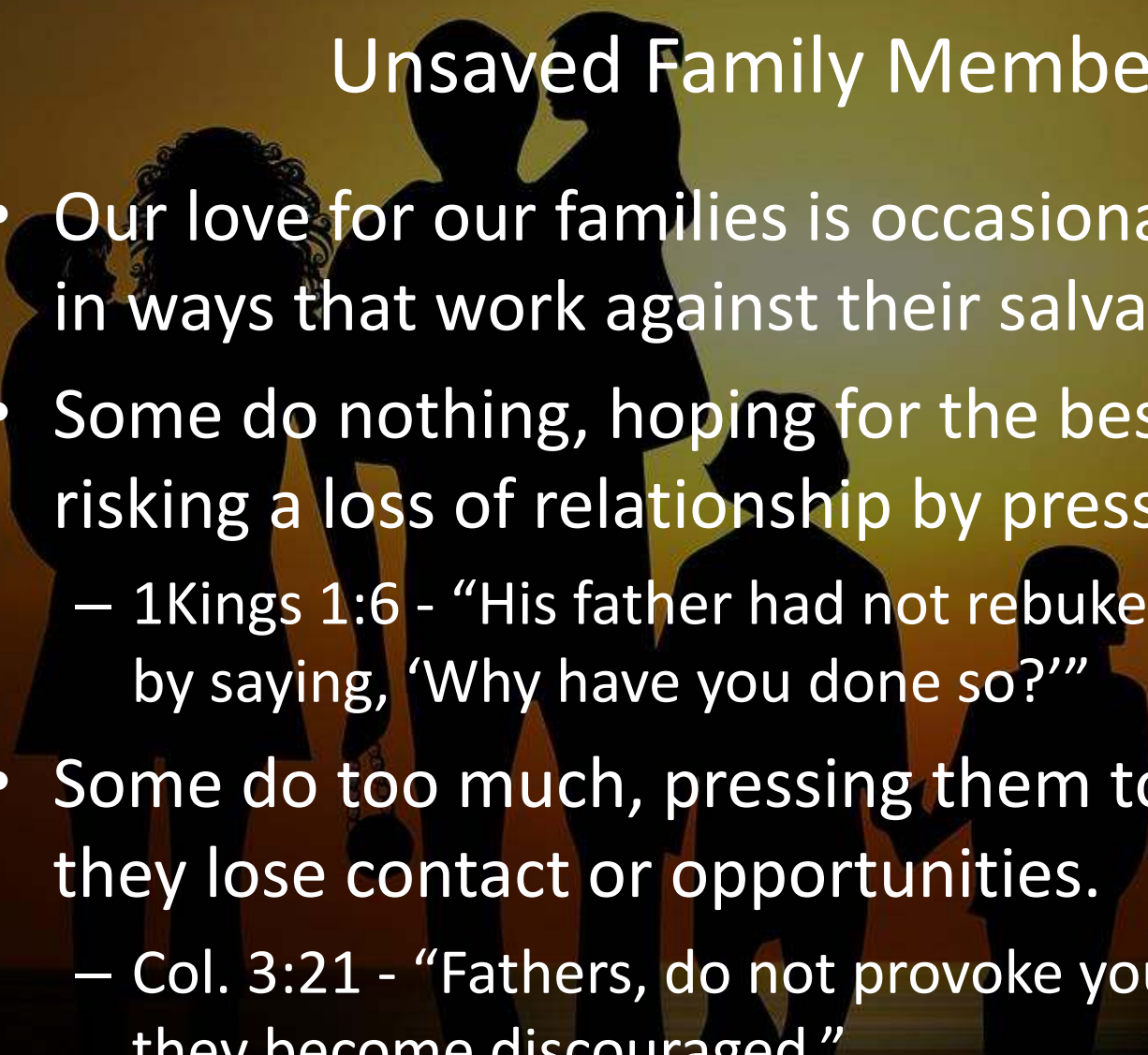
The image features a silhouette of a family of six people against a warm, golden-brown sunset background. From left to right, there is a woman holding a baby, a man holding a young girl, and two other children holding hands. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

What Does the Bible Teach About Living with Unsaved Family Members?

