

The Imperative of Spousal Priority

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.
Genesis 2:24

- Jesus and Paul both quoted this instruction from the Old Testament. God values the importance of _____, especially since there were no _____ when the instruction was given.
- In society today, the biggest enemy of spousal priority is _____ families.

Spousal Priority...	Kidcentric Priority ...
... balances the needs of children with the needs of the family, especially the marriage relationship.	... focuses the most amount of resources on children.
... derives emotional satisfaction from the marriage relationship.	... derives the most emotional satisfaction from children.
... finds primary identity in being a Christ follower first, a spouse second, and a parent third.	... finds primary identity in accomplishments of their children.
... allows children to be children who develop progressively.	... pressures kids to be the best at the expense of learning responsibility.
... understands the rightful role of the parent.	... misunderstands the role of parent abdicating decision making to children.

CONSEQUENCES OF KID-CENTRIC HOMES

1. Greater likelihood of _____ in children
2. Increased _____ on parents
3. Increased _____ on family
4. Children lack a true sense of biblical _____
5. _____ from children
6. Decreased marital _____
7. Increased chance of _____ at empty nest stage

BENEFITS OF SPOUSAL PRIORITY

1. Creation of a _____ family identity
2. Opportunity to _____ the sins of the previous generation
3. Spouses more quickly develop _____ in one another
4. Children develop _____ and are more well-adjusted
5. Children observe the _____ model for healthy family dynamics
6. Deeper _____ develops between spouses
7. Parents are not as _____ impacted when children leave home

CHOICES THAT INSTILL SPOUSAL PRIORITY

1. Leave the _____
2. Make _____ together
3. Set clear _____ with extended family
4. Model and explain spousal _____
5. Model love for Christ and your glad _____ to Him