

## Can I Get A Witness? Sunday, April 28, 2019

### Review

This series is an extension of our study on spiritual parenting and discipleship.

Spiritual parenting and discipleship are a return to a focus on the original royal decree: be fruitful and multiply.

In sum, God wants kids, lots of them.

One of the things that distinguishes humans from other creatures is how much care baby humans require compared to other mammals.

While most baby mammals become independent in a relatively short period of time, it takes years to parent a human child into an adult.

This accentuates the need of parents.

God designed humans in such a way that sustained care from their biological mothers and fathers is vital.

This is no less true about spiritual parenting.

Natural parenting *is* spiritual parenting. A natural parent's spiritual children just happen to be biologically assigned to them.

In the end, spiritual parenting is really what matters because the bond between a natural child and parent is only temporary. The relationship between a spiritual parent and child is eternal. (John 8:43-44)

Satan fathers children. This is why we must be born again (John 3:3).

This is also why people without biological children are still responsible for parenting and why the natural and spiritual family unit, as prescribed by Scripture, is vital.

The essential ingredients necessary to thrive in life natural and spiritually are given to us by our natural and spiritual parents.

This is why we've been emphatically addressing patterns of human behavior that exceed the scope of God's boundaries for sexual activity.

God created these holy boundaries to preserve human flourishing and to extend his image to his offspring.

Jesus' account of marriage in Matthew rules out polygamy, same-sex marriage, adultery and divorce as things that God originally intended from the beginning.

### Heart change and the Spirit's "Amen"

To accept this truth, our hearts have to change (Matthew 13:19).

Our hearts are designed to be receptors of God's word and God's Spirit, two sides of the same coin:

- John 6:63
- Hebrews 3:7-8/Psalm 95:7-8
- I Corinthians 2:6-14

The Spirit is the witness that confirms the Word

- Mark 1:9-10
- John 5:30-43
- John 6:44
- John 14:16-17, 26
- John 16:8-11