

BIBLICAL • FAMILY • MINISTRIES

Friend of the Family

Third Quarter 2026

Volume 32.3

Family Issues

Dr. Allen Griffith

I want to pick up where we left off last time. We made reference to God's commendation of Abraham in Genesis

18. In verse 19, God said, *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him."* I cannot emphasize enough that a father must be a genuine example to his wife and children. By instruction and example, he must say – live the way I live, do what I do, talk as I talk, worship as I worship, pray as I pray. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 17:6, *"... the glory of children are their fathers"*. That statement is an incredible blessing to dads, but it presents an even greater responsibility.

God has built into a child a natural love, honor, and respect for his/her dad. The father is put on a pedestal. He will not be perfect, but woe unto him who fails to be a genuine man of God. It does not matter if he is tall or short, fat or thin, athletic or sedentary, rich or poor, intellectually brilliant or average. He needs to be a man of God, wise in spiritual things, committed to Christ, and a living testimony for the Savior.

He might be busy, but he must not be too busy for his family. It takes a lot of dedicated time and energy to win and walk with a family – BUT WHAT ELSE REALLY MATTERS? What did the LORD say would be the result of Abraham's life and leadership? Verse 19 goes on to say, *"they (his household) shall keep the way of the LORD..."* What is "the way of the LORD"? I



am reminded that Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"*. The way of the LORD is not always an easy path. It is a path of righteousness, godliness and faithfulness. It can be a lonely path with few others

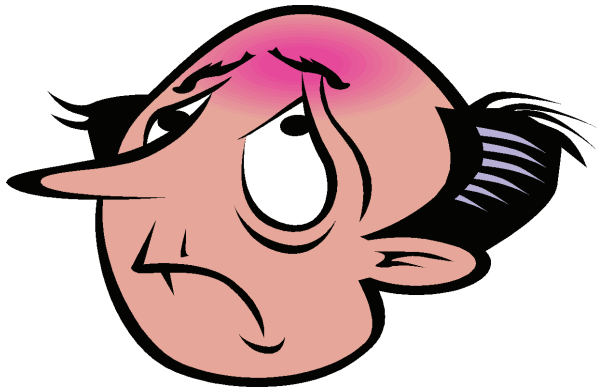
walking by one's side. It is the path of full commitment. It is the path that permits no compromise on truth.

BUT this is what is so wonderful about Abraham's children. The Lord did not just say they would walk the way of the LORD. He said they would KEEP the way of the LORD. What is the difference? Keep means to guard, protect and defend. The way of the LORD is under attack today by wickedness and compromise.

Sadly, it is second- and third-generation Christians who are walking the way of the world. When I see young people surrender their Christian values and follow the way of the world, I ask – where is the father? Why did he not live for Christ and train his children so they would fight the battle for spiritual truth and godliness? Why are so many Bible-preaching churches filled with gray heads instead of young people who lead the church in paths of righteousness? Why are more and more churches closed on Sunday and Wednesday nights? This failure in the Church goes back to men. Some need to go to their children and apologize for their failure to lead their home in godliness.

More next time. *Lord, please help us!*

Trends & Troubles



One of today's greatest tragedies is the acceptance of perversion in society and often in professing Christianity. To be "gay" is the common term used to soften the impact of the sin and perversion of homosexuality. "Homosexuality" has been a clinical description of the mental confusion leading to same sex attraction and relationships. There is nothing "gay" about it.

Sadly, on June 20, 2015, the U.S Supreme Court issued a 5-4 ruling in *Obergefell v Hodges* that made "Gay Marriage" legal in all 50 States. To reinforce the decision, President Biden signed the "Respect for Marriage Act" in 2022, assuring Federal recognition of same sex marriage. These government actions gave legal credence to wicked sin in our society and gutted our nation's culture. God revealed His will when He judged Sodom and Gomorrah with total destruction, as is recorded in Genesis 19.

