

SERIES: FAMILY ON PURPOSE
PART 6: HOW TO LIVE A REMARKABLE LIFE

Today, we conclude this powerful series entitled FAMILY ON PURPOSE. Over the last 9 weeks we have looked at how to bring out the best in your kids and everyone else. Then we looked at Why Life is Sacred. We have women who are participating in our PAHS ministry, Post Abortion Healing Seminar, and, though it is painful, there is some profound healing and restoration that is going on. Then we looked at Love-Powered Mentoring (Parenting), then we studied together What Every Child (Adult) Needs. Then we just finished a three-part teaching on one of the most well-known parables Jesus taught about the father and his two prodigal sons. I have had many of you tell me that you learned so much from these teachings, and that it has opened up your relationship to Jesus and to a better and deeper understanding of the Gospel that Jesus purchased salvation for each one of us individually by sacrificing His life on the cross for our sin and rebellion, and there is nothing we can do to earn it, merit it or warrant it. Jesus offers us His salvation, reconciliation and restoration as a gift of His grace. The acronym **GRACE** means **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. Today we finish this series with How To Live A Remarkable Life.

There are times in our lives when we all have come across someone that stands out in your mind. It might be because of an outstanding achievement or an incredible gift or skills or an amazing personality. People who impact us in unique and

lasting ways, we say things like, “That person is remarkable.” I believe deep down in each one of us there is a desire to be remarkable for Jesus and His Kingdom. To be remarkable is not the same as being famous. Famous and remarkable are not the same. There are people who are famous who are not remarkable, and they have a very negative impact on their families, the culture and their world.

We all want to be remarkable spouses, parents, grandparents, and Christ followers. We want our children to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ and have a remarkable and outstanding impact and influence on their culture. We want them to stand strong and true to who Jesus is. We want them to do as Jesus said in Mark 8:34b-38, **“If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross and follow Me. ³⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of Me and My message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when He returns in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”** Jesus says, if you want to follow Jesus, you must be willing to give up your selfish ways. He doesn’t ask us to deny something to ourselves but to deny the self and all self-promoting ambitions. To be a follower of Jesus, a disciple is not part-time work that one does as an extracurricular activity. Jesus said, “If you choose to follow Me, I don’t want a minor role in your life; I want

first place. I want to be the One that controls your life.” Jesus models this for us in the garden when He prays, “Not My will but Your will.” Those of us who have learned to deny themselves have learned to say, “Not my will but Your will be done.” One of the best examples of a person who was willing to say, “Not my will but Your will,” was Daniel. Daniel 6:3 in the Amplified Bible says, **“Then this Daniel, because of the extraordinary spirit within him, began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and the satraps, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire realm.”** I want to look at four biblical truths and habits that you can learn to build into your life so that you can fulfill God’s purpose for your life and your families. These are four habits that as parents we must build them into our lives so that you can model them for your children and for the people you impact and influence in your life. I have written the definition of remarkable on your notes for you. **Remarkable means exceptional, it means outstanding, it means uncommon, it means worthy of attention. Extraordinary means what’s beyond ordinary. Exceptional. Remarkable.** These four-character traits that are essential to putting aside your own selfish ambition and to picking up your cross, and everyone in your family, that you can live the kind of remarkable life that influences and impacts others and points them to Jesus and to surrender their lives to Him. We are called to be difference makers.

I. To be remarkable I must learn to be respectful to everyone

Respectfulness is the foundation of a remarkable life.

Respecting others demonstrates a reverence for God, and it shows in the way you relate to other people. Our theme for our Vision Day, which is next Sunday, and our theme for 2020 is **Love God, Love People**. Jesus said this is the most important commandment in the entire Bible. In Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus says, “**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**

³⁸**This is the first and greatest commandment.** ³⁹**A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

⁴⁰**The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”** What does it mean to develop a lifestyle of respect?

Respectful: To appreciate the uniqueness, value the worth, and affirm the dignity of everyone because God created them.”