What Does the Bible Teach About Living with Unsaved Family Members?

- We love our extended families; it is part of our design in the image of God.
- God's love for all of His children is perfect, and He does everything within His plan for their salvation.
 - 1John 4:9 - "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."

What Does the Bible Teach About Living with Unsaved Family Members?



- Our love for our families is occasionally manifested in ways that work against their salvation.
- Some do nothing, hoping for the best, afraid of risking a loss of relationship by pressing the matter.
 - 1Kings 1:6 - “His father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, ‘Why have you done so?’”
- Some do too much, pressing them to the point that they lose contact or opportunities.
 - Col. 3:21 - “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

What Does the Bible Teach About Living with Unsaved Family Members?

- We want our parents and children to be saved, but how do we reach them?

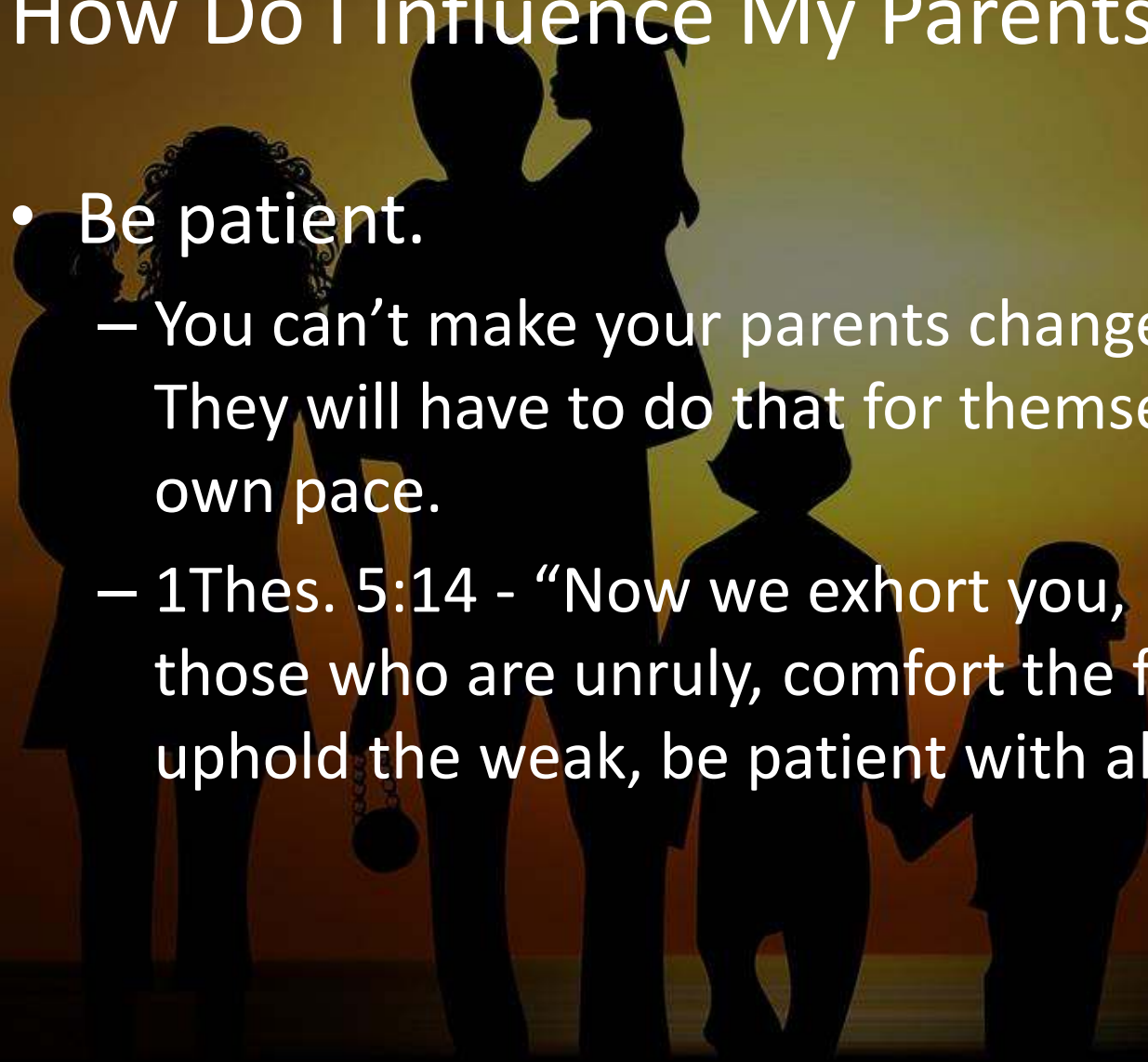


How Do I Influence My Parents For Christ?

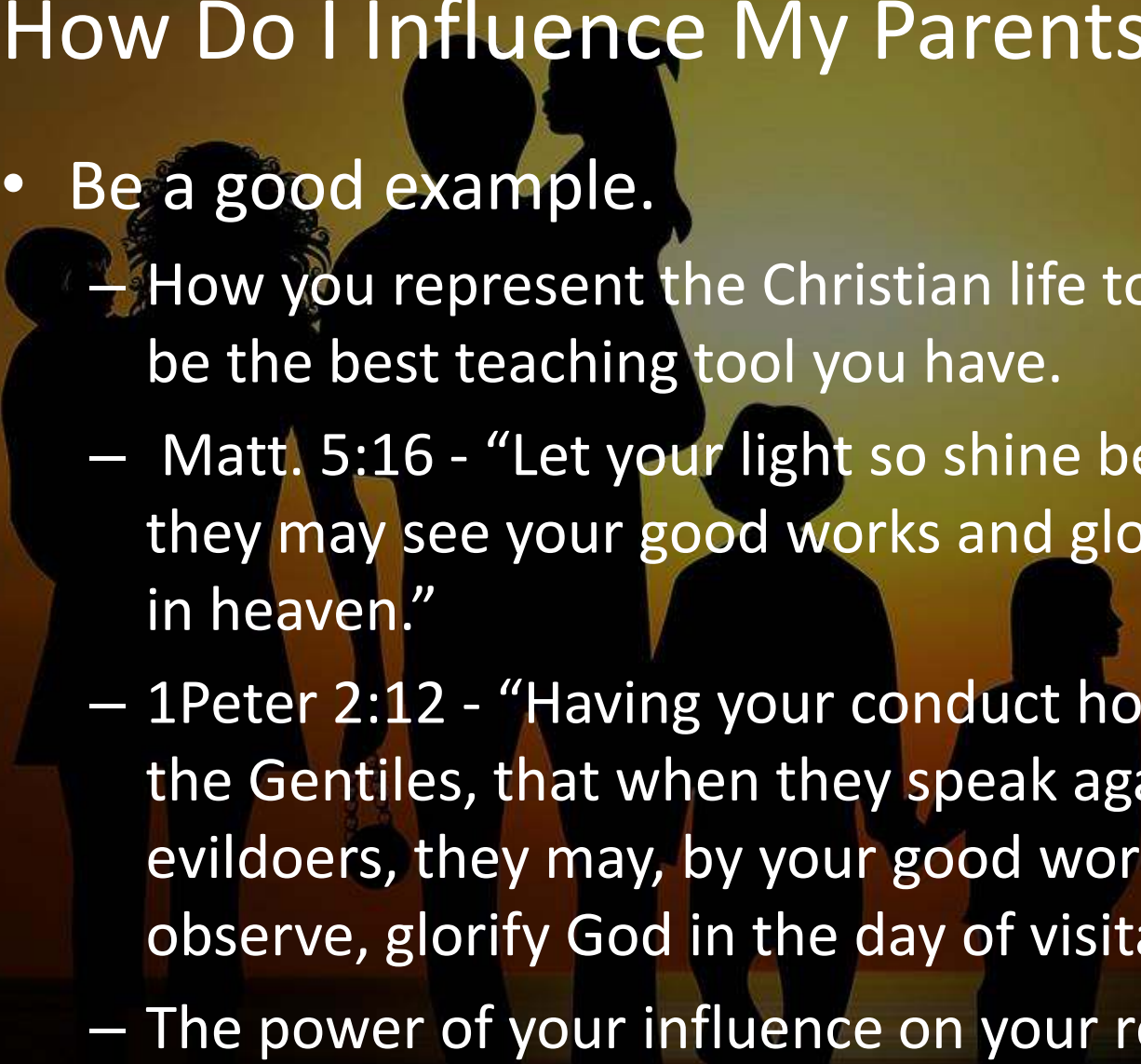
- Be patient.

