

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Chapter 1: It's a Matter of Identity.....	3
Chapter 2: The Calling Out of Sons.....	6
Chapter 3: A Father and His Daughter.....	11
Chapter 4: Equipped to Love.....	14
Chapter 5: In Search of Happiness.....	18
Chapter 6: Beware the Wolf.....	25
Chapter 7: The Spirit of Elijah.....	28
Chapter 8: Jurisdictional Leadership.....	31
Chapter 9: Leading With Vision.....	34
Chapter 10: Unshakable Faith.....	38
Chapter 11: Heart Maintenance.....	41

Introduction

What turns the heart of a father away from finding his identity in the world and turns it toward his wife and children? What turns the hearts of children away from their peers and the world toward their father? According to Malachi 4:4-6 it is the Spirit of Elijah sent from the Lord. In the midst of the disheartening moral decay in our country, God is doing a marvelous work -- He's turning the hearts of fathers toward their families and equipping them to minister to their wives and children, then He's turning the children's hearts toward their fathers. This prepares the next generation for the Lord. That's the purpose of Elijah Ministries and this series presented by Norm Wakefield. We're glad you've been led to this resource for building up men and their families. We hope and trust that God will use each message to deepen your relationship with God through Jesus Christ and equip you to lead your family to the same.

CHAPTER 1

It's a Matter of Identity

Identity Principles

1. A son primarily gets his identity from his father.
2. From whoever or whatever a man draws his identity, he acknowledges that him/her/it has the power to shape and control his life.

First, a son primarily gets his identity from his father.

1. This principle is illustrated in many ways in our world. Many cultures have traditional rites of manhood. For most of history, sons have taken up the same vocations as their fathers. Last names also typically are derived from one's father.
2. Most importantly, this principle is illustrated in the Bible. In the Bible, men were known by whom they were sons of:
 - A. Bartimeous
 - B. Simon bar Jonas
 - C. John and James, the sons of Zebedee
 - D. Long lists of geneologies
 - E. Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God
 - F. "Sons of God"

Second, from whoever or whatever a man draws his identity, he acknowledges that him/her/it has the power to shape and control his life.

1. This is illustrated also in many ways in our world.
 - A. When a youth wants to be identified with a gang or club, he gives the gang or club the power to shape his life.
 - B. When a young man wants to be identified with a young woman, he gives her the power to shape his life.
2. The Bible also bears the record of this principle.
 - A. The bar-mitzvah.
 - B. Identification with Christ.
 - C. Jesus' union and identity with His Father was the source of His power and ministry.
3. What does all this mean to us as men? Let's think about ourselves as sons of our fathers.
 1. Form groups of no more than four to a group.
 - A. Introduce yourself and your heritage as a son of your father who is a son of your grandfather, etc. For example, "My name is Norm Wakefield, the son of

John Wakefield, the son of Lee Otis Wakefield, the son of James Franklin Wakefield, and so on as far back as you can remember.”

- B. Share two outstanding characteristics about your father. If you had no father around, share about a man who had the most impact on you as a child.
- C. Share a pleasant memorable experience you had with your father.
- D. When you were a teen, what did the other young men in your junior high or high school determine to be qualities of a “real man”? You were a man when...

Summary

- A son primarily gets his identity from his father.
- The second part of the identity principle is that from whoever or whatever a man draws his identity, he acknowledges that him/her/it has the power to shape and control his life.
- To know and understand a man, get to know him as the son of his father.
- Most of us as sons acquired our ideas about manhood from watching our dads, the media, and from our peers - not from God’s word.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 2

The Calling Out of Sons

The Calling Out of Sons: Part 1

Introduction

1. The "Calling Out of Sons" is based upon the gospel of the kingdom of God. Eph. 1:13
2. Our culture has nothing to help us understand "calling out."

If a father doesn't "call out" his son, there are serious consequences to the son, the church, the community, and the nation.

1. A son may develop an attitude that says: I am to be comfortable and happy.
 - A. A mother's role is that of a nurturer and caregiver.
 - B. If the mother's role is the dominate role during the teen years, the son will develop an attitude that life is to be happy and comfortable and they will become...
 - I. Self-centered
 - II. Self-indulgent
 - III. Comfort-oriented
 - C. What is the problem with such training?
2. If a father doesn't call out his son God's way, his son may develop an attitude that says: Women are to be used.
 - A. A son may grow up with the delusion that a woman is the source of life, happiness, and comfort.
 - B. If the son grows up using his mom to secure his happiness and comfort, he's practicing using a woman for selfish ends.
 - C. This makes a man (young or old) vulnerable.
3. If a father doesn't call out his son God's way, his son may develop an attitude that says: Men are independent.
 - A. Sons see their dads independent of God.
 - B. Sons also see their dads independent of other men.
 - C. Sons also see their dads independent of family.
4. If a father doesn't call out his son God's way, his son may develop an attitude that says: Mom is responsible for the family.
 - A. If a son hears dad say, "Go ask your mom," what is he to conclude?

