

Sermon Discussion Guide, May 9, 2010, Dr. Rod MacIlvaine
“Courageous Parents in a Pluralistic Culture”

Ephesians 6:4

1. How is childhood different today than when you were a child? How is the postmodern culture influencing children in negative ways? What factors have made this generation so at risk? What responsibility does the church have in regard to children and parents?
2. Read Ephesians 6:4. What is the negative aspect found in this command? How do parents provoke children to anger in this culture? What brings about this kind of wrong parenting? What is the difference between reactive parenting and responsive parenting? What kind of authority do parents really have according to Genesis 1:26-27?
3. Define the word “worldview.” What basic questions do all worldviews attempt to answer about life? Why should parents shape a child’s worldview? What is the danger if a parent doesn’t shape the child’s worldview?
4. Reread Ephesians 6:4. What is the positive aspect to this command? What do the two phrases *bring them up* and *of the Lord* imply about the role of parents? Based on these two scriptural phrases, what should be a parent’s worldview as teacher and learner? Are the terms “discipline” and “instruction” positive or negative terms? Why or why not?
5. What must Christian parents know in order to shape their child’s worldview? On what will you base your answers when your children or grandchildren ask the hard questions?
6. For parental practice, study these verses to see how scripture might answer a child’s questions about the Lord?

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:12

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 3:11

7. What is the danger of parenting on autopilot? What is required if you are going to parent in the context of intentionality?
8. What are you willing to sacrifice to create a culture in your home where a biblical worldview can flourish? Is there something in your family life that is influencing your children in a negative way? If so, when will you rid you home of such things? What new things will you implement in your parenting that will instill discipline and instruction?