obey the parents. What I shared with you in our last lesson was that the word “obey” is a very unusual word here. It’s not the word be subject to one another. It is the word that involves listening. You know so many times kids do not want to listen to their parents especially as they get to be teenagers. And they think that they know it all and they think that their parents don’t know a thing. I don’t know how they thought their parents got to that stage in life and how the father was able to provide a living and provide a house and the mother was able to raise the kids and keep the home and do all of that. I don’t know how and why the kids missed this. But many times they do not want to listen. They think that they know it all. But he’s telling children, [“Listen, you are to obey your parents and if you will then I’m telling you that this is a commandment that comes with a promise.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:2) This has a benefit in this life. Now he goes on and he reaffirms this commandment in Deuteronomy chapter 5. In Deuteronomy chapter 5 verse 16 he quotes that commandment again. And then after quoting that commandment again in Deuteronomy chapter 5 we move to Deuteronomy chapter 6. And when we got to

Deuteronomy chapter 6 we find him turning from the children to turning to the parents. And he gives this instruction and since we’re here I want us to read it. It says, **“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you....” (Deuteronomy 6:1a)** He’s just reiterated to them the Ten Commandments, he has just reiterated to them that the children are to honor their father and mother [“...that it may be well with them on the earth.”] (PARAPHRASE, Deuteronomy 5:16) And he says I am teaching you these **“...that you might do them in the land in which you are going over to possess..., so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all [of] His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.” (Deuteronomy 6:1b-2)** So as we see this admonition to children, “Now listen, this is what I want you to do. I want you to listen to your parents. I want you to honor your parents. I want you to do what they tell you.” He also then shifts from the parents to the fathers and he tells the fathers that they are responsible to bring these children up in the nurture and in the admonition of the Lord. You see this legacy of truth that is to be passed from one generation to the next generation to the next generation. So as you raise your children one of the things that you need to teach them are these verses. You need to teach ‘em Ephesians 6:1. You need to have ‘em memorize that verse. And they need to know why they’re memorizing that verse. But then as you teach them when they get older then they’re going to reproduce themselves in teaching their children. Dorie Van Stone is on our staff and Dorie was raised in an orphanage, she was an abandoned child. She was abused in the orphanage; she was sexually abused for a great portion of her young life. But someone came to the orphanage and brought the Gospel and Dorie heard that Gospel and she believed and she embraced it. Dorie determined that she was going to give her son and her daughter a proper upbringing, a biblical upbringing. She was married to a godly man, she’s a

widow now but she was married to this godly, godly man. And they determined that they were going to have a godly home and they were going to leave a godly legacy. They went to the mission field. They were the first ones to go into a certain tribe and it was an exciting, exciting ministry. But they were having problems with their little boy and they put the priorities on their son and on their daughter and they came home. She and Lloyd, brought up their son and daughter in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They taught them God’s precepts for life. Well the daughter had children and the daughter in turn sent those children to Precept Ministries and they would learn how to study the Bible inductively. We have a student ministry and in that student ministry the kids come and they study the Bible about six hours a day. And they love it. And they learn and we’re always having to turn people away because it’s such a popular, popular summer camp. Anyway, Dorie’s grandchildren came to Boot Camp. And as they came to Boot Camp they learned to study the Word of God. Well just recently Dorie was at home and she was visiting with her grandchild and her great grandchild. And she watched in the morning and the little girl got out her Bible and she began to mark. She had her coloring pencils, she had a little journal where she would write her prayers and talk to God and tell God what was on her heart. And as Dorie questioned her she said, “I want you to know that I love you and I thank you so much for teaching my mommy how to study the Bible and my grandmommy for how to study the Bible and I want to study the Bible too. I want to be just like my mommy and just like my grandmommy.” It’s so important, Beloved, that you and I realize we’re raising the next generation. This is our legacy, how are you doing? In you say, “How am I doing? And what am I going to do?” We’ll talk about it in just a moment.

