

**Family Foundation Stones**  
**...in building a relationship with God**

**Intro. Children can say the funniest things. After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided I want to become a preacher when grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "Since I have to go to church on Sunday anyway; and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."**

**No matter what vocation our children choose to pursue, I believe, all of us would want them to serve God no matter what they end up doing. And that means, that from the beginning we instill within them spiritual principles that will shape their development and govern their attitudes toward God and others.**

**Today let's think about six foundation stones, we need to build into every child's life to help ensure a future faithful life.**

**First we need to lay the foundation stone of:**

**The supreme value of knowing God**

***Our children must know from the beginning of their lives, the supreme importance of knowing.***

***Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!<sup>5</sup> "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4-9)***

***First they simply need to know that they are God's creation and that they have value as God's creation.***

***They need to know that God has revealed Himself in history through His word and deeds; and that they can know about God through those things. They need to know not only that God exists, but through the stories of Scripture learn to understand what He is like.***

***They must relate their own life to God, knowing that we all depend upon God for everything and are thankful to Him for everything that we have and are.***

**An understanding of their accountability or responsibility to God**

***No principle is more important than the realization that we are accountable to God and responsible for our actions. Our children must learn this early in life. It is:***

**Presumed in creation**

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17)*

A lot of the problems in our world can be traced in a fundamental lack of responsibility in people. The belief that we are free to do what we want, when we want, and that nobody has a right to challenge, restrict or hinder us is thoroughly atheistic. If we nothing more than animals, then responsibility makes no sense. But if we are the creation of God then the world has rules of order that all must respect. Our sense responsibility grows out of our sense of accountability.

Confirmed in judgment

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)*

***Our accountability to Him makes us also accountable to others as well.***

Parents are agents of God's accountability

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Eph. 6:1)*

Civil government is an agent of God's accountability

*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Rom. 13:1)*

***True maturity is the ability to recognize our responsibility to God and others rather than living for ourselves, and without regard to how our actions effect other people.***

**A real sense of dependence upon God**

***Our children need to see from the earliest age that we belong to God and that we depend upon Him for everything.***

When needs are there, we need to look to the Lord to provide them.

*'Give us this day our daily bread. (Mt. 6:11)*

We show this not only by giving thanks, but also discussing in the home that we look to him to provide for us.

When decisions are made we need to look to the Lord to give us wisdom.

*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

*(Jas. 1:5)*

When problems are encountered we need to look to the Lord to give us comfort and strength.

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. (1 Pet. 5:6-7)*

***If our children can learn dependence upon God, they will enjoy great blessings from God.***

We may hinder the blessing of our children by neglecting to teach them to pray.

*You do not have because you do not ask. (Jas. 4:2b)*

On the other hand, by urging them to be dependent upon God, we have taught them one of the essential features of spirituality that will aid them throughout life.

*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (Jas. 5:16b)*

### **A attitude of stewardship toward God's blessings**

***It is not only important that children understand their accountability to God's law, they should also come to understand the stewardship we have from God. It affects how we view our world.***

We are stewards over the creation.

*And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28)*

Dominion or rule is not arbitrary authority over the world to do with it as we please, but to cooperate with nature in letting it fulfill its created purpose for the good of man. It raises issues of ecology and protection of what God has created rather than selfish abuse.

We are stewards of our minds & bodies.

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)*

We are stewards of our time.

*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:15-16)*

We are stewards of our possessions (money)

*"For to everyone who has shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (Mt. 25:29)*

***If everything belonged to us, we could do with it what we pleased and it would not matter. But if everything belongs to God, then I am answerable to Him for how I use it. Poor stewardship is more than a trivial case of mismanagement of what belongs to me; instead it undermines the relationship I have with God as Creator of all things.***

### **A attitude of integrity with God**

***Integrity is not a Bible word, but it surely reflects a Bible concept. Integrity is first honesty with God. The removal of hypocrisy or pretense, learning to be who you are whether anyone is looking or not.***

*Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, (1 Pet. 2:1)*

***Integrity is the realization that our life is an open book to God. Just as the Hebrew writer said:***

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Heb. 4:13)*

**Conclusion: These principles are of utmost importance in shaping the character of our children. Not only is it important that we teach these things by our words, but demonstrate them by our lives.**

**They will make a great difference in their ultimate success in life and most importantly, their salvation at the judgment.**