- B. When they become men, they will become passive leaders in the family and expect their wives to handle all the problems with the children and home.
 - C. The end result is the propagation of an idea of manhood that is destructive to the family, the church, and the nation.
5. If a father doesn't call out his son God's way, his son may be robbed of the significance of being called out by God. He'll not even notice the importance of many Scriptures.
 1. Not having an understanding of the calling out of sons by fathers, we are robbed of the significance and necessity of being called out by God.
 - I. 2 Tim. 1:9
 - II. 2 Cor. 6:16 -7:1
 2. Not having an understanding of the calling out of sons by fathers, we are robbed of the significance of being called to be separate from the children of the world and the devil. 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1
 3. Not having an understanding of the calling out of sons by fathers, we are robbed of the significance and necessity of being born by the Spirit of the Son. John 3:5; Gal. 3:26; 4:6; Rom. 8:14-16
 4. Not having an understanding of the calling out of sons by fathers, we are robbed of the significance of Jesus' call to a cause outside of ourselves. Luke 9:23-24
 6. If a father doesn't call out his son God's way, his son's heart may be hardened and not be prepared for the Lord.
 - A. The Spirit of Elijah, which turns the hearts of the fathers to their sons, also turns the hearts of the sons to their fathers so that the way of the Lord is prepared in their hearts for His coming. Luke 1:17
 - B. A son, who has been called out God's way, has submitted himself to his father and his heart is soft and ready for the Lord.

What shall we say to these things?

1. You need to look at your dads as sons instead of as men who were supposed to know what to do. Forgive them.
2. Most of the problems we face today are somehow linked to the failure of dads not calling out sons for many generations.
3. This helps us to understand ourselves as men.
4. Hopefully it shows us the importance of our roles as fathers.

Application for Part 1:

1. How did or do they call out the sons in your village in America?
2. Consider what occurs in the life of a son if his father doesn't call him out into manhood God's way.

The Calling Out of Sons: Part 2

What insights can we gain from God's word about how to call out our sons?

1. By the age of 12, a son needs to be involved with his dad. The world and man's sin nature advise independence from dad and continued reliance upon mom. Luke 2:41-32
2. A father needs to establish his son's identity with himself and his father's house. The world and man's sin nature will seek to provide an identity apart from his father. Luke 3:21-38
3. A father needs to be his son's source, to prepare the way for God being the source of his life. The world and man's sin nature teaches that anything but God is a source of life. Luke 4:1
4. A father needs to lead his son to be attentive to, depend upon, and obey his every word. The world and man's sin nature says be independent and trust in yourself. Luke 4:2-4
5. A father must lead his son to confront his body's lusts and wait on God's word and God's timing. The world and man's sin nature says don't wait. Indulge yourself. Be comfortable. Don't go without. Luke 4:2-4
6. A father must lead his son to confront the greed of his heart and wait on God's provision in God's timing. The world and man's sin nature rationalizes a short cut to get possessions. Luke 4:5-8
7. A father must lead his son to confront his pride and his sinful desire to glorify himself. The world and man's sinful nature seek a short cut to glory -- put on a show for all the world to see rather than wait on God's timing and way to exalt you. Luke 4:9-12
8. A father must lead his son to confront his own powerlessness and look to God for power. The world and a man's sinful nature lead him to believe he has the power to do anything, anytime. Luke 4:13-14

Application

1. Have you realized that God the Father is calling you to Himself through the words and life of Jesus Christ?
2. Bow before the heavenly Father and acknowledge His presence and give him the place of honor as God, the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. To what have you been calling out your son?

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 3

A Father and His Daughter

Introduction

1. Godly womanhood is under attack.
 - A. Every father faces a tremendous challenge in raising a daughter to embrace her femininity, godly standards of dress and conduct, rejoice in God's design for her as a woman, and instill hope that she can trust God for a husband who won't use her.
 - B. Women are the prime targets today.
2. What's a father to do with his daughter?
3. Daughters look to their father for acceptance, approval, and affirmation of their womanhood.
4. It is our God-given privilege and responsibility to affirm our daughters in godly womanhood and prepare them to be godly wives and mothers.

Nine Ways to Affirm Godly Womanhood

1. Give daily expression of non-sexual love and affection for your wife first and then your daughter.
2. Provide an example of servanthood and protection to your wife and daughters.
3. Lead your daughter to accept and rejoice in God's design and see every aspect of her life as a gift to produce humility and to build a dependence upon Jesus Christ.
4. Daily demonstrate a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
5. Admit your faults and mistakes through confession in order to destroy the "daddy-god idol."
6. Lead your daughter away from yourself to find her identity in her relationship as a daughter of God through Jesus Christ.
7. Give regular expression of confidence in her abilities during those crucial years of 10-18.
8. Give her a vision of a godly woman through directing her attention toward her mother's example rather than women in the world.
9. Don't put your daughter in a situation or relationship where you know her womanhood will be mocked and abused.

When a daughter is affirmed in godly womanhood she is free to rejoice in God's design and order for her at home and in society.

1. Her affirmation will free her from the need to have the attention from other men.
2. Her significance as a daughter of God will free her from having to prove her significance as a woman equal with men.