I believe that one of the things that God wants to do in each one of us in 2020 is that we learn to truly embrace and engage the uniqueness of those people who are not like you. You simply value their worth and affirm their dignity because God created them. When I look down on another person, or I’m rude to them, my ego is taking over. I am not putting aside my selfish ambition. God does not approve of everything we do, but He does love and accept us. He values us because He says He created us. God looks to bless those people who have a deep respect for Him and for people. If you want God’s blessing on your family, career, business, friendships, and relationships, you will want to develop

respect in every area of your life. Matthew 23:12 in the CEV says, **“If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored by others.”** At the core of who Jesus was, He had a deep respect for His Father and for people as their Creator. Respect is humility. When you see yourself as more important than others, you are being disrespectful. When you’re disrespectful, you will be put down. In 1 Peter 2:17, the Bible says, **“Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God and respect the king.”**

Who does God expect me to show respect to?

A. Show respect to God and His Word

I show respect daily for God as I read His Word every day, and I surrender every area of my life every day to obey His Word and put His truth into practice. Psalm 119:48 says, **“I honor and love Your commands. I meditate on Your decrees.”** Leviticus 22:32-33 says, **“Do not bring shame on My holy name, for I will display My holiness among the people of Israel. I am the Lord who makes you holy.”**³³ **It was I who rescued you from the land of Egypt, that I might be your God. I am the Lord.”**

B. Show respect to my parents

Exodus 20:12, **“Honor your Father and Mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”** Paul repeats it in Ephesians 6:2-3. To honor and respect your parents at some level means to speak well of and

politely to them; to act in a way that shows them courtesy, deference and love. We're not to obey them if it means to be disobedient to God. Our parents are responsible for bringing us into existence. We need to respect that.

C. Show respect to my spouse

I think it is so easy, after living with your spouse for a while, to feel entitled and to disrespect them in the way we talk to them and act towards them. If you feel hurt by your spouse, it is easy to become disrespectful because of the pain, anger and resentment you could feel. We must be careful, because we will not only sin against them, but Jesus. 1 Peter 3:7 says, **“In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.”** Ephesians 5:33, **“So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”**

D. Show respect to our church family and our pastors

We are to treat each other as brothers and sisters, and we're to outdo each other in showing respect to each other. We're to respect our spiritual leaders. Romans 12:10 says, **“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”** **“Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do**

this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” Hebrews 13:17

E. Show respect to the poor

The Bible says, if you’re unkind to the poor, you insult your Creator, but if you’re kind to them, then you show respect to God and to them. Regardless of what you have or don’t have, we’re to always respect and value the poor and give as we can. Proverbs 14:31, **“Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but helping the poor honors Him.”**

F. Show respect to immigrants

This issue is spoken to often in the O.T., especially in the Torah. Let’s face it—immigration is a hot potato issue here in the States. If you have noticed, it is not as much now because the opposition to the President is not after him with the impeachment issue. There is a lot I would like to say, but I won’t other than key political issues like homelessness, sex education, immigration, marriage have become explosive issues because they have politically been weaponized. I want to do a teaching on the biblical application of how you treat the foreigner, the immigrant in your midst. Leviticus 19:33-34 is very straight forward. **“Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. ³⁴Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”**

G. Show respect to my enemies

Jesus says to His disciples and to us that we're to show respect to those who attack, persecute and lie and try to put you down or plan your defeat. It's much easier to show respect to someone who shows respect to us versus people you might dislike or people who have a different political persuasion or a different religious persuasion. Do you show respect to people who violently disagree with you? Jesus said, "This is one of the true marks of My followers." In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus says, **"You have heard that the law says, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you. ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good; and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."**

II. To be remarkable, I must be reliable

Reliability is foundational if people are going to trust you. If no one can trust you, there will be a struggle in your marriage, parenting and relationships. The term reliable is not used that often in the Bible because it is a modern term, but the concept is in the Bible with the terms of trustworthiness

and faithfulness. The Bible talks about the great need to be a faithful spouse, parent, leader and being faithful to God and to your church family. The Bible says you can count on trustworthy, faithful people. If someone shows that they cannot be trusted or faithful, then you are responsible if you put your trust and faith in them and they hurt you or betray you. That's your responsibility. Look in your notes.

