



**GOD'S DESIGN FOR
THE FAMILY**
"Homeland Security Part 1"
Joshua 23-24
Oct. 6, 2013 A.M. Worship

**1. We Must Be Committed to Instill Godly Traits in
Our Children**

- Instill _____ in Your Children
- Instill _____ in Your Children
- Instill Character in Your Children
- Instill _____ in Your Children
- Instill Competence in Your Children
- Instill _____ for the _____ in Your Children

**2. _____ Parents Must Be Committed to
Take a Stand for Their Family**

**3. The _____ Must Be Committed to Take
a Stand for Future Generations**

Our Response:

1. The only way to have a love that will last a lifetime and a great marriage is to love the Lord Jesus first. Do you have that personal relationship with Him? If not, then why not do that today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord (the Boss).
2. In order for you to grow, you need to be plugged in to a church. If you do not have a church home, and God has called you to be a part of **Petal FBC**, then step across the line today and join! We need you and you need us!
3. Do we have a plan for parenting our children to become godly men and women in the future. Take time this week to talk with your spouse about a plan to be certain that you are instilling these traits in each of your children. Maybe one area you are doing really well in – Circle that One – Maybe one area is really weak – put a box around that one and find specific ways you can work on that area.
 - ✓ Confidence
 - ✓ Conviction
 - ✓ Character
 - ✓ Compassion
 - ✓ Competence
 - ✓ Care (Love) for the Church
4. Both parents must be willing to take the time to instill these traits in your children. This is a must! Dad how are you doing? Are you leaving it all to mom? Mom how are you doing in these areas? How are you doing together?
5. As a Church, we must make a firm stand and commitment will not allow Satan to capture the hearts and minds of one more generation! We must also make a deep commitment with our Time, Resources, Budget, Staffing, etc. to make certain that we reach every generation, but in particular this Millennial Generation!

MAKING FAMILIES WORK: FAMILY FIRST

“Homeland Security Part 1”

Joshua 23-24

October 6, 2013 AM Service

Homeland Security, a brand new department created after 9/11

To make the connection, we need more than ever that the most important homeland to be secured permanently!! They are holes in the wall, enemies lurking about that are intent on destroying your family and mine.

We will spend these next 3 Sunday mornings looking at how we can protect and provide for our homes to the godly homes He wants them to be.

By the way, we will bring to a close to this emphasis with a HUGE and very important Sunday – **Resolution Sunday on Sunday, October 27th**

This is a BIG DEAL!!

This morning our focus is [Joshua 24: 14-15](#)

Review [Chapter 23 & 24](#) to give context

These verses left no room for neutrality, because Joshua knew that if the Israelites did not choose for God, they were against Him.

1. We Must Be Committed to Instill Godly Traits in Our Children

▪ **Instill Confidence in Your Children**

To confident (not cocky or arrogant) in who they are in our families and especially who they are in Jesus! Phil 4:13

Remember who you are and remember most importantly whose you are!!

Let them know they are exactly who God created them to be, that you love them and God loves them just the way they are.

One key is expressing your confidence in them to do the right thing and make good sound choices.

One of the most damaging things to the home today and in particular teenagers is the low expectations set for them that simply communicates a complete lack of confidence in their ability to exercise any self-control.

Expect the best out of them.

▪ **Instill Conviction in Your Children**

Most Americans today do not believe in absolute truth!. Sadly this includes many people filling the pews of our churches today.

The old saying is true, if you don't believe in anything you fall for everything. The pressure on our generation is to be determined to not stand for anything so you won't be labeled intolerant.

But by its very nature truth is intolerant!! Not of people but what is false, that which is not true and right

Truth comes through Jesus, Jesus is the truth, He said so Himself
We must help our children know what they believe and even more importantly why they believe and to encourage them to stand on those convictions no matter what.

Some would say wait until your kids are older to discuss such heavy issues as truth. Let's be frank, you can't start early enough!

ILLUS: Gay rights agenda, in our schools, why? If you teach it to them when they are young, it will be a part of them

Satan will not wait until your children are teenagers to start deceiving them, he will pour lies into their minds as soon as he can
We need to indoctrinate our children, sounds scary, but simply means we teach them doctrine. We teach them thus says the Word of God. Teach them clearly what the Bible says and how that is to be lived out in our lives. These truths need to be instilled into our kids until they become settled convictions and truth instilled becomes truth lived out. We need to answer their questions and be teaching them not expecting somebody else to do it or just hope that they figure it out on their own, they will but most likely from the wrong source. We should want our children to grow up with firm convictions that are grounded in the Word of God, not simply our opinions or our preferences.

- **Instill Character in Your Children**

One product of deep-seated convictions is solid character. Truth transforms character. We as parents have to come to grips with the fact that if all we do is give our kids rules without building convictions in them, what we get is outward conformity with no inward character, which last as long as the kids are under our authority. Do it because I said so, I'm the parent doesn't work in

the long run if we don't back it with the reasons why some things are wrong and some are right.

