

Introduction:

The problem:

- Even spiritually committed Christian families are experiencing deep pain and challenges with their children and grandchildren.
- Children are rejecting their upbringing in the areas of faith, identity, and sexuality.
- The family is the central battleground for spiritual warfare.

The command: Walk differently

- Walking worthy of your _____ Ephesians 4:1, 17
- Walking in _____, like Christ Ephesians 5:2
- Walking as children of _____ Ephesians 5:8
- Walking not as unwise, but as _____ Ephesians 5:15

How?

- By letting your relationship with God—with Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit—be the one central, most important thing that focuses your mind around the truth of how to live.
Ephesians 5:15-20
- By applying the instructions for the Spirit-filled life to the family structure.
Ephesians 5:21-6:4

The ultimate context:

- The armor of God is detailed immediately after family instructions to frame the family as a primary spiritual battlefield for fighting lies.
Ephesians 6:10-18

Fighting for your family

- Identify lies and understand where they come from and what they do.
- Understand that lies make it impossible for children to grow up in a safe, stable, supportive environment where they feel valued, encouraged, and supported.
- Recognize that the most dangerous lies are the ones that you believe to the point where you think it's good.

The family as a witness

- Few things will be more important to show the world the love of Christ than marriages that reflect Jesus and His Church.
- Our mission: To show the world that there is hope by identifying lies in our families and culture, and building Spirit-powered homes that glorify God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think even spiritually committed families are struggling so much today?
2. What specific "good" pursuit do you feel most tempted to prioritize over your family's spiritual health? How do you recognize when a line has been crossed?
3. How can parents model a vibrant, "Spirit-powered" faith in their homes, rather than just teach a lifeless "moral code"?
4. What is the biggest obstacle that keeps you from making your relationship with God the true "central focus" of your life? What is one small change you could make this week to begin fighting that obstacle?
5. What tangible, everyday ways can a family's routines and relationships serve as a powerful witness to a non-believing friend or neighbor?