

SHIPS

- **NOTE:** As long as we are on the earth, one thing we will have to navigate is RELATIONSHIPS – Family, Friends, Coworkers, Neighbors, Business Associates, Church, School, etc. Relationships are unavoidable. Unfortunately, we’re taught English, Math, Science, and Social Studies in school. But we’re not taught how to succeed at relationships. Consequently, we’re left to do what seems right to us based on what we’ve learned from our past. However, GOD HAS A BETTER WAY. And we are learning how to engage in relationSHIPS from a biblical perspective, helping us know which SHIPS to strengthen and which SHIPS to abandon.

Why this series is so important:

1. Humans need connection to thrive
 2. It’s not ok to succeed spiritually and fail relationally
- **QUOTE:** *The most important relationship anyone can develop is a relationship with God. But we cannot possibly have a good relationship with God while all our other relationships are shipwrecked*
 - **I John 4:20 NIV** - *Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister IS A LIAR. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.*

Week #2 – Parents and Children

Luke 1:17 NIV - *And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

- **Psalm 128:3-4 NCV** - *Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. That is the Lord’s blessing for those who fear him.*
- **SHIP POINT:** *The Blessing Includes Our Children Standing Strong and Solid in God’s Purpose*
- **Proverbs 31:1, 10, 28 NIV** - *The sayings of King Lemuel—an inspired utterance his mother taught him...10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies... 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her*
- A relationship where children stand up for their mother and speak well of her is a benefit of the blessing. Remember what we studied last month, though: The blessing will flow naturally toward the believer if it’s not blocked.
- The relationship between parent and child is more dynamic than any other. Roles change throughout the years and may ultimately become reversed. Many of us will spend some part of our life balanced between being both our parent’s child and our child’s parent. So, we’ll look at the different possible phases of this unique relationship:

Parents & Kids

Ephesians 6:1-3 ESV - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”*

- **QUOTE:** *When we train our children to obey, we prepare them for a life in step with God’s will.*
- **Deuteronomy 21:18-21 MSG** - *When a man has a stubborn son, a real rebel who won’t do a thing his mother and father tell him, and even though they discipline him he still won’t obey, his father and mother shall forcibly bring him before the leaders at the city gate and say to the city fathers, “This*

son of ours is a stubborn rebel; he won't listen to a thing we say. He's a glutton and a drunk." Then all the men of the town are to throw rocks at him until he's dead. You will have purged the evil pollution from among you. All Israel will hear what's happened and be in awe.

- There is a lesson in this verse – parents must teach children discipline so they can survive
- **Proverbs 13:24 ESV** - *Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*
- **QUOTE:** *Allowing a child to disobey without consequence is lazy, selfish & unloving*
- **Ephesians 6:4 KJV** - *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
- Children need both nurture & admonition. If they only get nurtured, they become spoiled brats. If they only get admonition, they become bitter & self-conscious.
- **QUOTE:** *Correction is an expression of a parent's love, but it shouldn't be their main love language*
- Children need more than rules and correction – they need affection, support, praise, rewards, and lots of quality time

Parents & Teens

Proverbs 22:6 AMP - *Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

- *Train (verb): teach a particular skill or type of behavior through practice and instruction over a period of time.*
- Training involves a balance of practice and instruction. Instruction is me telling you and showing you. Practice is when I let you test out what you've been taught.
- **QUOTE:** *Many parents are tempted to view adolescence as old childhood, when really it is early adulthood.*
- The goal during this phase of the relationship is to help them need you less and less.
- **SHIP POINT:** *Helicopter parenting is one of the chief forms of fear and fear will hinder the blessing.*
- *"Even when he is old, he will not depart from it" is the goal of parenting a teenager*
- **QUOTE:** *"The most common mistake (of parenting adolescents) is trying to still use childhood parenting techniques with teenagers" Dr. Ken Wilgus*
- Key scripture for this phase of the relationship:
- **Psalms 56:3 NIV** - *When I am afraid, I put my trust in you*

Parents & Adult Children

- **Proverbs 23:22 NLT** - *Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.*
- Even though we no longer owe obedience to our parents, we will always owe them honor
- **Grown** is when a child reaches legal age to make their own decisions. Parents must take a step back.
- **GROWN GROWN** is when that grown child can now fund their own life and their decisions don't have imminent consequence to their parents' wallet. Parents then become a source of wisdom and counsel IF the adult child needs them. If done right, they will still want their parents' insight as they make significant life decisions.