3. Her security as a daughter of God frees her to love her husband and children with a quiet, trustful spirit.

Application

1. As fathers, we have the responsibility and the privilege of blessing our daughters by affirming them in their godly womanhood. God has given us such authority, that every word we speak and action bears power to bless and prepare them to be a blessing to another man, to her children, and to her world.
2. Do you need to repent of neglecting your daughters and take steps of action to affirm godly womanhood in their lives?
3. As we humble ourselves before God, submit ourselves to His word and vision for manhood and fatherhood, He will do in us what we cannot do.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 4

Equipped to Love

Introduction

1. Love is arguably the most important quality needed by any human being.
 - A. The Apostle Paul put it succinctly when he placed a value on education without love: He said: "If I have all knowledge and know all mysteries and have all faith so as to move mountains but don't have love -- I'm nothing." (I Cor. 13)
 - B. The other gifts are nothing without love. It is the greatest gift.
2. The idea of love has been one of the most abused ideas or words in our vocabulary.
 - A. We love our cars, houses, tools, jobs, sports, music, entertainment, and food.
 - B. When we say we love someone, do we love him or her like we love pizza?
 - C. Satan's scheme? Counterfeit love. Flood the market with cheap imitations to the degree that the real thing is devalued.
3. The desire and the burden of my heart and ministry is to see God produce through Christian families, children who not only are educated, skilled, and trained, but children who know how to love. A generation of young adults who have been influenced by the power of the love factor in their homes to the point of being able to influence the next generation with an increased love factor.
4. I would like to give you three insights that will help equip you and your children to love with the love of Jesus Christ.

First insight, learn to distinguish between the world's love and God's love.

1. The world's kind of love is focused on getting and using.
2. God's kind of love is focused on giving and serving without expecting anything in return.
3. Lesson from Amanda: The value of a person isn't what they can give you, it's what they draw out of you -- the love of God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
4. Remember: Distinguish between the world's kind of love and God's kind of love.

Second insight, learn the love principle -- You can't love anyone you idolize.

1. Love can only take place where a relationship is free from idolatry and a person recognizes God as the source of everything.
2. Definition of idolatry: Looking to someone, something, some idea to supply what only God can supply.
3. Love comes from God, and a loving environment can only be created when one looks to God as the source of all things.
4. Remember the love principle -- You can't love anyone you idolize.

Third insight, learn to recognize the seven characteristics of the spirit of idolatry.

The nature and character of the spirit of idolatry is described in the first commandment in Deut. 5:6-9.

1. *God isn't the only source of supply.* The spirit of idolatry does not believe all things come from one God, but that there is more than one source of supply. Deut. 5:6-7
 - A. There is no other god. No one but God has the wisdom or ability to supply what you need.
 - B. The spirit of idolatry does not believe that God is the only source of supply.
 - C. Since there are no other gods, then what you need is what you have!

2. The spirit of idolatry carves, manipulates or controls people and situations. Deut. 5:8a "You shall not make for yourself an idol..."
 - A. Someone under the influence of the spirit of idolatry seeks to fashion the person or situation to supply self-centered desires and comfort.
 - B. The spirit of idolatry has an assortment of carving tools and chisels with which to control and manipulate.
 1. There are positive tools.
Smiles, compliments, good deeds, prayer, gifts, attention, quiet time
Carving on God.
 2. There are negative tools.
Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying (Col. 3)
 - C. I tried Jesus but He didn't work.

3. The spirit of idolatry makes an idol for self. Deut. 5:8a "You shall not make for yourself an idol..."
 - A. The spirit of idolatry focuses on supplying for self at the rejection of God, His way of supply, and/or His timing of supply.
 - B. Instead of realizing all things come from God, someone under the influence of the spirit of idolatry fails to recognize that the person or situation is God's provision.

4. The spirit of idolatry worships the creature rather than the Creator and looks to it to supply happiness which only God can supply. Deut. 5:8 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth."

5. The spirit of idolatry worships and serves many idols. Deut. 5:9 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,"
We each have an idol trail
 - A. First, we look to parents.
 - B. Second, we make ourselves the primary idol. Two things promote this.
 1. "I guess I'll have to take care of myself."
 2. "You can do it."
 - C. Third, we use others as secondary idols to serve ourselves. Peers, boyfriends, girlfriends, husband, wife, pornography, children, work, second wife, second husband
 - D. The spirit of idolatry brings about its greatest destruction when it focuses on God as an idol for self. The spirit of idolatry is responsible for all hatred, disappointment, and disillusionment with God. The modern-day evangelistic methods promote this.
 1. "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. He'll take away all your problems and give you a wonderful life. Then you can go to heaven instead of hell -- which is exactly where you will go if you don't accept Jesus." To an

idolater, that translates to: "God is here for you to make you happy and comfortable forever."

2. What idolater wouldn't want this God? And they are told what tools to use to fashion this god. Confess you're a sinner, pray a prayer of invitation, and then He becomes your God. Now what? Study and read the Bible, daily quiet time, church attendance, tithing, prayer, ministry, spiritual gifts, etc.
3. What is the result when you get this kind of evangelism in the ears of idolaters? It won't be long before they hate God because He didn't serve them like they wanted Him to. "I've tried God and He didn't work."

The end result is a sensual, man-centered, selfish church with high growth statistics and high apostasy statistics characterized by people who are powerless to love God and those around them.

6. The spirit of idolatry reproduces itself. Deut. 5:9 "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations..."

- A. In the seed
- B. By example

7. The spirit of idolatry produces the fruit of a hate/love relationship. Deut. 5:9

"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate me."

Remember the three insights

1. Distinguish between the world's kind of love and God's kind of love.
2. Learn the love principle: you can't love anyone you idolize.
3. Learn to recognize the 7 characteristics of the spirit of idolatry.

Jesus' love is an idolatry-free kind of love

Conclusion

Are there idolatrous relationships in your life of which you need to repent so you can love with the love of Jesus Christ?

