

DIGDEEPER

April 24, 2016

Why the Family? by Dr. Richard Rogers
Ephesians 6:1-4 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

The family is a key part of God's plan to make disciples in the church. When the family functions properly, both parents and children are transformed and cultivated into followers of Christ who can make Jesus known in all stages of their life together. But the journey is not easy, and it requires much grace.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What are (or were) some of your favorite family traditions?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What makes it so hard to yield your will (submit) to someone else?
- In what way(s) has honoring your parents changed over the years?
- How has God used your family to make Jesus known? What are some ways he might want to use your family in the future?
- In what way(s) did your family not follow the pattern outlined by Paul? How has God used that dysfunction in your life?
- How are you growing in obedience to God as you hear, understand, and submit to him?

GO DEEPER

- Paul Tripp and Elyse Fitzpatrick discuss [how grace liberates your parenting](#). This is a must-watch for parents.
- Richard warned of the danger in elevating family to a place it does not belong. In this brief post, Jason Helopoulos gives [seven signs you might be worshiping your family](#).
- As a parent, you must strive with the end in mind. In the case of your children, the end is eternal. Stephen Witmer writes about [how to avoid misplacing your effort in parenting](#).
- Recommended books on parenting
 - [Family Driven Faith](#) by Voddie Baucham
 - [Shepherding a Child's Heart](#) by Tedd Tripp
 - [Making Children Mind without Losing Yours](#) by Kevin Leman
 - [Give Them Grace](#) by Elyse Fitzpatrick

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Pray intentionally for your children and/or your parents. Ask God to help you fulfill your responsibility to them as outlined in Ephesians 6. Plead with him to do the real work of changing hearts and drawing the people you love to himself in salvation.