- You can't make your parents change their minds. They will have to do that for themselves at their own pace.

- 1Thes. 5:14 - "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."



How Do I Influence My Parents For Christ?



- Be a good example.
 - How you represent the Christian life to them will likely be the best teaching tool you have.
 - Matt. 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - 1Peter 2:12 - “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
 - The power of your influence on your relatives is only as strong as the example you set for them.

How Do I Influence My Parents For Christ?

- Be studious.

- You must be prepared with an answer; opportunities are often rare and fleeting.

- 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- 1Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

How Do I Influence My Parents For Christ?



- Be prayerful.
 - That’s how we fill the time between opportunities; that’s how we manifest our faith in the power of the Gospel.
 - James 5:16 - “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
 - 1John 3:22 - “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

How Do I Influence My Parents For Christ?

- Involve other Christians.
 - Ask other Christians to pray for them and become involved in influencing them for Christ.
 - Heb. 10:24 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”
 - 1Thes. 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”
- These methods will work with our adult children as well.

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- As parents, the greatest blessing we will ever give our children is to give them back to God.
 - Gen. 18:19 - “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”
 - 1Sam. 1:22 - “But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever.’”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Insist that your children obey your instructions.
 - Eph. 6:1-3 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”
 - “The thing that impresses me the most about America is the way parents obey their children.”
(King Edward VIII, 1894 - 1972)

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-brown gradient. Overlaid on this gradient are the dark silhouettes of a family. On the left, a woman is seen from the back, holding a young child. In the center, a man and a woman are standing close together, with the man's arm around the woman. To the right, two more children are visible, one slightly behind the other, both looking towards the right side of the frame.

- “There was a time when we expected nothing of our children but obedience, as opposed to the present, when we expect everything of them but obedience.” (*Anatole Broyard*)
 - Prov. 30:11 - “There is a generation that curses its father, And does not bless its mother.”
 - Prov. 29:15 - “The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Jesus and His parents
 - Luke 2:51 - “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.”
- Eli and his sons
 - 1Sam. 2:12, 22-24, 3:13 - “Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD... 22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 23 So he said to them, ‘Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. 24 No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD’S people transgress...’ 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Praise; don't just punish.
 - Punishment without praise will break a child's spirit .
 - Col. 3:21 - "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."
 - If you must punish, make the punishment fit the offense.