Of course, there are some professing Christians who want us to believe that the men of Sodom were straight, but in response to the angelic visitors being unfriendly, the Sodomite men were going to homosexually rape the strangers. REALLY? The Divinely judged vile sin of Sodom has been legalized in our Country. We are no doubt under God's moral judgment, and we wonder when He will act overtly. This sinful plague has found acceptance in society. Ads of various sorts will often use two men or two women in romantic settings to promote a product. The sin is pushed and popularized without shame. Public displays of their vile affection are common. In Romans 1, the Apostle Paul speaks plainly, condemning the sin and also tracing its origin. In verse 21, we see it rooted in a rejection of God and the refusal to worship and glorify Him. Thinking themselves to be wise they become absolute fools. Taking

God off the throne of their minds and hearts they exalt creation, including mankind and the animal kingdom. Ignoring God results in ignoring His standards and values. They first plunge into fornication and adultery as described in Romans 1:24. As verse 25 says, they worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. As a result, as stated in verses 26-27, God gives them up to their vile affections. Those vile affections are described as women turning to Lesbianism and men turning to filthy sin with other men. Both sexes live in rebellion against God and commit that which is "unseemly", i.e. shameful. They also experience unique sickness and disease appropriate to their sinful rebellion. Verse 28 says they ultimately will fully reject acknowledgment of the true God, and He will give them over to reprobation – His full rejection of them. May God help America!



There are men who get great recognition in Scripture and some who get much public acknowledgement in the world today. There are many others who walk with the Lord, but are never named or noticed. I was thinking about the arrest of Peter in Acts 12. Herod had killed James and now thought to kill Peter. Acts 12:5 says, "... *but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*" That night God sent an angel to set Peter free. Who was praying? Not a name was mentioned. No man was seeking recognition. Each one sacrificed the time and energy to gather with others to seek God and ask for the seemingly impossible. That kind of man is desperately needed in the prayer meeting of his church every week.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THAT MAN?

**JOIN US - NOVEMBER 13-14
AT THE BFM 30TH MEN'S
CONFERENCE
CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION**

Prescription *For The Family*

Let's talk more about practical suggestions for disciplining a child.

In that bedroom or other private place, we want to discipline our disobedient child in a God-honoring way. We require the child to look at us. We quietly ask – "What did you do?" Our precious one may immediately want to tell us why they did what they did. We are not looking for an excuse or justification. The question is "what," not "why." Our response to admission of guilt is – "Are you allowed to do that"? When children admit guilt, they know they are worthy of discipline.

I must add at this point that we need not paddle our children every time they do wrong or fail to do right. Sometimes verbal rebuke is enough. The wise parent will know whether physical discipline is necessary to bring obedience going forward. When paddling is appropriate take time to explain, "the what and the why". Obviously we are punishing, but our goal is correction. Our ultimate focus is not on what the child did, but rather on behavior in the future.

Tender words are important. I want my child to know I am angry and disappointed, but no yelling or nasty words are necessary or appropriate. I tell my child I love him. I tell him I am going to paddle him, because God loves him and God tells me to use the rod to correct him. I tell him I am going to swat him 3 times. I have heard it taught that we should paddle until the child cries repentantly. That is poor instruction. I don't want to break my child with pain. I want to break his will,



not his spirit. I tell him he is going to bend over without yelling, kicking, blocking the rod, etc.

Three swats is what we did. The rod is to be used only on the bottom – not a bare bottom, not legs, arms, or back. When the paddling is over we again affirm our love with a gentle hug of affection. The hug we get back may let us know if we had a profitable discipline experience – tender hug returned – maybe no hug.

We are very thankful for the professional graphic design and printing that
CHURCH MINISTRY SOLUTIONS
provides for us. Contact them at
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.
 We will notify you when FOF is up on our website.

Have you visited the BFM Website?
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

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

For many years I have started my day with Bible reading and prayer. Now, since my life is a tad slower, I find much more time with the Lord.

I can start my day with a cup of coffee as I read my devotions and then have time to cover my precious family, friends and those who need physical care, in prayer! So many of our extended families do not know the Lord as their Savior, I can pray for each one to turn to the Lord. There is no better way to face each day than with the Lord in prayer.

I hope you make time to be with our Heavenly Father each day! It starts the day out perfect! *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"* Isaiah 41:10.

BFM RESOURCES:

*All listed prices are suggested donations.
Order materials at 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 — 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. Give the title of the message.

Build your Life on God's Promises

I will never get over Solomon's experience recorded in I Kings 3. The LORD appeared to him in a dream and said, *"Ask what I shall give thee."* Solomon asked for an understanding heart. In I Kings 3:12 The LORD said, *"Behold, I have done according to thy words: Lo I have given thee a wise and understanding heart..."* Solomon had recognized his greatest need as a king and as a man. How incredible that James writes in James 1:5, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."* How desperately we need to see, think, and act with divine guidance and clarity, especially in the times of trial and testing. We are not left to our own thoughts and devices. God says if we ask, He will give it and He will never get weary of us asking. This invitation from our Heavenly Father should be a mainstay of our lives. *"Father, please give me wisdom"*. Pray it every day!

Believe the promise!