

BIBLICAL • FAMILY • MINISTRIES

# Friend of the Family

First Quarter 2026

Volume 32.1

## Family Issues

Dr. Allen Griffith



As I watch the collapse of America, many churches and too many families, I become increasingly convinced that hope

for the future begins with the family, and hope for the family begins with a genuine man of God. If I lost my family to the world, I would feel like I lost everything worthwhile. If, when we reach our heavenly home, we find that some are missing, it will be an eternal tragedy.

I don't know where things are in your life and family, but if they are not good, change must come. We cannot change the past, but God forgives. He is truly a God of new beginnings. If need be, get on your knees to confess sin and failure. Commit yourself to live completely for Christ. Seek forgiveness from family and loved ones. Begin a new pathway of testimony and dedication to the Lord. If children have stumbled over your failures, begin daily, faithful prayers for each of them.

I wrote last time about Abraham and his heart for God. In Genesis 18:17-19, we find God's testimony about Abraham. The context of the passage involves the LORD'S intended judgment on Sodom. When Abraham heard what was coming on that wicked place, he began intensive intercession for the righteous, who might be living there.

Having completed his appeal to the LORD, he returned home. Amid this whole experience, the LORD

expresses his testimony regarding Abraham as a faithful man of God, and as an amazingly spiritually minded, successful father. Genesis 18:17-18 *"And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and*

*mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"*

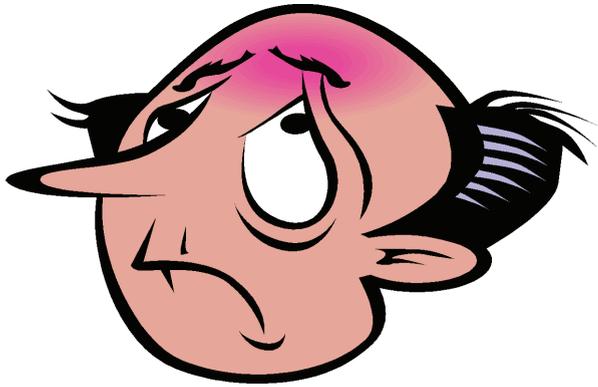
As we noted, the LORD told Abraham all that was going to happen. Part of His reasoning was His confession of Abraham's righteousness. Genesis 18:19, tells us what God saw in Abraham and his family. God said, *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him."*

This testimony is incredible. It is testimony of what Abraham's children would be like, as they grew up and went through life. Remember that when God stated these things, Isaac had not yet been born. The testimony begins with the words *"For I know him..."*

God knows us. He knows every man, the head of every household. That itself is sobering. What did God know about Abraham? God knew that Abraham would *command his children and his household*. Abraham was a strong leader. Command means, to set his house in order. Perfect? No, but he accepted responsibility for his home. Every man must do that.

More next time.

## Trends & Troubles



We are living in darkening times, in these seeming last days of the church age. We focused on the warning that in such times people would be without natural affection, as stated in II Timothy 3:3. We condemned the practice of abortion, as perhaps the greatest example of the discarding of affection. It is the most normal and natural in all human experiences. I love the news that a couple is excited to find out, that God has given them the privilege of having a child.

Natural affection, however, extends beyond birth. As children grow up, there should be a deep and abiding love, from them to their parents and from their parents to them. Unfortunately, the II Timothy passage also warns children of being disobedient to their parents, in the last days of our current age. It should not be surprising, since the same kind of rebellion is mentioned in Romans 1:31.

Paul recounts in that chapter, the experience of any society that rejects God, refuses to glorify Him with thanksgiving and praise, changes the truth of God into a lie, ultimately worshipping and serving the creature more than the Creator. Welcome to America!

The term *disobedient* found in the text suggests an unwillingness to be persuaded and is indeed an obstinate rejection. In a few places, it is rendered *unbelief*. The picture given to us suggests children in the last days of this age may be disobedient to their parents in daily living. They may be unwilling to listen to spiritual truth and instruction. It is no wonder Paul called it *perilous times*.

The hope for the Christian family is to live contrary to the pattern of the world. Train children biblically and protect them from the influence of an increasingly godless culture. One of the greatest heartaches of my life is to see

children who grew up in a Christian home, attended a Christian school and church, but in their teen years and adulthood, rejected their parents and rejected biblical Christianity. It is amazing that Paul, in the first century, gave clear warning about the last days. As society rots in sin, it will be the rare family that holds together from one generation to the next. Every aspect of our nation's traditions and family life are being undermined. It will be an unusual family that sustains unity and spiritual values, throughout the years ahead of us. May yours be one of them.



Abraham was given wonderful promises to him and his descendants. In Genesis, God told him he would die before those promises would be fulfilled. Abraham remained faithful to the Lord, but his perspective changed. Hebrews 11:9-10 says, "*By faith he sojourned in the Land of Promise...dwelling in tabernacles...For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*". Abraham lived on earth, but always with a view toward heaven. By faith and obedience, he laid the foundation for the ultimate earthly blessings that will come to the nation of Israel. He was the kind of man whose eternal values governed all that he did on earth.

**ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THAT MAN?**

**SEARCH FOR  
DR. GRIFFITH'S MESSAGES  
ON SERMONAUDIO.COM  
E. ALLEN GRIFFITH**

# Prescription *For The Family*

We are discussing some practical suggestions for disciplining a child. Our last article ended with the encouragement to send the disobedient child to a private place, preferably their room. That action gets the child out of the public setting, giving time to reflect on their disobedience. It also gives the parent time to quiet any anger they may feel, as well as giving thought to the upcoming discipline.