- A. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your "trail of idolatry" then lead your children to do the same. Ps. 44:20-21
- B. Consider the destruction that idolatry has caused in those relationships because of your inability to love.
- C. Consider how great your sin is against God since the greatest commandment is to love God and others. God's wrath is revealed against idolatry. Rom. 1:21-32
- D. Bring forth repentance before God and seek forgiveness on the basis of the blood of Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord Jesus to take back the ground given to idolatry.
- E. Acknowledge God as the only God and supplier of all things. Give thanks. Rom. 8:29; Eph. 5:20

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 5

In Search of Happiness

Introduction

The Spirit of Law

1. The weakest spiritual power or influence is – the flesh.
2. The spirit of law influences a man to look to the flesh for the power to cope, be happy and comfortable, or perform what God and others require.
3. The spirit of law comes to us and says, “Do this, and God will bless you.” or “If you do this, God will curse you. Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 2:16
4. The spirit of the law has four functions.
 - A. It enables us to know what sin is by defining it. Rom. 3:19-20.
 - B. It exposes the power of sin. Rom. 7:14.
 - C. It protects. Gal. 3:23.
 - D. It leads to Christ. Gal. 3:23-24.
5. Every person is born under this spirit. Rom. 2:12, 14-15

It is helpful to remember that when God gives a law, it does not imply that one has the power to perform it. The law will reveal the absence or presence of God’s Spirit at work in the heart. Deut. 5:27-29; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:31

6. The spirit of law is a weak influence when it comes to seeking happiness, ability to cope or perform because it results in death and cannot produce life or obedience to God. Rom. 8:3, 5-8; 2 Cor. 3:5-6
7. The root of the spirit of law is the idolatry.

The Spirit of Antichrist

1. The spirit of antichrist looks to things in the world to supply power to cope, be happy or comfortable, and perform what God and others require.
 - A. The spirit of antichrist is any influence which suggests that Jesus Christ is not God’s way or source of supply. 1 John 4:1-3
 - B. The spirit of antichrist may be characterized as a user spirit. 1 John 2:15-16, 18

2. It is a spirit that is in the world and is an influence which says, "You need to try ____ and you'll be happy or successful." or "If you don't use ____, you won't be happy or successful."
3. The spirit of antichrist says that Jesus Christ and the cross are not enough.
4. It provides temporary relief or satisfaction.
5. The flesh will never overcome this spirit or influence.
6. It leads to addiction.
7. In seeking to gain control of his world, he loses control of his world.
8. This spirit will also trade off one idol or addiction for another.
9. It destroys the body and increases guilt and pain by casting a darkness over the heart and blind one's mind to the truth.
10. The root of the antichrist spirit is the spirit of idolatry.

The Spirit of Holiness

1. God has used the powers of the antichrist to teach his son, chosen before the foundation of the world, the power and nature of sin, the vanity of the world, and his need for a Savior.
 - A. He's been qualified for grace by the weakness of the flesh.
 - B. It was implanted in man in order to keep him searching until he finds Jesus.
 - C. Upon such sin-sick souls as this, God sends the Spirit of Holiness which is the influence of God.
 - i. His eyes are opened to see the destruction and his state.
 - ii. He's embarrassed and ashamed of what he sees and wonders how he could have been so blind not to see what he was doing.
 - iii. This gracious influence of God turns the eyes of the sinner's heart to look to God through the cross of Jesus Christ as the only power to forgive, cleanse, comfort, and give grace in time of need.
2. The Spirit of Holiness says, "Jesus and what He performed on the cross is enough." John 16:13; 1 Cor. 1:18; 1 Cor. 2:9-10, 12; Matt. 4:4.
3. The Spirit of Holiness has one primary purpose: To glorify Jesus Christ. John 16:14-15.
4. The Spirit of Holiness has the power that the will of man couldn't produce and the spirit of antichrist couldn't create -- He produces faith in the heart and enables one to finally have a hope of eternal happiness, a peace which passes understanding as the conscience has an answer for its guilt, an ever-present comfort in the life's pains. Rom. 8:6, 9-17; 2 Cor. 3:5-6, 15-18.
5. The Spirit of Holiness is the Spirit of the Father and the Son.

Discussion

1. What evidences are there that Hollywood and its productions are under the influence of the Spirit of Antichrist?
2. What kind of a false gospel presentation would the spirits of Law and Antichrist propose? What would be the appeal?
3. How can you tell if a gospel presentation is anointed by the Holy Spirit? What would the fruit look like in a person's life?
4. What is the evidence that the church is under the influence of the Spirit of Law? The Spirit of Antichrist? The Spirit of Holiness?
5. What changes do you need to make in order to repent and move in the Spirit of Holiness?

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 6

Beware the Wolf

Introduction

Beware the wolf in your own body and soul, men!

1. There is within the nature of man an animal on the hunt.
2. How do you handle this wolf within?
3. If you are to be equipped as a man to love your wife and family, you must understand the spiritual struggle in this area of life and God's way of caging that wolf and transforming a user into a Christ-centered lover.

Appropriate sexual attraction is rooted in a God-created union.

1. God created man in the beginning with both male and female in one body. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:21-24
2. There is a God-created need within us, men, to be whole and united with a woman physically.
3. That drive within us which is appropriate is rooted in a God-given union.
4. This dimension of our sexuality is obviously ignored and unrecognized in the world's view.

There is a spiritual power struggle between men and women.

