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Defending
MY TABLE

DefendingMyTable.com



JONATHAN PROJECT

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SERMON STARTERS

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Defending My Faith

Where are We Now?

Like many families in our country, We should be concerned with the faith, values and security and the direction of our elected leaders. Who would have thought in our lifetime that a message on “Defending My faith” would be so critical to hear. We live in a free country with a separation of church and state. As a family you are free to choose which church to attend and how to raise your children from a biblical perspective.

The last decade has brought with it an assault on the Christian family. If left unchallenged this assault could effect the way you want to raise your children. Independent family decisions are being eroded by political correctness and radical influences of religious fervor. Your hearts desire should be to defend your biblical worldview and make sure your children are taught in the admonition of God, not the politically correct influences of our day.

What is God’s Viewpoint?

1. Parents, who are believers, are called to be faithful, knowledgeable followers of Jesus that can effectively disciple their children. The freedom to teach my children spiritually is one of the most important reasons to defend my table this election season.
 - We cannot defend something we don't understand.
 - We cannot relegate the responsibility to our church, school or the government
 - Who will be given a seat of influence at my kitchen table?
 - Biblically it is our responsibility to defend our family's faith and values.

Scripture Reference Resource

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

2 Timothy 2:24-25 (NIV)

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

Titus 1:9 (NIV)

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

"Faith is not something you just have; it is something you constantly have to work toward. Faith is not a feeling; it's a decision you have to make every day". Al Caraway

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

2. We live in a season when human life is no longer regarded as sacred. The devaluing of life is spreading not only through violence in the inner city and throughout our country, but also through abortion on demand, which has already resulted in the deaths of 1.5 million babies. We have also reached an all time moral low of organizations selling infant human body parts. As our government turns a blind eye, we must stand and defend God's value of life.

We first must teach our family the value of life. God values all life from conception to death and its apparent we have lost the sense of valued life in this country.

- God loves all people of color, position in life, and differing views.
- Every life matters to God... He created all of us.
- Every life deserves to live out fully their God given plan for life.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Mark 10:13-16

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

How Can I Live This Out?

The family kitchen table is a practical and visual way of how the family works and how faith, security and values are transferred. We know that people protect their personal space and resist influences that would change the dynamic of their table. The power of personal engagement in the election of local and national political offices is a voice to defend our own kitchen table. We desire to shift the focus of motivation from the candidate to the defense of our own table (faith, values and security).

1. Live out personally everyday your relationship with Jesus
2. Know what your faith, values and security are and be prepared to communicate them.
3. Focus on effective discipleship of your family
4. Engage in the public opportunity to vote and defend your family table at the voting booth
5. People are watching your actions more than your words... including your children.

Ask yourself two questions before YOU VOTE.

1. With the obvious moral decline in America, will the candidate I vote for support or conflict with my views as a parent and the way I raise my children?
2. If I personally believe in the sanctity of life and the God given right of unborn babies to live. Who will protect the unborn and value life like I do?

The Christian community must rise up and be heard in this election. It is a defining moment for our country and it needs the truth of God's Word. We have plenty of registered voters that are religious. We must engage in this election on November 9th and prayerfully vote our convictions.



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Defending My Values

Where are We Now?

What do we believe in? What really matters to us? What values help govern how we live our life? What values do we want to pass on to our children?

Most families make decisions according to a few "core values." But many of us have never taken the time to articulate just what those values are. We cannot transfer to our children what we have not flushed out for ourselves.

If we want to leave a Godly legacy, we must first determine what we believe in—what is most important to us. We must evaluate how well we are living according to those values, because our children will learn from our actions and lifestyle more than our words.

The Bible teaching about Christian core values is not only necessary but critical. Values are deeply held beliefs that help guide the Christian family in their behavior and decision making. These values form the culture of our family unit and are transferable and generational.

Let's look at three values we should all consider in our family:

What is God's Viewpoint?

Value One: Glorify God

Christ must be at the center of all activities in our life. He gives the purpose, power, pattern, and programs of all behavior and decisions. God's core values should be our core values.

Mark 12:29-31

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

- There is value to the popular campaign, “What would Jesus Do?”
- Loving others as Christ does, eliminates prejudice, ego, and disrespect.

- A leader in the home is respected when they glorify God.
- A family is secure when they know the values that matter.

Value Two: Integrity

A key Christian core value is integrity. This is seen in Paul's assertion to avoid anything that would discredit the work of our faith, or even appear to be dishonorable. Integrity and honesty are vital, and must be genuine in our plans, goals, and life.

The value of integrity exhibits the obedience and practice of the moral code of ethics, morals, values, and precepts from God's Word. In practice, integrity will produce honor, truth, and reliability in our home. It will allow us to keep our word and do the best even when no one else is looking. This is essential for deeper relationships, and of course for developing other people's confidence in us and in Christianity.

When we look at our government and those that serve, we are often troubled by the moral decay, inconsistency, and lack of values we see. Our participation is needed now more than ever before.