PART TWO

In the epistle to the Ephesians just before he comes to his final subject which is spiritual warfare, Paul gives one line of admonition or exhortation to the fathers. And oh how well it would be if fathers would at least memorize this verse and understand what it means. Because really, what he’s doing is he’s placing the responsibility of child rearing on the head of the family. And he’s saying, **“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and in the instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)** In other words, it is so easy for a parent to frustrate a child unless he knows how to love that child and to instruct that child and to bring that child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Before we look at **“...do not provoke your children to anger...,”** as we look at the contrast **“...but bring them up [in the nurture or] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,”** I want us to look at those two words. Now those two words are given to you in the Greek in your study guide that you can download on the book of Ephesians. You just go to our website, [“Preceptsforlife.com”](http://Preceptsforlife.com) and you’re gonna discover that and you’re gonna discover how you can listen to us on the internet, all sorts of wonderful things that we have at Precept Ministries International to help you grow. Well when he says **“discipline”** the word for **“discipline”** is **“paideia”** and it’s the sum total of child rearing. In other words as he says in Deuteronomy chapter 6 the fathers are to teach their sons and their grandsons the Word of God. They are to teach them the character of God. In Deuteronomy 6 is where you find the shema the montra of Judaism **“Hear, O Israel [the Lord our God is one]!” (Deuteronomy 6:4)** And as you look at that passage you see the duty of the fathers to the children. And nowadays fathers are so busy and so involved in so many things that they rarely spend time with their children. And yet, can you imagine what it would be for a father to sit down and to raise his son, to raise his daughter. It says, **“...bring them up in the discipline...,”**

(Ephesians 6:4b) and the word discipline, “paideia”, in the sum total of child rearing, it means to give them instruction by way of action. It’s not that you just sit there like a dictator but rather you get up and you show them how. If you want them to mow the yard you just don’t send them out to mow the yard. You go out and you mow the yard with them. And you show them how they trim and which way they cut the grass. So many times fathers just expect their kids to automatically know. But “paideia” is instruction by way of action. And when a father and a son or a father and a daughter do something together jointly, that child is going to remember it, especially if the father does it in such a way as not to provoke that child to anger. Well he goes on to say, “**...in the...instruction of the Lord.**” (Ephesians 6:4c) Now, the word “instruction” is “nouthesia”, and it’s “n-o-u-t-h-e-s-i-a”. And it means to put in mind. It means to admonish, it’s used in Acts 20 verse 31 of encouraging. And so when you come and you begin to raise your child, you’re to do it with instruction. You’re to give them sayings. I wish that I had thought of a number of truths that I wanted my kids to remember and that I had written them down and that I would repeat them to them, not in a nagging way, but in an encouraging way. You often hear kids say, “My father always told me that, my mother always said that, and I can’t forget it.” And so you want to put in mind truth. You want to put in mind proper behavior. You want to put in mind wise sayings. One of the things that I would have done if I could do it again, because I started raising my kids without knowing Jesus Christ, and so I would like to write a book on hindsight for insight so that people could see what they could do better than I did. So it’s good for you to have wisdom that you want to put in to your child. And one of the things that I would have done is I would have said, “I want you to in this house the law of kindness is going to be on our tongue. We’re not going to make fun of people. We’re not going to talk about their shortcomings in this house.” Because that way I would teach ‘em to honor people. I would do a number of things like this. You need to sit down and

decide what kind of a child do you want. What kind of a legacy do you want to leave them? Because they’re like a soft lump of clay. And you can mold them and you can shape them. Yes! Each one has a different personality. All three of my sons have different personalities and yet there’s certain things that they have in common, one is they love to tell stories. They love to talk and they love to laugh and I mean at Thanksgiving dinner my grandson was laughing so hard that he was just doubled over, he could hardly stand it, I mean this happens at every meal. No meal is dignified in my house except the table setting. But we have a great time. But what do you want to raise? Now listen, some kids are going to be stubborn, some kids are going to be hard to mold and to shape and some kids are going to come under the influence of the culture. And you’re going to have a battle. Some children are born with an alcoholic fetal syndrome and those children that are adopted are hard to raise and you’re going to go through difficulties but you need to know that as a parent that you did the very best that you could do. So what does he say? You “**...bring them up in the discipline...**,” in the child training and the verbal instruction in the Lord. Now that’s all he says in this passage except for one other thing that is absolutely crucial “**...provoke not your children to [anger]...**” (Ephesians 6:4, KJV) You know what I did last night? Mia and Costel who are Eurasian directors, come home and they were day and night overseas. It’s incredible what God is doing in Eurasia under these two people, but they get very, very tired. And so we always take ‘em out to dinner when they come home and then we spend the evening together. Well they love to watch a good movie. So last night we had them, we noticed that Dorie’s light was on. We called Dorie, she was in her pajama in a robe and she came up to the house and we sat and we watched a movie. It’s called “October Sky”. And there you will see played out before your eyes in this true story a father-son relationship, where the father provoked the son to anger. It’s a good living illustration. You need to know that when you provoke them to anger all of a sudden you’re butting heads

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and that’s not what you want to do. You want to learn to know your children. You want to be able to instruct them in such a way that you motivate them rather than provoking them to anger. You set the course. You be the parent. And you change the society. These are God’s precepts for life for you today as a child as a parent.