

(B-2) The Child-Centered Home vs. the God-Centered Home

The Battle for Preeminence

A Child-Centered Home

A God-Centered Home

3 John 1:9

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

A child-centered home is one in which a child believes and is allowed to behave as though the entire household, parents, siblings, and even pets exist for one purpose – to please him. Children use and develop the following self-centered habits:

- He interrupts adults when they are talking
- He uses manipulation and rebellion to get his way
- He dictates the family schedule (mealtimes, bedtimes, etc.)
- He takes precedence over the needs of the spouse
- He has an equal or overriding vote in decision making matters. (The family is not a democracy!)
- He demands excessive time and attention from parents to the detriment of other Biblical responsibilities of the parents
- He escapes the consequences for his sinful and irresponsible behavior and choices
- He speaks to parents as though they are peers
- He becomes the dominant influence in the home
- He is entertained and coddled (rather than disciplined) out of a bad mood

A child that grows up in this home will:

- Grow up to be a selfish person
- Think society owes him a living
- Not know how to respond to correction
- Think that his say means he get his way
- Assume his desires override everything else

Which model above best describes your home?

Material is taken and adapted from
Lou Priolo's Book, "The Heart of Anger"

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The concept of a God-centered home is derived from the biblical principle that the purpose of every Christian is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31). In contrast to the child-centered home where pleasing and serving the child is the dominant theme, the God-centered home is one in which everyone is committed to serving and pleasing God. God's desires are exalted over everyone else's. In a God-centered home, children are taught the following:

- To joyfully serve others
- To cheerfully obey their parents the first time
- To not interrupt parents when they are speaking to others
- To understand he will not always get his own way
- To work his schedule around his parents' schedule
- To have input into family decisions, but not equal vote
- To understand God has given his parents other responsibilities in addition to meeting his needs
- To suffer the consequences for his sinful and irresponsible behavior and choices
- To speak to parents out of respect, honor, and appreciation
- To esteem others as more important than themselves
- To serve the family by fulfilling household responsibilities (chores)
- To protect themselves from bad influences
- To not divide parents over disciplinary issues

A child that grows up in this home will:

- Learn that life is about serving others
- Live to contribute to society
- Know how to respond to correction
- Learn that he is a small part of the whole
- Value pleasing God more than pleasing self