

**RAISING IN ARIZONA**  
Part 2 - "The Parent Trap"  
Pastor Bill Bush  
April 19, 2009

**CULTURE SAYS TO PARENT IN A CHILD-CENTERED HOME.**

Cultural Parenting sows the seeds that destroy the home.

Cultural Parenting produces incredibly selfish and confused children.

How do I know what a child-centered home looks like?

1. You cannot leave your kids without the world ending.
2. You have become your child's taxi-cab.
3. Your goal as a parent is to create a perfect environment of safety and fairness.

**WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?**

**BIG IDEA:**  
Follow God's order for relational  
priority in your home!

Ephesians 5-6:

Priority 1 (vv. 5:1-21)	<u>God</u>
Priority 2 (vv. 5:21-33)	<u>Marriage</u>
Priority 3 (v. 6:1)	<u>Children</u>
Priority 4 (vv. 6:2-9)	<u>Employment</u>

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Child-centered home believes it takes a kid to be a family because the purpose of the family is to raise children in a perfectly safe environment where everything is fair and okay.

Christ-centered home says you do not need children to be a family because parenting is a season and the goal is to teach and train your children to LEAVE!

*(Deuteronomy 6, Proverbs 22, Genesis 6)*

**HOW CAN I START?**

1. Focus on your relationship with God first.
2. Focus on your relationship with your spouse second.
3. Make a date away from the kids at least twice a month.
4. Have a parent-based schedule not a child-based schedule.

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**SHARPEN THE POINT**  
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*For further study of today's message*

**ENTRY POINT:** God has given us instructions for living a joy-filled life; He desires the best for us. But He also desires our whole-hearted commitment to Him. Begin your study by reading **Deuteronomy Chapter 6.**

What do you think is the most important thing your children will learn from you, and remember about the home in which they were raised? What does a home look like when its family is wholeheartedly committed to the Lord?

The Bible warns of God's anger. He disciplines us because of His great love for us. How willing are you to likewise discipline your child, and watch their hurt or disappointment in order that their temporary pain will save them from long-term disaster?

How does your daily life show your family and others that you trust God in all things...that you seek Him constantly, believe in His promises, and strive to obey His commandments?

What are the priorities in your home? In what ways do your marriage, parenting and employment glorify God?

*"Hear, O Israel. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
And you must love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength.  
And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly  
to these commands I am giving you today."*

Deuteronomy 6:4-6