Exodus 18:21

21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?
 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;
 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;
 4 who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
 Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

James 1:9-11 (NIV)

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

1 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- Do we demand integrity from our leaders?
- Have we lowered the bar of what a leader is suppose to be?
- Is integrity missing from our political system?
- What values should our political leaders have

- Are the heroes of sport, business, entertainment and politics more influential than you as a parent at your kitchen table?

Value Three: Loyalty

Let's look at this value from the other side, the story of a man whose name is the byword for betrayal: Judas Iscariot, his loyalty vanished under the hot wind of greed.

- He robbed the treasury of Jesus' leadership team (John 12:6).
- Just to pick up an extra 30 pieces of silver, he betrayed Jesus to his enemies (Matthew 27:3).
- Luke called Judas a traitor – pretty strong don't you think (Luke 6:16)?

The actual value of the 30 silver coins is unknown, or it could have been a larger amount. According to the Bible teaching about core values in Christian leadership, leaders must be loyal to the organization, program, people, their calling – and of course, the bank account of the organization!

If we look at what is happening in our government, we see spending and waste that is unchecked. We could never run our own family budget the way our government does. They are literally stealing from our children's future. We need a leadership that understands restraint and fiscal responsibility.

How Can I Live This Out?

The family kitchen table is a practical and visual way of how the family works and how faith, security and values are transferred. We know that people protect their personal space and resist influences that would change the dynamic of their table. The power of personal engagement in the election of local and national political offices is a voice to defend their own kitchen table. We desire to shift the focus of motivation from the candidate to the defense of our own table through faith, values and security.

- Loyalty to Christ is our most important focus.
- Loyalty to our family unit builds a Christian worldview of trust, security and generational optimism
- Loyalty to leaders should focus on those who are leading from a morally and fiscally responsible position.
- We must remember, we are voting for a leader in government not a pastor.

Ask yourself two questions before YOU VOTE.

1. Who is best qualified to correct our National Debt and manage an out of control government with accountability?
2. The upcoming supreme court appointments will tip the balance in one direction or the other for decades to come. Who best will protect the values that matter most at your table?

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Defending My Security

Where are We Now?

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, most Americans realized that our national security and our communities are more at risk than ever imagined. Today we see terrorists plotting acts of carnage around the world and here at home. A growing number of Americans are uneasy about the foreign influences and the responses of our government.

John F. Kennedy said, "A nation that is afraid to let its people judge truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people." And Edmond Burke said, "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." We as Christians need to voice a loud concern for our government to protect its citizens and the rights we hold dear.

Security is critical for the well being of our nation, but it is also important that we feel secure in the choices our government is making that affect our lives. We must require of our leaders a platform of educational choice and the freedom to pursue the right school setting for our children. We also should insist on the protection to choose the right kind of healthcare for our family. The security of our kitchen table is dependent on it.

What is God's Viewpoint?

1. Security begins in our relationship with God

The process of trying to find security in earthly things and people is evidence that we were designed with a desperate longing to abide in the presence of Christ. By patiently and wisely working truth into your heart you can find freedom to draw near to God and experience His closeness. This is the foundation of security that everything else is built on.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, 'Destroy them!'

John 10:28-29

and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

2. Security is influenced by our National Leadership

The Bible clearly states that we are to respect those over us. They are in office by God's sovereignty and not by the will of man. We know that not all of our politicians are fully trustworthy and they often make decisions against the public's interest and that of God's Word. It is vitally important that we elect men and women of faith that can move our country in a moral and righteous direction. We are commanded to honor them both. So it shouldn't be difficult to see the benefit of defending your table and voting for those who share your faith, values, and security concerns.

God commands people not to murder. In fact Christians are not to terrorize others, but to be law abiding, submitting to governments and doing good.

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

Romans 13:1 "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

3. Security to Pursue Choices for My Family

It is vital to preserve the freedom of faith-based education. If a parent wants their child to be taught in a faith based school and gain the influence it provides, they should feel secure in doing so. Nothing is more important to the future of faith-based schools and other faith-based service organizations than the preservation of the religious freedom by our government.

Prov. 22:6

6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Our responsibility as a parent is to make the daily decisions to initiate educational opportunities that will lead them down a Godly influenced path. Education is critical to that formation.

As it is in education, the same security is needed in healthcare. As a parent, you are making choices everyday concerning your children's health. Be it a common cold or the symptoms of cancer, we need to feel secure in the direction and healthcare choices we make.

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1. Security begins is in your Relationship with God.
2. Protect the security of your family and its choices.
3. Prayerfully elect and support government leadership that will protect and create a secure America that you want to raise a family in.

Ask yourself two questions before YOU VOTE.

2. Who will best protect my community and country from the growing threat of illegal immigration and terrorism?
3. Who can create a stable healthcare system of choice that takes care of the poor, and the medical needs of my family?

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