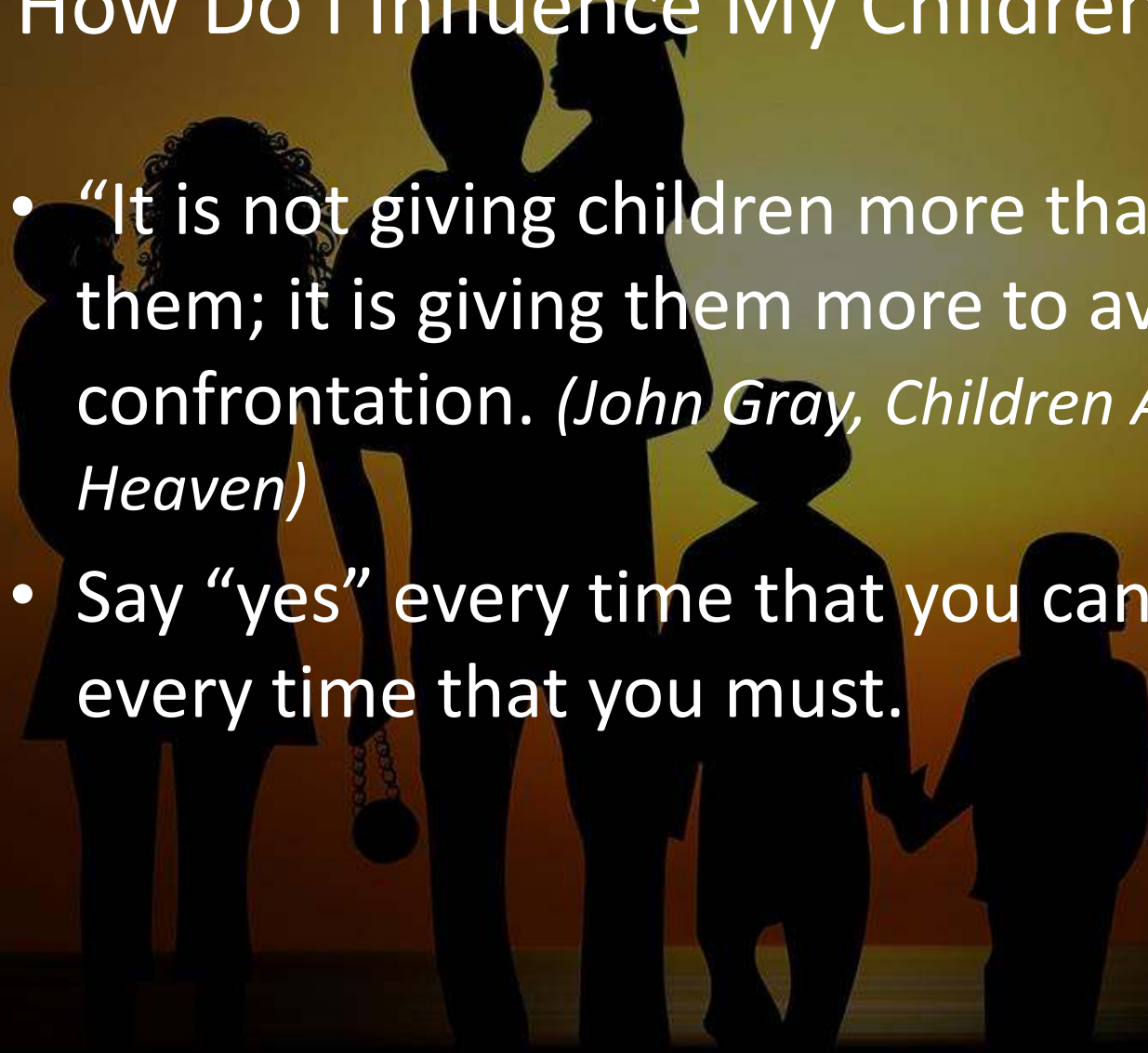
How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Give them what they need, not necessarily what they want.
 - Matt. 7:8-11 - “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- “It is not giving children more that spoils them; it is giving them more to avoid confrontation. (*John Gray, Children Are From Heaven*)
- Say “yes” every time that you can, and “no” every time that you must.



How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Be consistent.
 - In teaching and correction; follow through and stay in control.
 - Practice what you preach.
 - 2Tim. 1:5 - “...When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-brown sunset or sunrise sky. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of a family. On the left, a woman is seen from the back, holding a young child. In the center, a man and a woman are facing each other, appearing to kiss. To the right, another child is visible, and further right, a man stands looking towards the family. The overall mood is intimate and tender.

- Do not show favoritism - Gen. 26:28, 37:3
 - Favoritism caused suffering and sorrow in every Bible family that practiced it.
 - Abraham - Isaac over Ishmael
 - Isaac - Esau over Jacob
 - Jacob - Joseph over his brothers
 - David - Absalom and Adonijah
 - Recognize and respect individuality among your children while remaining impartial in your treatment of them.

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Work together.

