

Teach Your Children to Flee

I. What should our families flee?

- I Corinthians 6:18, I Corinthians 10:13-14, I Timothy 6:11, I Thessalonians 5:22, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 22:3, Proverbs 27:12, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-5, Colossians 3:5, Genesis 39:6-12
- God wants our posture toward sin to be constant flight. We turn our backs to sin, and we sprint. In order to be biblical parents, we *absolutely* need to teach our children to flee from sin. We can't be soft on this point.

II. How should our families flee?

- **We need to understand just how deadly sin is.**
 - Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23, I John 1:8
 - We and our kids will never escape from temptation and sprint away from sin unless we truly know, understand, and believe that our sin is going to kill us.
 - But that's only part of the "how." We can teach my kids that sin will hurt them, and they—not wanting to get hurt—will likely flee from it . . . at least some of it. But their escape from that particular sinful behavior was motivated by another sin—self-worship. There are plenty of Rocky-Hearted kids in our homes who can intellectually acknowledge that certain sins are bad and should be avoided, but those kids aren't avoiding those sins for God's glory, they're just looking out for themselves.
- **We need to understand how good God is.**
 - II Timothy 2:22, I Corinthians 6:18-20, I Timothy 6:11-12, I Thessalonians 5:21-22, Proverbs 22:3-6, Psalm 143:9, Psalm 1, James 4:7
 - We are to be training our children to see evil and hide themselves, not only because thorns and snares are in the way, and not only because it will result in our punishment, but because we fear Yahweh. It's this training—when our children participate in it—that will result in them not departing from the riches and glory and life in Christ.
 - We need to teach our kids to flee from sin, but they'll never flee from sin unless they realize how dangerous it is, but if they flee from one sin for their own glory, they are only running headlong toward other sin.
 - The only way to truly flee from sin is to run toward God. There is no fleeing from sin that doesn't take you closer to the Lord. We need to meditate firmly on the Word of God which reveals Him, His goodness, and His grace.
 - We will never truly flee from sin unless we love God. We need to want and work toward His best interest because we are devoted to Him because He is God, He is worthy, He is majestic, He is awesome, and He deserves our love and obedience.
 - It's sad when people really want their kids to just be morally good. They want their kids to be good kids, but they have no interest in introducing them to the God who defines all that is good. They're encouraging their kids to run from certain sins, but they're pushing them toward the sins of self-worship and self-empowerment that are the very sins that lead to every other sin. There is no such thing as a morally good person who isn't pursuing holiness because it pleases the Lord.
 - When we rightly conceive of God and want to please Him, we will know and believe just how dangerous He says sin is, and we will want to run as far from it as we can.

III. When should our families flee?

- Hebrews 12:1-2, Luke 12:4-5
- There is never a time when we should stop pursuing God and running from sin. There is never a time our kids can take a break from fleeing sin and temptation.
- This does involve fear . . . it involves the fear of God. We love God so much that we fear displeasing Him. And, yes, we should also fear not only the lethality of sin, but also the consequences of sin. It's not cowardice, it's majestic awe. It's not being a scaredy-pants, it's being reverentially devoted to Christ.
- None of the imagery in Ephesians 6:10-18 is about running toward sin. In fact, it's all the exact opposite. We're wrestling against those things that would tempt us to do evil. We're standing firm in God and His strength, absolutely covered in truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God, praying at all times. "What about the flaming darts of the evil one?" Isn't that sin? It's not sin at all. Satan can't make us sin. Yes, he can tempt us, but what's our response to that? We're extinguishing those arrows with the shield of faith, while we wear the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation.
- This is not about cowardice and rearing a generation of kids who've been sheltered. We have a whole episode about how you need to prepare your kids, not protect them. This is about rearing a generation of followers of Christ who can't help but walk away from sin and darkness as they follow Him. This is about rearing a generation of young people who are spiritually mature and strong and passionate about pleasing the Lord.
- And that's exactly who Joseph was. He daily did not listen to the temptation. He daily said, "No." Each of those statements, and each act of holiness was fleeing from evil. And one day when she grabbed his clothes, he *"he left his garment in her hand and fled and went outside."*
- And that's what we need to do when it comes to sin. That's what we need to teach our kids to do. We perpetually, every day, run from sin and avoid temptation because we love God and know how dangerous sin is.
- We are to moment-by-moment run after God, hide under the shadow of His wings, follow Him, and pursue His glory . . . and every minute spent doing that is another minute spent fleeing from sin.

Parent.
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