ILLUS: kids going to college, moving out of parents homes

Big emphasis on character and being nice, truthful, respectful, etc. All that should be learned in the home and even more this character traits are simply nothing more than teaching our children to be like Jesus. One way the Church undergirds this effort is that they learn character traits each and every month. They just finished with courage and this month is on honor. Let me show you what this looks like in my house, not the way everybody does it or needs to do it, but I encourage you to at least do something. Whether before school, after school, at night before they go to bed, do something of spiritual value with them each and every day.

And by the way, the greatest teacher of character is allowing our kids to see in us that what we say to them and teach is backed up by the way that we live each and every day.

- **Instill Compassion in Your Children**

Our kids need to learn to have compassion, not pity for people, to look down on people, but truly care for them and have a compassionate heart as the Good Samaritan did in the Bible.

Compassionate parents produce compassionate children.

You have to teach them, take them out with you to serve others who have less than you do, or take them to the coast to help those whose lives have been destroyed, etc.

Provide ways for them to do just that and our Church needs to help provide avenues for this to take place!

ILLUS: Dad and homeless man / William and NYC

- **Instill Competence in Your Children**

Teach them lifeskills, how to change a flat, how to spend their money wisely, teaching them about tithing, teaching them every day ordinary things, doing chores, whatever. Teaching them to do things with excellence.

Not just ordinary things, but teaching them about their spiritual gifts and abilities God has given them and He has shaped them to serve the Lord in amazing and incredible ways!

Again, parents, they can only go as far as we have in our walk.

- **Instill Care & Love for the Church in Your Children**

I want my sons to know I love the church, not because it is my job, or because I have to, but simply because it what Jesus loved the most, it's what He came to die for and what is coming back to get, the bride the church.

We have talked long and hard about your responsibility as a parent to raise your child, but you are not called to do that alone. The church must play vital role in your child's life. You cannot do it alone, you can't tell them all the stories, songs, scriptures, etc. You can't be their youth minister, someone else to talk to. You cannot replace the value and the importance of the church in your child's life nor yours! But beware, they will learn the value and importance of church from you. If church is an option for your family, when there is time, when it convenient, when nothing else gets in the way, then most likely there will be a preacher someday trying to get them back into church.

Research backs it up that children who are involved in church by in large are less likely to be involved in at risk behaviors. There is more to it than this, but time will not permit.

My prayer is that you will teach your children that Jesus comes first and the church right behind it and it takes precedent and priority over other things.

2. Both Parents Must Be Committed to Take a Stand for Their Family

It takes the commitment of both parents, not just one or other. It takes the huge investment of time and energy from both you to see your children become all that God wants them to be and you want them to be. As we know, we can't microwave our children into adults, we must do on slow cook!

You children need you and want you there, even if they say they don't their action express they don't, they do!!

There is no better person or any substitute that can take the place of you in their everyday lives!

3. The Church Must Be Committed to Take a Stand for Future Generations

Church, we have a huge role to play to, maybe your kids are grown and out of the house, maybe you have grandchildren or great grandchildren, well you have a responsibility to them and to this church that our church says, we won't just preach family is important, we will talk about why it's important and try and help equip parents on how to do just that. And teach these children and teenagers, and preschoolers about the love of Jesus every week, and when they see us in the community we are the same person they see on Sundays.

- ✓ **Builder Generation** – (Born Before 1946) – 65%
- ✓ **Baby Boomer Generation** (Born between 1946 – 1964) – 35%
Ages (49- 67) 76 Million – was the largest generation
- ✓ **Generation X** (Born between 1965-1979) – 22%-24% (Ages 34-48)
- ✓ **Millennial Generation** (Born between 1980-2000) – 15% (Ages 13 – 33) At 80 million it is the largest generation
Most Educated Ever / Marrying Later if at all / Diversity - Important
Insight – 60% said Family was most important to them

So what does that mean – discouraging – oh yes, frightening in many ways, yet also to note this generation is more open to spiritual things than ever before too – now let me clarify – fine if you believe that, just don't expect me to believe it.

Church is means there is an all assault on these younger generations and we must be a part of turning that tide! How do we do that? Part of our focus must be on these unreached generations and on this generation that is emerging now – can you imagine what the percentage will be for them if things do not change. We must allocate and direct our energies, time, resources and efforts towards these generation, especially to the 18 and below because of the stark reminder that as high as 90% if not reached by the time they graduate it is too late!

It's why we are doing things like this family series and will dictate other things that we do in the future. It will be something our Vision 20/20 Team will be looking at in the coming months to help give us Vision, Clarity, Direction and Purpose as we move ahead.

I for one don't want to see us lose another generation! It must stop!

And the first place it's starts by the way is in your home! We need some Joshua's and Joshua wives to say, Let's draw a line in the sand today and

clearly say, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!!, and if you have not made that choice yet, many of you have made that choice over this last month and I applaud you, and want to encourage you to keep on, but if you have not, I encourage you to do that today!

Our Response:

- Would you today make a fresh commitment to the Lord and to your family that as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord?
- Both parents, be willing to take the time to instill these traits in your children
- As a church, we will not allow Satan to capture the hearts and minds of one more generation.