



No Expiration: God's Timeless Plan for Love, Sex, and Family

Why Family?

Deuteronomy 4:1-4; 6:4-6 | September 27th - October 3rd, 2015

Warm Up: Families are the essential building blocks of human society and so paying attention to how the Bible envisions family is crucially important. Briefly discuss the statement Pastor Seth made on Sunday that, "Nothing shapes a person more than his or her family (for better or worse)" Do you agree? Explain.

❖ The importance of family is seen in many places throughout Scripture. Consider just four points: 1. Family is to look after and care for one another (**Gen. 4:9**). 2. Family is often used by God to bring people to salvation (**Gen. 6:18; Acts 16:11-15, 31-33**). 3. Family is upheld in both the Old and New Testaments (**Ex. 20:12, 14; Eph. 5:22-33; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21**) and 4. How we "do family" influences many generations! (**Ex. 20:4-6; 2 Tim 1:5**)

- When you think about your family tree are you most likely to consider all the people who have gone before you? Or, do you tend to imagine yourself at the *top* of that family tree with branches beneath you? **Read Ex. 20:4-6 and 2 Tim. 1:5** aloud. How do these verses comfort, challenge, or inspire you as you consider your life legacy.

❖ Three simple ideas were shared on Sunday for how we can better carry out discipleship within our homes: 1. Track with God's commands (Deut. 4:1, 2). 2. Tell stories of past and present experiences with God (Deut. 4:3,4) and 3. Talk to the Lord and about the Lord often (Deut. 6:4-7). Discuss these three biblical principles. Which is most difficult for you?

- Do you have any personal experience with these, either from your upbringing or what you're seeking to model in your home?
- Which practice resonates most deeply with you? How could you pursue this more?

❖ With all the blessing that family can be, its certainly not without major challenges. We were left on Sunday with three encouragements: 1. Be encouraged by the Lord's unfailing love. 2. Identify where you've blown it and start new. 3. Refuse to outsource the development of your family. Which encouragement do you most need right now?

Wrap Up: If you could identify 2 things you want God to do in your family, what would they be? It could be a long-term desire to see your kids walk faithfully with God or something more pressing and immediate. Whatever the case, share openly and take some time to pray for one another, trusting in the Lord's amazing grace and unfailing love.