

Extreme Family Makeover: Framing Values Into Our Kids

Psalms 127: 1-5

Last week we built the slab for your house. Now I want you to imagine walking up to that blank slab, the place where you hope to build a home that will stand the storms of life and where you will grow together as a family. Today you stand facing an empty foundation; it is absolutely up to you how the home proceeds from here.

We're going to be talking about framing values into our kids today, but before we do, let's take a minute to read Psalm 127.

The Bible says that "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, Children a reward from Him."

So today we are talking about framing values in our kids. And since we have been on the remodeling and building theme I thought I would talk about framing the walls on your foundation.

So before you start framing the wall you have to have a:

1. A Plan. Every house has a set of plans that show specifically where each wall goes and that plan must be followed or the end result will be poor and not at all what you wanted.

The same is true in how we raise our kids. Let me ask you a question, why are you raising your kids the way you're raising them? It maybe that you want them to have a great education, or you simply want them to have it better than you did growing up.

The problem is that most of us don't consciously think the end result, so we take a casual approach to framing their lives as though we hope they will turn out OK by accident.

So what is the house supposed to look like? If you don't know then you will spend your days being frustrated and confused.

God gives that boy or girl to you like an empty slab that you are to frame up a house on. If your kids are going to bring glory to god and please him, then certain things must be present:

- Salvation: They need to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Dana and I lead both of our boys to Christ at our supper table. Putting you kids in position to hear the Word and seeing it demonstrated by you is the best thing you can do for your children.
- Love: Teaching your kids to love the Lord will cause them to go beyond accepting Jesus as Lord but loving him as Lord. This will intern show them how to love others.
 - Hunger: Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.” The best way of this happening in our kids’ lives is by them watching us hunger for the Lord.

Now that’s the plan. Do you see how you are involved in every part of that framing process? We can’t be all things to our kids but we can have a plan.

The next step in framing a house is: Choosing the right materials.

Have you ever seen those pre-fabricated sheds at Home Depot? If you look at the framing you will see they are framed with 2x2’s and not 2x4’s. They do that to save money and keep cost down, but to me it undermines the integrity of the building. That is why it is important to use the right material for the job.

Just like a home has to be framed with the right materials, your kid’s life must be framed with the right values.

A God honoring life will only be built when our kids accept and believe the truth concerning:

- Family: The great thing about your family is, it’s your family! You get to define what family looks like to your kids. IF we are choosing the right materials then we are using the Bible as our standard. Teach your kids how to pray, read the bible, respect, honor and serve.

- Mercy: God has called all of us to demonstrate His mercy.
- Respect: God is no respecter of persons, and neither should we be.
- Self-control: The child who cannot exercise self-control will live a life full of regret.
- Gratitude: We must train our kids to be grateful people. Teach them how not just to ask God for stuff but to thank Him as well.
- Accountability: Kids need boundaries and consequences for crossing those boundaries. They need parents who are not afraid of them and who are not afraid to call their feet to the carpet when necessary.
- Integrity: Frame into their lives that God sees us when no one else does.
- Lastly responsibility: My boys have chores that they have to do. Joshua cleans the vanities and mirrors and takes out the trash. Christian vacuums and Swiffer the floors and mows the lawn. They both help with the dishes. Give your kids responsibility and frame it into them while they are young.

No one has ever walked into a lumber yard and said, "I'm building a house, I'll just take whatever lumber you give me." Once the plan is known then the right materials can be chosen.

The third step in framing is: Frame according to Code.

IF there is any one step that builders do not like it's this one. I've even heard of people building outside of the city limits just to escape the building codes. Now it's one thing to resent building codes, but do we do the same thing with God's codes as they apply to building the lives of our kids?

God is our building inspector and that you'll answer to him for the way we have framed up the lives of our kids. Thankfully He doesn't wait until we are done. He likes to pop in from time to time to point us in a better direction and help us stick to the plan.

God's code is His Word. Listen to the wisdom found in Deuteronomy 6:4-13

So here are the primary ways you pass on values God is looking for.

1. You Live Them: It is important that you be a lover of God, not just on Sundays but every day.
2. You must Tell Them. God said to talk about those values while you are sitting around or walking around, in the morning or evening. In other words every chance you get. Use teachable moments to speak those values into your kids.
3. You Must Make Them The Center of Your Home. In other words keep them present in all that you do.
4. Lastly, The fourth step in framing is: Frou Frou Can't Make Up For Bad Framing.

A lot of people will walk into a house and only look at the paint job or the fixtures or the floors. Those things are important but if your house has been built with bad material or inadequate material it will not last. You can dress it up any way you want it but underneath it all is there any real substance?

You know whether you've been setting the right example. See, you may not be able to predict the final outcome, but that's not an excuse to do everything in your might to frame your kids in the right direction.

The beauty of it all is when God inspects your work, He doesn't give you a green or red ticket based on the final product, He grades you on your faithfulness to the process. Your kids will answer for whether they accept what you've done or not.