The Imperative of Spousal Priority

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

- Jesus and Paul both quoted this instruction from the Old Testament. God values the importance of _____________ ____________, especially since there were no _____________ when the instruction was given.
- In society today, the biggest enemy of spousal priority is _____________ families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spousal Priority...</th>
<th>Kidcentric Priority...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... balances the needs of children with the needs of the family, especially the marriage relationship.</td>
<td>... focuses the most amount of resources on children.</td>
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<td>... derives emotional satisfaction from the marriage relationship.</td>
<td>... derives the most emotional satisfaction from children.</td>
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<td>... finds primary identity in being a Christ follower first, a spouse second, and a parent third.</td>
<td>... finds primary identity in accomplishments of their children.</td>
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<td>... allows children to be children who develop progressively.</td>
<td>... pressures kids to be the best at the expense of learning responsibility.</td>
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<td>... understands the rightful role of the parent.</td>
<td>... misunderstands the role of parent abdicating decision making to children.</td>
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CONSEQUENCES OF KID-CENTRIC HOMES

1. Greater likelihood of _____________ in children
2. Increased _____________ on parents
3. Increased _____________ on family
4. Children lack a true sense of biblical _____________
5. _____________ from children
6. Decreased marital _____________
7. Increased chance of _____________ at empty nest stage

BENEFITS OF SPOUSAL PRIORITY

1. Creation of a _____________ family identity
2. Opportunity to _____________ the sins of the previous generation
3. Spouses more quickly develop _____________ in one another
4. Children develop _____________ and are more well-adjusted
5. Children observe the _____________ model for healthy family dynamics
6. Deeper _____________ develops between spouses
7. Parents are not as _____________ impacted when children leave home

CHOICES THAT INSTILL SPOUSAL PRIORITY

1. Leave the _____________
2. Make _____________ together
3. Set clear _____________ with extended family
4. Model and explain spousal _____________
5. Model love for Christ and your glad _____________ to Him

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