

Sermon series: Which kind of Parenting is Best?  
Text: various  
Big Idea: The foundation of good parenting is a healthy marriage and a dad committed to his calling.  
Delivered: September 27, 2020

## [Not] Raised by Wolves

### 1. Dads & Moms, Attend to your Marriage.

- a. Wasn't your marriage once \_\_\_\_\_?

Ephesians 5:22-28 [English Standard Version]

- b. These days, is \_\_\_\_\_ a common feature in your marriage?
- c. These days, is \_\_\_\_\_ a common feature in your marriage?
- d. Is your marriage going to \_\_\_\_\_?

The following is from Judith Wallerstein's *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce*.

- i. *For all children, the loss of the intact family structure stripped away the felt sense of safety and protection provided by the family structure – whatever its faults.*
  - ii. *Virtually all children of all ages felt rejected in the divorce because they interpreted the parent leaving the spouse as also leaving themselves.*
  - iii. *Almost all children in the study were angry at their parents and remained so for years. Wallerstein theorized this was because the parents had violated the unspoken and unwritten rule that parents sacrifice for their children, not the other way around.*
  - iv. *Children in the study experienced a tremendous sense of disloyalty. If they believed they had to take one parent's side (usually to protect that parent psychologically), they felt disloyal to the other parent. Even if they did not take sides, they still felt isolated and disloyal to both parents.*
  - v. *A significant percentage of children felt guilt and even fault for the divorce. They consequently believed it was their duty to mend the marriage. Virtually all children held reunification fantasies for years.*
  - vi. *Even 10 and 15 years into the study, most of the children continued to feel strong emotions: a deep sense of loss, feeling less protected, feeling less cared for, etc.*
- e. \_\_\_\_\_!

*The best gift a father can give his children is to love their mother.* Fr. Theodore Hesburgh

### 2. Dads, Assume the Parenting Responsibility.



- a. Who's responsible for the condition of the home? \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 11:3.
- b. Who did God go looking for after the first sins? \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 3:9

To think about...

- If you are married, on a scale from 1-10 with 1 being not far from divorce and 10 being not far from heaven, what would you give your marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ What would your spouse say? \_\_\_\_\_
- If it's not what you'd like it to be, what are you and/or your spouse neglecting? What—if any, corrections are you prepared to make?
- Did your marriage begin to decline after children came along? What—if anything, did you then do to try and improve it?
- Guys, if someone asked you, "Have you worked as hard at making a marriage as making a living?", what would you answer? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what kinds of efforts would you point to?
- Ladies, since having children, have you paid attention to your marriage, or are you mostly consumed with your children? Why?
- Dads, was the idea that you are more responsible before the Lord for the of health your home than you wife, a new thought to you? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, list a few ways that you have taken initiative to make your marriage and parenting more healthy and God-glorifying.
- Moms, have you made it easy for your husband to avoid assuming his rightful responsibilities in the home? If so, how? Are you willing to be his prayer warrior and cheerleader to become who God's called him to be without being his substitute 😊?