1. The stage for the struggle was obviously set when God separated Eve from Adam.
2. But the wolf is let out of its cage to roam in a young man who is not called out by his father.
3. In a society such as ours where the women hold the power over wounded men, the spiritual struggle is intense.
 - A. Women know they are gods.
 - B. Eventually women expect to be served.
 - C. Women know about this power struggle between men and women.
 - D. The world capitalizes on this struggle.
4. Men who do not understand God's purpose and the spiritual aspect of sexual attraction can be powerfully manipulated by women. Prov. 6 and 7

What is God's purpose for the power struggle?

1. The power struggle between a man and a woman is to lead a man to encounter God, as his father.

2. The power struggle should have led us to our fathers.
3. The reality for most men is that the struggle led us to our peers and the world.
4. Ultimately the power struggle will lead us to encounter God the father.

If we're to cage the wolf and be transformed from a user into a lover, we must realize and experience the truth that life and power are in God, our Father.

1. A man locks the door to the wolf's cage when he finds life in the Father.
2. What does one do when the wolf growls? How is one transformed from a user wolf to a giver-lover?
 - A. First, realize the call of the wolf is a call to worship Jesus Christ.
 - B. Acknowledge to God our desires and ask Him what He wants to teach you about yourself and about Him.
 - C. Make your confession before God and acknowledge your identity as an act of worship.
 - D. Then ask God to fill you with His love as you worship the Lord Jesus.
 1. Confess the gospel truths, and the promises of God.
 2. Thank Him.
 3. Meditate on how you may love your wife as Christ loves His body, the church. How has He loved you?
 - E. The fulfillment experienced in the physical union is a picture of the spiritual union for which we hope and long in Jesus Christ.
 - F. As God, through the Holy Spirit, brings to mind what you are to do to love your wife, do it with joy.
 - G. As we learn to recognize and cage the wolf in our own lives, we are being equipped to detect the wolves which lie in wait for our wives and daughters and the spiritual wolves in sheep clothing who will come into the church and ravage the body of Christ and the spirit of unity there.

Conclusion

What about the wolf? Beware of the wolf. If you are a son of God, you are not powerless against him. When you hear the call of the wild...

1. Recognize the spiritual nature of the struggle.
2. Acknowledge your need.
3. Confess your idolatry.
4. Stand in your faith and turn to your heavenly Father in worship.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 7

The Spirit of Elijah

Introduction

1. An example of the ministry of the Spirit of Elijah.
2. There is a wonderful prophecy of God in the last verses of the book of Malachi. Mal. 4:5-6
3. The Spirit of Elijah is God's provision for men and their children for the blessing of raising a godly seed.
4. I would like for us to get an overview of God's order in the Old Testament for fathers, see what happens when fathers disregard God's order, and then recognize God's glorious provision and promises made for us as fathers.

God's Order for Fathers and Their Children - Deut. 6:1-12

The father and his family are the foundation to the church and society.

1. God has a vision for His people and He gives it through His ministers. Deut. 6:1a "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it."
2. God's vision implemented depends on fathers teaching and leading. Deut. 6:2-15
3. A father's heart must be turned toward God first and then his family second.
4. If fathers don't teach their sons to teach their children, then God's vision and order will be lost. There'll come a generation who will forget the Lord.
 - A. It is not God's way for pastors, youth ministers, Sunday School teachers, and others to be the primary teacher of the women and children.
 - B. If sons aren't taught by their fathers through their example and word regularly, as a general rule, they won't listen to the ministers of the church.
 - C. If fathers' hearts are not turned to their children, the children develop hard hearts due to bitterness and neglect.
 - D. The Old Testament record is filled with testimonies. Josh. 24:14-16; Josh. 24:19, 27, 31; Judges 2:10
 1. What failed to happen? The fathers' hearts weren't turned toward the Lord or their families and they forsook the Lord's first instructions to fathers. 2 Kin. 17:7-9; 2 Kin. 17:12-13
 2. God kept pointing back to the instructions He gave at the first, but they wouldn't listen. They didn't realize the significance of it because their hearts were turned elsewhere. 2 Kin. 17:14-15; 2 Kin. 17:17
 3. When fathers do not listen and believe God's word, they subject their children to Satan and the influence of the world -- the spirit of antichrist. 2 Kin. 17:18-20
 4. God's reproof to fathers for rejecting God's order is that his family is given into the hand of the plunderers. 2 Kin. 17:41; 2 Kin. 22:13

The OT ends with a sad commentary on Israel's understanding of God's plan for blessing His people, but a promise of hope for the body of Jesus Christ. God's Spirit will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children whereas the law was powerless to do it. Mal. 4:4-6

The New Testament Affirms God's Order and Reveals God's Provision and Promise

Luke 1:13-17

1. The Spirit of Elijah is the Holy Spirit.
2. The Spirit of Elijah does what a man could not do on his own: turn his own heart toward God and toward his family.
3. The Spirit of Elijah turns the hearts of the children to their parents and thus prepares the way for the Lord in the next generation.

What Can We Do?

