

# “In The Beginning God ...”

**Introduction.** When I think about creation, I think about unbelievable, unmatched power. The power to create the universe is power that cannot be comprehended. But when life is created by a man and woman, there is great power in that too. There is power for that life to have an enormous effect on the world.

The ability of that effect on the world comes down, so often, to choices. So to prepare all of us to be generators of tremendous effect on the world, we will evaluate four areas where God needs to be in the beginning.

## ***I. In The Beginning God Needs To Be Stressed In Your Youth***

- A. Observe the command given to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Do we follow their example?
  - 1. The Israelites were to teach their children by example as well as direction. Children need to see parents doing more than acting righteously. They need to be taught the virtue and reason of acting righteously.
  - 2. Parents, are you fulfilling your responsibility (Deuteronomy 6:24-25)? The time to take this responsibility seriously is now (Proverbs 22:6).
- B. Not all responsibility lies with the parents (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Children have to follow God’s direction.
  - 1. It is easy to move God out of a life with school activities, peer pressure, etc.
  - 2. In your youth, imitate the example of the Lord (Luke 2:52).

## ***II. In The Beginning God Needs To Be Stressed In Your Home***

- A. We need Him in marriage.
  - 1. The institution of marriage deserves respect.
    - a) Marriage is divine in origin (Genesis 2:18).
    - b) Marriage is designed for man and woman (Genesis 2:21-24).
    - c) Marriage is intimate in its relationship (1 Corinthians 7:2).
    - d) Marriage is mature and mutual in its responsibilities (1 Corinthians 7:5).
    - e) Marriage is monogamous in its character (Romans 7:1-4).
    - f) Marriage is permanent in its duration (Matthew 19:5-6).
    - g) Marriage is uplifting in its design (Proverbs 18:22; 1 Timothy 5:13-14).
  - 2. Spouses need to be godly (Proverbs 31:10-12). In fact, marriage and family responsibilities should bring out the best in people.
  - 3. Divorce is only an option because of adultery (Matthew 19:3-9).
    - a) Divorce is not an option for the God-fearing person.
    - b) Problems can be worked out without severing the relationship.
- B. We need Him in the home.
  - 1. The responsibilities of a godly husband and father.
    - a) He is to serve as the head and leader of the home (Ephesians 5:22-24).
    - b) He is to love his wife and children (Ephesians 5:25-27).
    - c) He is to provide for his wife and children (1 Timothy 5:8).
    - d) He is to be an example (1 Timothy 1:16).
    - e) We do not need husbands and fathers like Lot (Genesis 13), Eli (1 Samuel 3), and David (2 Samuel 11).

- f) We do need husbands and fathers like Noah (Genesis 6), Joshua (Joshua 24), and Joseph (Matthew 1).
- 2. The responsibilities of a godly wife and mother.
  - a) She is to guide and keep the home (1 Timothy 5:14).
  - b) She is to love her husband and children (Titus 2:4-5).
  - c) She is to be subject to her husband (1 Peter 3:5-6).
  - d) She is to be a trainer of souls (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15).
  - e) We do not need wives and mothers like Lot's wife (Genesis 19), Jezebel (1 Kings 16), and Herodias (Mark 6).
  - f) We do need wives and mothers like Vashti (Esther 1), Mary (Luke 1), and Priscilla (Acts 18).
- 3. The responsibilities of godly children.
  - a) Respect for authority begins with respect for parents (Leviticus 19:1-3; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20).
  - b) Children need to help provide for the family.
    - (1) Every child owes his parents something. Parents deserve more loving loyalty and active allegiance than do your peers at school. Your parents, not your peers, brought you into this world.
    - (2) The divinely revealed obligation to love and respect parents is a lifetime requirement. Aged parents deserve to receive time from their children. It is so sad to hear of children who live within driving distance who never come over for a meal or help them around the house.
  - c) Children owe their home and family their purity.
    - (1) In the home and out of the home, young people should practice purity of thought, word, and deed. Purity must be inward as well as outward. External purity alone is hollow and lacks permanent value.
    - (2) This means that you will avoid profanity and pornography. It means that you will not develop harmful habits such as smoking, drinking, gambling, or drug abuse (Matthew 5:8; Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 4:6; 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:22).

### ***III. In The Beginning God Needs To Be Stressed In Your Career***

- A. You are responsible to provide for your family (1 Timothy 5:8). But we need to be careful that work does not make us neglect religious or family obligations.
- B. Christians maintain a godly attitude and example while at work (Romans 12:16-18; Ephesians 6:5-9; Philippians 2:14-15; Colossians 3:22-4:1). This means more than just watching what we say.
- C. Joseph, Daniel, and Esther demonstrate that people who put God first and conscientious can succeed in their careers without compromise.

### ***IV. In The Beginning God Needs To Be Stressed In Your Religion***

- A. In everything we do religiously, we ask, "Is God pleased?"
  - 1. We cannot go on what feels good (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).
  - 2. "I like ...", "I want ...", "It seems right ...", "They do it ...", and "I am sincere ..." are all false forms of authority.

3. We differentiate between authority from heaven and men (Matthew 21:23-27; cp. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Romans 4:3; 1 Peter 4:11).
- B. If it is not in the Bible, we cannot do it (Matthew 7:21, 24-27).

**Conclusion.** Christians consider God first in everything (Colossians 3:2). This is a mentality that permeates every aspect of our earthly lives. If it does not, then we are not loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36-40).