

How God Views Your Children

Psalm 139:13-17

Preface

When Pam and I were expecting our first child, I was working in the office of a mortgage company. Pam was also working there while finishing her degree at Mobile College. We had an appraiser who came in the office everyday to drop off appraisals. Jim was very much a family man and loved his children as well. Each day as he was leaving the office he would ask about how Pam was doing. As he would exit the door, he would always say, "Your life is never going to be the same."

After our first child was born, I asked Jim, "Why didn't you take a 2x4 board and hit me upside the head to get my attention and then say, "Your life is never going to be the same?""

You see I never realized just how challenging and life changing it would be when we had children. And, he was right, our life has never been the same and it never will.

Without a question, raising children has been the most stressful and challenging endeavor of my life. Someone once said, "A parent is only as happy as their saddest child." I think one could also say, "A parent is only as happy as their children will allow them to be."

But children have it rough as well. Life isn't always easy for them.

Illus: I heard about some kids that were grumbling among themselves. One young man remarked, "It doesn't make sense. They teach you how to talk and how to walk and when you can finally do both, they always tell us to sit down and shut up."

Kids are constantly under the voices of adults instructing them and giving them orders. They are faced with pressures and conflicting thoughts within.

The Bible has many things to say about children. Today we will look at some important considerations.

Scripture – Read

"¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:13-17 NIV

Introduction

In my sermon last week, I asked you if you truly believe the Bible is the word of God. I have come to realize that it is critical that each of us as individuals make the determination once and for all if we fully trust the Word of God.

If you do not fully trust in the Bible as the Word of God then you will just be miserable as you pick and choose what to believe and when. But, if you trust it as God revelation (God revealing Himself to man) then you can take it's teachings and principles and move forward by applying them to your life.

Our text for today is a perfect example of the importance of this threshold. If you fully trust in the Bible as the Word of God, you can take great comfort in the words of David in Psalm 139. David says some very powerful things about God's perspective of all of our lives. David speaks of God's omnipresence (all-present) and omniscience (all-knowing).

So, how does God view our children?

Content

1. As Precious

God sees all children as precious.

b Or *concerning*

God sees them as valuable, cherished and beloved. God sees value when others and perhaps even we see ruin.

*“And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God”
1 Peter 2:4 NIV*

God views His children as “choice and precious”. God sees worth in our children that you and I can never see.

We all have heirlooms and things of great value in the family. But, our children are the one true family treasure.

2. As His Precious Creation

God sees our children as His precious creation.

David marvels as he comprehends God’s wisdom and foreknowledge in his own birth. He uses remarkable words to describe the role God played in his coming into being.

¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.

What do these words mean to you and me? These words should be our confidence builders. They should be our inspiration as parents to understand that God has a purpose for our children.

God is the creator but God allows us to participate in creation through the raising of our children.

Yes, parents have great responsibilities in raising their children and bringing them up right. However, we must always remember that our children are the creation of God. They are His precious creation.

Illus: I saw a young man on television the other day that was born with no hands and no feet. And yet he was on TV because of his accomplishments. He kept speaking of the inspiration of His parents.

In a day when the world says about children if they are not perfect or if they are unwanted, God’s Word tells us just the

opposite. It tells us they are His creation. As parents we must see God’s creation in our children and constantly encourage them to discover God’s purposes for their life.

3. As His Precious Creation In His Image

God sees our children as His precious creation in His image.

We are the only living things that are made in the image of God. Many will say that we are just a step above this or that animal. But, that isn’t true. God’s Word tells us in Genesis that God made man in His image.

This is why human life is so precious. Even in the womb, we are protected by the law of God because we are being formed as His precious creation in His image.

You may not be the perfect person. But you were formed by God to represent a part of His image and you are precious to Him.

Your child may not be the perfect child. Your child may not be the child you envisioned. But your child is not a mistake, not an accident or defect. Your child is precious to God and created by Him to represent part of His image.

“¹As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. ²And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his ^cparents, that he would be born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” John 9:1-3 NIV

God displays his work through our children. He displayed His greatest work through His own Son.

4. As His Precious Creation In His Image But Tarnished By Sin

God sees our children as His precious creation in His image but tarnished by sin.

c Ex 20:5

⁵*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalm 51:5-7 NIV*

Children can be sneaky, stubborn, selfish and rebellious. This is not learned behavior but inborn behavior. This is sin that exist in all of us.

Illus: I was watching the news this week where Jeremy Jones was convicted of murder and the jury recommended the death penalty for his crime. His response was to talk about how when his class reunion comes up he will not be there and everyone will talk about what he did and what happened to him. Experts describe him as a sociopath who only feels and cares for himself.

Well, there is a little bit of sociopath in all of us when we are born.

This is why Jesus says, “You must be born again.” We must be born of spirit in order to cleanse away our sin.

5. As His Precious Creation In His Image Tarnished By Sin But Loved & Redeemed

God sees our children as His precious creation in His image, tarnished by sin but loved and redeemed.

Regardless of our sin, no matter how stubborn and rebellious we are, God still sees us as His precious creation. He wants to redeem us through Jesus Christ.

⁸*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 NIV*

This is Love. This is Grace. God sees you and your children as precious. He has a purpose for our lives. He created us to be in His image. He recognizes that we are tarnished by sin. But, he loves us and makes provisions for our forgiveness and redemption.

Do your children sometimes break your heart? Do they disappoint you or leave you feeling defeated?

How do you respond? Do you lash back and put them down?

Imagine how God feels when we break His heart and disappoint Him. But look at how He responds, with forgiveness, grace and redemption through Jesus Christ.

¹⁷*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

God sees great worth in your children. He is constantly calling them to experience the life He created them to experience. God wants all of us to be the new creature He has in store for us.

➤ **Conclusion**

Now, what are some implications of these things we have discussed today?

1. We should recognize that our children are God's precious creation in His image.
2. We must understand that our children are tarnished by sin.
3. As parents, God allows us to participate in His creation process.
4. Our number one responsibility as parents is to lead our children to Christ.

Understanding how God views your children will influence how you view your children.

How you view your children will influence how they view themselves.

Choose your words and your actions carefully. Strive to see your children as God sees them - of great worth.