

# Teach Your Children that You Love Each Other

Ephesians 5:22-33

PROPOSITION: Since God set up procreation in the context of husband and wife, it follows that this is the framework for children's obtaining what they need for becoming well-developed persons.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. All of humanity was structured by God on the fundamental building block of the marital relationship (cf. Gen. 1:27; 2:24; 1:28).
2. One of the God-ordained purposes of the marriage relationship is to provide an appropriate context in which human beings may be nurtured and developed.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. How Parents Teach**

- A. The overt expression of their love for each other in the presence of their children
- B. Note the sequential fashion in the interplay of loving behavior between a husband and wife:
  1. First, Christians are called to imitate God as children (Eph. 5:1).
  2. Next, love between husbands and wives is noted (Eph. 5:22-33).
  3. Finally, children are told of the necessity to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3).
- C. Each partner plays a role in creating an atmosphere of love and support.
- D. Five-step plan for creating such an atmosphere:
  1. Apply a meaningful touch.
  2. Speak a word.
  3. Express high value.
  4. Picture a special future.
  5. Make an active commitment.

### **II. How Children Learn**

- A. They are great imitators (cf. Ezek. 16:44).
- B. Education comes from the experience of interacting with one's environment.
- C. If the world is able to know the Lord's disciples because of their love for each other, then children are able to learn about Christ by seeing the love of their parents for each other (cf. John 13:35).
- D. Children have the opportunity to know God's love as it is perfected in the love their parents have for each other (cf. 1 John 4:11, 12).
- E. Parents need to love each other in ways that the child can *see*.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. When God tells of the "excellent wife," He speaks of the loving behavior of a wife toward her husband that is visible to her children (Prov. 31:10, 12, 26).
2. Likewise, the children observe their father "praise her" (Prov. 31:28; cf. Eph. 5:28, 29).