



No Expiration: God's Timeless Plan for Love, Sex, and Family  
***Raising Godly Kids in a Rough World***  
Ephesians 2:1-10; Hebrews 12:11-13 | October 4th - 10th, 2015

**Warm Up:** Briefly share the style of parenting your folks used in raising you. What were the pros and cons of this style? (See the 6 dysfunctional parenting styles to avoid on p. 2)

- ❖ In our culture the pressure for kids to perform can be intense. We want what is best for our kids, yet this desire can easily slip into wanting our kids to *be the best.* Additionally, the world's influence is powerful and we must be careful not to outsource our parenting at every turn!
  - How often do you see these two factors - perfectionism or outsourcing - taking place today? Give some cultural examples.
  - If you're a parent, in what ways can you personally fall into these tendencies?
- ❖ What is your goal as parents in raising godly kids? How common is it for you and your spouse to discuss a plan of action that will help you reach this goal? Explain.
- ❖ On airplanes, parents are always told to put on their oxygen masks first in the event of a crash landing. This way the adult will be alert and available to help with her young ones. It was said on Sunday that we must first put on the "oxygen mask" of our own godliness as a prerequisite to raising godly kids. What does this mean?
  - How well do you feel you are living this out in your own life and family? Where specifically do you feel the greatest burden to improve?
- ❖ Barrett Johnson asks, "Do you teach your kids 'be good because the Bible tells you to' or do you teach your kids that they will never be good without Christ's offer of grace?"
  - Why is this distinction so important in our own lives and in our role of raising kids?
- ❖ Slowly read **Ephesians 2:1-10** aloud. Note our condition prior to conversion, God's role in our conversion, and our new identity in Jesus Christ. Why is it so important to know who we are in Christ? How should the whole picture of the gospel affect the way we raise kids?

**Wrap Up:** Read **Hebrews 12:11-13**. Why should a parent discipline a child? What should the "heart" of a parent be in discipline? How does this differ from the world's view of discipline? Close your time in prayer for the families of The Shoreline that they would be beacons of light to this community!

## There are No Perfect Parents

### ❖ 6 Dysfunctional Parenting Styles to Avoid:

1. The Double-Minded Parent
2. The I-Can't-Say-No Parent
3. The Driver Parent
4. The Micro Managing Parent
5. The Criticizing Parent
6. The Absentee Parent<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from *Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family* by Michelle Anthony. Additional Recommended Books: *Point Man* by Stu Webber, *How to Raise a Pagan Kid in a Christian Home* by Barrett Johnson