1. We can receive the conviction, assume our responsibility for our sin and the sin of our fathers, and repent. Ezra 9:2
 - A. We have allowed our sons and daughters to intermingle with the world, and even our pastors and elders have been unfaithful. Ezra 9:3-5
 - B. We should bow before God in our humiliation and stretch out our hands before God. Ezra 9:6
 - C. Acknowledge our guilt and the guilt of our fathers before us. Ezra 9:7; Ezra 9:8-9; Ezra 9:10-12
 - D. Has the church sought the peace and prosperity of the world by embracing methods and messages to make them feel comfortable in our pews and to build the church? What has been the outcome? The loss of our families! Ezra 9:13; Ezra 9:15
2. We can believe and trust in the God's promise that He will work by the power of His Spirit in our hearts and in the hearts of our children.
3. If we do believe, then let us repent to our children, confess our sin, take back the responsibility to teach, train, and protect our children from the world, and speak God's word to them.
4. God's word gives us a clear curriculum and vision for young men and young women in Titus 2. The fathers should teach the young men and the women teach the young women the things which are listed there. If a family attended to those instructions, they would have wisdom for all decisions regarding their children and teens. If an event or activity doesn't promote or train in the areas mentioned there, then it isn't wise or necessary.

The Spirit of Elijah is Moving and Speaking

Will you bow before the Lord in repentance and spread your hands out in shame for the destruction which has occurred to His people, your family, due to father's hearts turned away from the Lord? Do you believe God's promise? To what are the hearts of your children turned? Will you put God to the test and believe Him for the salvation of your children? You prepare the way by directing your heart toward them, and God will prepare the way in their hearts for His Son.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 8

Jurisdictional Leadership

Introduction

1. Jurisdictional principles apply in every area of life.
2. Understanding the concept of jurisdiction and the principles that apply equips a man to lead in every area of life.
3. Understanding the concept of jurisdiction and the principles that apply protects a man from frustration, disorder, and destruction in every area of life.
4. How well do you understand jurisdictional principles?

Understanding the Definition and Concept

1. A Definition: juris = the right and diction = to speak
(Webster's New World Dictionary, Second Collegiate Ed., 1986)
2. The Concept Implies:
 - A. The one who creates or establishes an organization, union, or entity has jurisdiction over it and the right to appoint sub-jurisdictions.
 - B. A jurisdiction is administered by words. The one who has jurisdiction should only need to speak, but it is wise to remember that actions speak louder than words.
 - C. The leader of a jurisdiction is responsible to speak what is right. When he does, his words have authority. When he doesn't, his words are ineffective.
 - D. Those within a jurisdiction are responsible to do and speak what the leader says as long as he speaks what is right.
 - E. Everyone lives for others.
 - F. Problems and conflicts occur when:
The leader fails to speak at all, fails to speak what is right, or lives for himself.
Those within a jurisdiction fail to please or serve the leader and live for themselves.

Understanding the Scope

1. God has established an order for the administration of His creation.
 - A. God has the right to speak over all things. When He created, He spoke it into being by His Word. Then He holds it together by His Word. Gen. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:3
 - B. God has given jurisdiction to Jesus Christ who "speaks what is right" to all creation.
 - C. God has established five primary jurisdictions and designated leaders who are to carry God's Word to those within their jurisdictions. The leader of each jurisdiction will give an account to Jesus Christ for how he listened and "spoke what is right" to those in his jurisdiction.

Five Primary Jurisdictions

1. Family. Building block of society -- The Father - Eph. 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 11:3
2. Employment. Provision for the society -- Owner - Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Pet. 2:18
3. Government. Protection for the society -- The Head of State - Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-15

4. Light/Church. Priest for the society -- Elders - 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Pet. 5:1-2; Heb. 13:17
5. Darkness/World. Discipline/Destruction in the society -- Satan - Eph. 2:1; John 10:10; 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20

How can these principles help you?

1. If you are the leader of a family or group, you need to know what God's Word and/or your leader says about everything pertaining to your jurisdiction. Then be the channel for that Word.
2. Clearly define jurisdictional lines within your family.
3. A very important aspect of leadership is to know that your purpose is to serve others rather than yourself.
4. Applying jurisdictional principles is necessary to resolve conflicts and establish peace in a jurisdiction where there is evidence of the jurisdiction of destruction.
5. Anytime you are frustrated or bitter at the decisions of a leader, you are out of your jurisdiction. You have taken on the responsibility for establishing righteousness in a jurisdiction for which God has given you no place, no grace, nor given authority to your words. Your offense shows that you expect him to do things your way.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 9

Leading With Vision

Introduction

Vision Comes as a Blessing from God

Prov. 29:18 - Without vision [revelation] the people are unrestrained, happy is he who keeps the law.

1. Without vision or revelation from God, people are abandoned to their own vision when determining direction in life.
2. So that helps us to see a couple of the blessings of revelation or vision.
 - A. Security
 - B. Direction
3. The implication in this verse is that God's people ought to be distinguished from those in the world.

Two Perspectives of Vision

God's Vision: An idea or perspective of heart that influences every decision and action toward His creation.

Man's Vision: It is that filter through which one views life, God, relationships, and circumstances. It may also be thought of as a goal or purpose and therefore it influences every decision and action.

God's Vision

1. Purpose provides vision, and the vision predetermines every act of God. Rom. 8:27-30; Eph. 1:5; Rom. 9:10-12; 17-18; Eph. 1:5, 9-11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Acts 4:27
 - A. The principle of vision is discovered in the word "predestine".
 - B. An artist's vision of his work predetermines his actions. Eph. 2:10
2. God's vision for His people is to make them like Jesus Christ. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.
 - A. This influences every decision and action by God toward His people.
 - B. It is that filter through which He views His people.
 - C. The vision is predetermined by His purpose.

