**Recommended Reading**

*God, Marriage, and Family* by Andreas Kostenberger

*Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem (Ch. 37)

*Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*,

John Piper & Wayne Grudem (ed.) (Ch. 13)

*Father, Son, & Holy Spirit* by Bruce Ware

*Knowing God* by J.I. Packer (Ch. 19)

*Children of the Living God* by Sinclair Ferguson

*Adopted into God’s Family* by Trevor J. Burke

**Course outline:**

Week 1 – God’s Purpose for the Family

**Week 2 – The Ministry of the Family**

Week 3 – Family Worship

Week 4 – Getting to the Heart of Behavior

Week 5 – Formative Discipline: Our Words to Their Hearts

Week 6 – What to Do When You Can’t Reach the Heart

Week 7 – Corrective Discipline: The Rod of Correction

Week 8 – Boys & Fatherhood

Week 9 – Girls & Motherhood

Week 10 – Panel discussion

Week 11 – Children, Technology & Social Media

Week 12 – Zealous Spiritual Parenting

Week 13 – Lessons Kids (and Adults) Need to Learn: Proverbs

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**Core Seminars – Christian Life**

## Parenthood

***Week 2***

**The Ministry of the Family**

* **Review – significance of children**
  + **Scripture teaches that a primary purpose of the family is nothing less presenting the whole world with a series of three portraits—of God’s triune nature, the Gospel, and the church.**
* **Two important caveats**
  + **The significance of marriage**
  + **The limits of the family in God’s plan of revelation**
* **The family ministers to the local church**
  + **A well-ordered family is a powerful, God-ordained, universal witness to the church of what it ought to be.**
  + **The theme of I Timothy**
    - **“I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household” (I Tim. 3:15)**
  + **A beautiful symbiosis – the family blesses the church and the church blesses the family**
  + **A question for singles**
  + **A question for mothers**
  + **A question for parents**
* **The family ministers to the world**
  + **Preparation for the Gospel**
  + **Satan’s attack**
    - **It seems he wants to disintegrate and distort the family beyond recognition so that the Gospel is as inaccessible to people as possible.**
    - **Example: gender interchangeability**
  + **Our view**
    - **We should view building strong families as a form of ministry, and opening our homes to non-Christians as an increasingly valuable evangelistic opportunity.**
    - **The significance of the home—and homemakers—in Scripture**
      * **Proverbs 31**
      * **John 14:2-4**
      * **Titus 2:5**
    - **The significance of the home in evangelism**
      * **At CHBC**
      * **Worldwide**
    - **The ministry of having children**
* **Conclusion – the family as a gulf stream**