Reliable: Being dependable, trustworthy, honest, and loyal

In Proverbs 20:6 says, **“There are plenty of people who will tell you, ‘You can trust me!’ But is hard to find someone who is truly trustworthy.”**

Three habits God tells us to develop to live a reliable life:

A. Always tell the truth

If you don't, for whatever reasons, you're not as reliable as you think you are. It will backfire on you. Because when you're found out, you will lose trust from those who are closest to you. Colossians 3:9 says, **“Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.”** Partial faithfulness is unfaithfulness. Reliability means I'm always there, and I always tell the truth.

B. Always do what I promise

This shows reliability and will develop trust in others towards you. Proverbs 25:13 in the MSG says, **“Reliable friends, who do what they say, are like cool drinks in sweltering heat—refreshing!”** Proverbs 15:4 in the NCV, **“They keep their promises to their neighbors, even when it hurts.”**

C. Always keep confidential information

In career research, gossip is listed as one of the top 10 career-limiting problems that people have. Reliable people know how to keep their mouths closed. Proverbs 11:13 NCV, **“Gossips can’t keep secrets, but a trustworthy person can.”**

III. To be remarkable, I must learn to be resourceful

Who are resourceful persons? **They are people who have the will to figure out solutions to problems.** They look for ways to work around a problem and create a solution.

Resourcefulness: Making the most of what I have and finding solutions to problems that others have overlooked

Resourceful people march to this drumbeat, **“I will do the best with what I have for Jesus Christ today and those I serve, love and live with. I’ll do the best I can with what I have for Jesus. I’m not waiting for everything to fall in place. If I’m waiting for the perfect environment, nothing is ever going to get done.”** “I’ll do the best I can with what I have.” That’s resourcefulness. Paul put it this way in

Philippians 4:12, **“I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or an empty one, with plenty or with little.”** Please listen to me, parents—when you make all the decisions for your child or you solve all their problems, you’re actually creating dependency. You’re robbing them of dignity. You’re keeping them from growing up. Stop solving all your kid’s problems. It is far more important that they learn how to solve a problem than it is to actually solve the problem, because the problem won’t last, but the skills that they learned in solving the problem will last. You get to lead them, but let them do their own learning.

IV. To be remarkable, I must learn to be resilient

I love this character trait, because I find I need it the most. A resilient person does not give up when they stumble, fall or make a mistake. They simply dust themselves off and move ahead. When you’re resilient you bounce back. You don’t fall apart when things fall apart. Millions of people in our nation do not know how to be resilient, because they have not learned how to be respectful, reliable and resourceful. They’re always looking for someone to help them. When something goes wrong, they give up. Their motto is, “If you don’t succeed the first time, don’t try again.” It’s, “Give up and expect the government to do it for you.” When you commit yourself to learn resilience, you don’t label yourself as a victim; you choose joy. You have the same problems

everyone else has, but you choose to keep going, you choose to keep moving ahead. Here is how we define resilience:

Resilience: The ability to bounce back and recover from loss, failure, stress or disappointment

Proverbs 24:16 says, **“The godly person trips seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.”** Even righteous, godly people stumble. Get depressed. Overspend. Have poor boundaries, but they’re not willing to sit there and pout or get angry at themselves or others or God. They trust God, and they seek His guidance and then act on what He gives them to do. Resilient people have learned that failure is not final. It is all part of the learning process. Resilient people understand they live in a broken world, and they are broken, too, so they know it’s insanity to expect perfection in themselves or others and all of their experiences. Things are a mess, but God is good, and He is good all the time. A perfect example of this kind of thinking and attitude is the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 17-18, **“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.... ¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see**

now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

COMMUNION

“As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘Take it, for this is My body.’ ²³And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴And He said to them, ‘This is My blood, which confirms the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. ²⁵I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.’” Mark 14:22-25