Man's Vision

1. Man's vision for himself is to be happy, feel comfortable, and serve himself. Eccl. 3:22; Eph. 4:19

- A. Without having a change of heart that comes with the new birth by God's Spirit, the heart of a man has one vision: his own happiness.
 - B. He is a user. He views everything from the perspective of what it does to him, takes away from him, or gives to him.
2. With such a vision he lives his life unrestrained by anything but his momentary lusts and desires.

The Root of All Conflict: Di-Vision

1. Conflict is what occurs when two people in any union or organization have different visions. 2. The primary source of conflict we experience is di-vision with God.
- A. When we live with a vision of making ourselves happy and comfortable, we are in "division" (two-visions) with God and His Son.
 - B. If your vision for life is to be happy and comfortable and God's vision is to expose selfishness, you've got problems!
 - C. Jesus Christ lives to intercede for His people according to the vision of God which is to make us like Himself. Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:27-30
 - i. He is interceding every moment of every day.
 - ii. Every prayer he prays is according to God's will, so God answers every prayer.
 - iii. So everything that happens in our lives is in answer to Jesus' intercession to make us like Christ. As long as we have the same vision God has, we can't be frustrated or in division with God. We know that what we are experiencing in relationships or in a given situation is exactly what we need to get out our own pride and selfishness and love and trust like Jesus.
 - iv. Consider Jesus' character compared to ours.
 - D. How does God expose and reveal these things? Cup illustration.
 - i. Through relationships.
 - ii. Through situations.
 - iii. Therefore, every relationship and situation in life may be interpreted from that perspective or vision.
3. A secondary source of conflict we experience is in di-vision with another person.
- A. It occurs when their purpose or goal is different from yours.
 - B. It occurs when jurisdictional principles are ignored or not known.
 - C. Apply this to a relationship and a life situation.

Application of Both Jurisdiction Principles and Vision Principles

1. As the husband/father, it is your responsibility to give God's vision to your family and expose and remove all di-vision.
 - A. Teach them jurisdictional principles.
 - B. Teach them God's vision for family, work, and every area of life.
 - C. Give vision for each member of the family after listening to them and praying--annually, bi-annually, monthly, weekly, and daily.
 - D. Anytime your gone, your vision acts as your presence to provide order and security.
2. If you don't give vision, expect every member of your family to be unrestrained and living according to their own vision.
3. Understanding these two principles helps you further analyze problems.

When in Conflict Check:

1. If you are the one with jurisdictional responsibilities:
 - A. Am I in di-vision with God?
 - B. Is my vision for this my own happiness or to display the Lord Jesus?
 - C. Is God shaking out my self-vision through this individual or situation?
 - D. Have I articulated and communicated the vision clearly?

- E. What is my vision?
- F. What is their vision?
- G. How is God using this di-vision to make us both like Christ?
- H. Am I loving? Am I trusting?
- I. How can I gently, lovingly correct someone's vision which is in conflict with mine?
- J. Can we come to the same vision?
- K. Where you haven't given vision or have been in error, confess, apologize, and give vision.

2. If you are in someone else's jurisdiction:

- A. Am I in di-vision with God?
- B. Is my vision for this my own happiness or to display the Lord Jesus?
- C. Is God shaking out my self-vision through this individual or situation?
- D. Do I have the right to hold to my vision? Is it my jurisdiction?
- E. Will I and can I with clear conscience submit myself and adopt the vision of my leader as Jesus Christ did to His Father at the cross?
- F. If it is not your place to give vision, then die to yourself as unto the Lord and fully embrace and submit to the vision of the one having jurisdiction.
- G. If you can't submit yourself with a clear conscience and you can remove yourself from that jurisdiction, then do so with grace and kindness.
- H. If you can't submit yourself with a clear conscience and you can't remove yourself from the jurisdiction, seek grace to suffer for righteousness sake -- it is God's vision for you.

Let's pray for wisdom to learn and apply these key principles so that we might be equipped to lead our jurisdictions with vision.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 10

Unshakable Faith

Introduction

How does a man acquire an unshakable faith?

The book of Hebrews contains a basis for an unshakable faith, an important warning, a wonderful promise and hope, an explanation of what occurs when we disregard the warning, and an encouragement which leads to a glorious peace and healing in relationships.

1. What is your confession about Jesus Christ? Have you realized its importance and function?
2. A Christian's Confession of Faith Found in Hebrews
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, is our high priest. He sits at the right hand of God where He intercedes and runs all things by the power of His word. He is and will preserve and save our souls through suffering by giving us mercy and grace.
4. The basis for an unshakable faith -- Jesus running all things by His Word.

An Important Warning – If you neglect Jesus' Word, you will not escape God's reproof.

1. We must pay close attention to Jesus' word. 2:1-3
2. Why? Because God has subjected the entire world to Jesus. 2:5-8
3. God has qualified Him to be our high priest and rendered the devil powerless through His suffering temptation and death on behalf of His people. 2:6-18.
4. So, since God has given us such a high priest as Jesus Christ who has faithfully spoken His word, we...
5. Remember: God's people didn't escape God's discipline when they neglected God's word through Moses. 3:16-19

A Wonderful Promise and Hope -- You may enter God's rest

1. We should fear not entering and living in the rest-peace and wholeness-of God. 4:1-2
2. God spoke of His rest through His messengers. 4:3-8
3. The one who believes Jesus is reigning through His word and believes in Him enters the promised rest.
4. Hope rests on the fact that nothing escapes God's word. Nothing is out of control!
5. Our hope rests on the fact that Jesus is our high priest. 4:14-5:11
 1. We don't need to build another foundation for our promises and hopes. 5:12-6:12
 2. The main point is this: We have Jesus as our high priest who reigns over all thing and who has perfectly, completely discharged His duties before God and on behalf of man thus instituting a new and better covenant than that which previously existed. 8:1-10:18
6. We may have confidence to draw near to God through Jesus and enter into His rest in any situation -- holding fast our confession that Jesus Christ is faithful on our behalf to give us grace and mercy. 10:19-25.