A parent must not discipline in anger. There is no place for yelling, manhandling, or other forms of intimidation. Scripture warns parents, especially fathers, of the danger of making our children bitter, provoking them to wrath, or sinking them in discouragement.

Ephesians 6:1 tells children to obey their parents. Ephesians 6:4 addresses the father and says, *“And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*

Colossians 3:20-21 says, *“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”* No child will enjoy discipline, but hopefully, no child will walk out of their room angry, bitter and feeling mistreated, by what they experienced when they were corrected for their disobedience. We want discipline to be spiritually profitable for our child. (By the way, no child should need the rod after the age of 12. Success in the early years will make it unnecessary.)

What happens when the parent enters the room of his waiting child will be very important. The conversation

will be critical to the success of discipline. It should begin with the parents getting on the child’s level. Sit down or kneel to get eye to eye, rather than towering over the child.

First statement – “Look at me.” Second statement, almost in a whisper. “What did you do?” The child may try to tell the parent the “Why”. We want the “what.” The question is an appeal to the conscience, in order to establish guilt for the misdeed. The child will always have a “why” to justify their wrong. The “what” will justify the discipline.

*We are very thankful for the professional graphic design and printing that*  
**CHURCH MINISTRY SOLUTIONS**  
*provides for us. Contact them at*  
[info@ChurchMinistrySolutions.com](mailto:info@ChurchMinistrySolutions.com)  
*or 888.720.0950*

## Looking for a Christian Camp?

### Tri State Bible Camp

2 River Road

Montague, NJ 07827

Contact—Chris Jenkins, Director

973-293-3522

## ACCESS US ONLINE

E-mail us at [friendsoffamily@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffamily@gmail.com). We will notify you when FOF is up on our website.

Have you visited the BFM Website?  
[www.biblicalfamilyministries.org](http://www.biblicalfamilyministries.org)

Biblical Family Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian ministry established in 1993 to present the Bible’s teaching on marriage, family, child training, and other Biblical topics. Dr. E. Allen Griffith and his wife, Patricia, work together in this ministry located in Pennsylvania. They are assisted by Kimberly Schmelzer.



[podcastbythebook.com](http://podcastbythebook.com)

Hosted by  
**Dr. E. Allen Griffith**

Sponsored by  
**Biblical Family Ministries, Inc.**

*If you don't see the world through the Bible, you will never see it right.*



## From Under the Umbrella

By Patricia E. Griffith

We have had the most precious privilege to go to Ireland and minister to God's Missionaries serving there. It was such a blessing to see God's people winning and teaching the Irish people. My hubby preached in two churches and spoke at a three-day couples retreat in a very old beautiful Manor House Retreat Center. God is so good to us.

God is faithful and is still very much in control of this wicked, wicked world! *"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I shall do all my pleasure:"* Isaiah 46:9,10. As Christians, we are nearing the destruction of our beautiful world that God created. I believe the Rapture is closer than ever. As we see the wickedness, we know this is Satan's world for now. He knows his time is short, but he wants as much of God's creation, including all mankind, destroyed before he is destroyed, and takes many as he can to the Lake of Fire. Final judgment will come for Satan, his angels, and all those who refuse God's provision of Salvation.

We must be busy, witnessing, praying, and pleading for those who are not saved, to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ! God help us all to serve Him better.

## Build your Life on God's Promises

We are prone to live by feelings, instead of faith. That is spiritually dangerous, because emotion can take us to great heights and great depths in a short period of time. No one can do well with such instability. We must rest on the promises of God. Here is a precious and stabilizing one found in Hebrews 13:5 *"...for he (God) hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."* The real impact comes from the original text which would testify--I will never, never leave thee nor ever, ever, ever forsake thee. The depths of heartache and suffering can cause us to "emotionally" wonder where is He? Believe the promise by faith. Claim it and seek the comfort and assurance found in it. Claim it today! He is with you – right now.

*Believe the promise!*

## BFM RESOURCES:

All listed prices are suggested donations.  
Order materials at [EAGBFM@comcast.net](mailto:EAGBFM@comcast.net)

### BOOKS AND BOOKLETS:

- **Does it Matter?** — A look at Bible manuscripts and versions - \$8.00.
- **The Promised One: Jesus Christ** — An evangelistic tool to fully introduce the Savior. - \$3.00.
- **Before the Throne of Grace** — \$12.95.
- **Victory Over Trial and Trouble** — \$12.95.
- **Parenting: One Chance to do it Right** — \$12.95.
- **Serving As A Deacon - booklet** — \$2.50.
- **Israel, Still God's Chosen people** — \$11.99.

### eBOOKS:

Titles marked with an "•" above are available as eBooks:  
[FaithfulLifePublishers.com](http://FaithfulLifePublishers.com) — SEARCH: Allen Griffith

### EVANGELISTIC TOOLS:

**The Promised One: Jesus Christ** — A booklet to fully introduce the Savior. — \$3.00.

**Few there be that find it** — A gospel tract.  
Up to 25 at no charge to you.

**Pure and Simple card** — a business size card directing people to a video presentation of the Gospel.  
Up to 25 at no charge to you.

### BIBLE BROADCASTING NETWORK:

Dr. Griffith's messages heard on the **Bible Broadcasting Network** can be ordered by email at [EAGBFM@Comcast.net](mailto:EAGBFM@Comcast.net). Give the title of the message.