7. If those who set aside God's word through Moses died without mercy, how much more severe one can expect the punishment to be for those who trample under foot the work of God through Jesus. So, let us endure in our faith until we receive what God has promised. 10:26-39
8. Faith is characterized by the assurance of things hoped for and conviction of things not seen. It is by believing in Jesus' intercession and ministry on our behalf that we gain approval and glorify God. 11:1-2

An explanation of what occurs when we don't believe in Jesus' word and reign -- Our Father disciplines His children by withholding grace so that we'll repent.

1. He disciplines us because we are sons. 12:5-9
2. He disciplines us so that we might be trained to believe Him and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. 12:1-7
3. He disciplines us because as we learn to believe in Jesus, we enter into the rest of God. 12:10-11
4. He disciplines us by withholding grace to pursue peace with others and overcome bitterness and to live holy lives. 12:14-15.
5. He disciplines us until we find a place to repent for not believing Jesus' word and trusting in His rule over all things. 12:15-17.

An encouragement that leads to peace and healing -- lay aside unbelief in Jesus' word and faithfulness as He controls everything through His intercession. Look for a place to repent when you fall short of grace to love.

1. The sin that so easily entangles us is unbelief in Jesus's word, intercession, and ruling over all things -- in short -- we shrink from our confession.
2. We must fix our eyes on Jesus. 12:2
3. If we're being disciplined, let's receive it and get with the program.
4. Remember the promises of Jesus. 12:18-24
5. Remember the earlier warning: See to it that you don't refuse to listen to this word through Jesus Christ. 12:25-29
6. In light of this foundation for faith, let us live holy lives. 13:1-7
7. May God equip you in every good thing to do His will through Jesus Christ. 13:20-21

A Response -- Find a place to repent if you can't love, are bitter, or are ensnared in a desire to get what you want right now.

1. Repent of not believing Jesus is in control of your life and the events and relationships in life.
2. Repent for not believing that what you have is exactly what you need to trust in Jesus and demonstrate His love.
3. Fix your eyes on Jesus.
4. Determine to pursue peace and heal relationships.
5. Thank God as an offering of sacrifice and a statement of your confession.

Study Notes.....

CHAPTER 11

Heart Maintenance

Introduction

Shepherding the hearts of your children and maintaining their heart's direction toward you is one of the most important things you will do as a parent. By shepherd I mean: care for, be attentive to, maintain and guard their hearts.

A Myth

First I would like to share with you a myth to beware of; that if you homeschool your children or take your children to church and the youth group, they will turn out okay.

A Truth

Second, I would like to encourage you with the truth. The key to your child's future is your securing and maintaining their heart's direction toward you.

Why are their hearts important?

The heart is important because it is the center of their souls. Prov. 4:23; Prov. 23:7
Your children's hearts consists of their minds, consciences, and spirits. Their wills always act according to the condition of their hearts. If their hearts are hardened, they will close down to you and the Lord and will open up to the word of the world. If they are soft toward you, they will remain open to you and closed to the words of the world.

Watch out for a hardened heart

How does a child's heart get hard?

1. Parents' hearts are turned toward other things above their children.
2. Parents' hurt their children in their discipline.
 - A. By disciplining in selfishness and idolatry.
 - B. Or when the selfish and idolatrous child takes loving discipline wrongly.
 - C. By responding wrongly to correction and sin through rationalization or blaming someone else.
 - D. By fellowship with the spirit of the world.

Signs of a hardened heart

- A. Secrets or hidden actions, lying to protect, and a private attitude.
- B. Unusual disinterest in God, His Word, and prayer.
- C. No remorse for sin and a resistance to reproof.
- D. Disrespect toward you and your word.
- E. They desire to identify and relate more with their peers to the neglect of your relationship.

If their hearts are hardened to you, they need the most protection from the world.

What to do when you detect a hardened heart

1. Examine your own heart first and see what direction it has been turned.
2. Ask your child where they might have been hurt.
3. Ask the Lord to show you where he/she might have been hurt.
4. Ask your child if they have lied or hidden anything from you out of fear.
5. Examine the sources of the influences in their lives. Have you protected them?
6. Take corrective action.
 - A. Explain to your child where you've been wrong and ask their forgiveness.
 - B. Explain the importance of the heart.
 - C. Explain where they have been wrong and what God is doing in revealing what's in both your hearts.
 - D. Explain the importance of taking corrective action regardless of how uncomfortable and difficult.
 - E. Take the steps of action.
7. Ask God to turn your hearts.

What to do if their hearts are soft

1. Keep a clear conscience between each other.
2. Guard your hearts from turning elsewhere.
3. Communicate with each other about everything.
4. Pray

Conclusion

1. Your hearts' being turned toward your children is the key to their future openness to the Lord.
2. Keeping the heart of your child should be a high priority.
3. It is worth whatever it costs to regain and maintain the heart of your child.

Study Notes.....