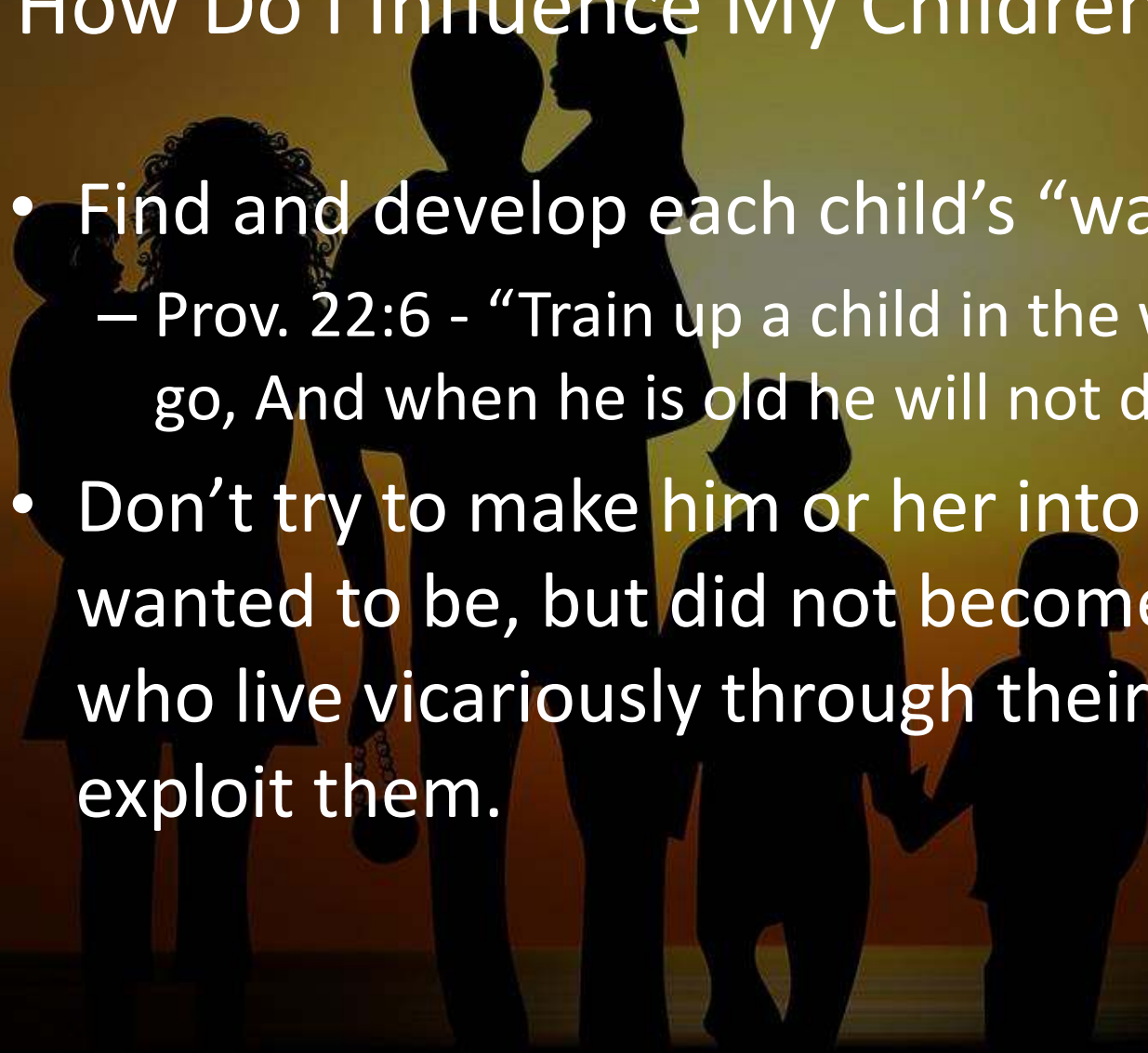
- Gen. 27:6 - “So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, ‘Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother...’”

- Children sense conflict between parents and are adept at exploiting it.

- Matt. 12:25 - “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

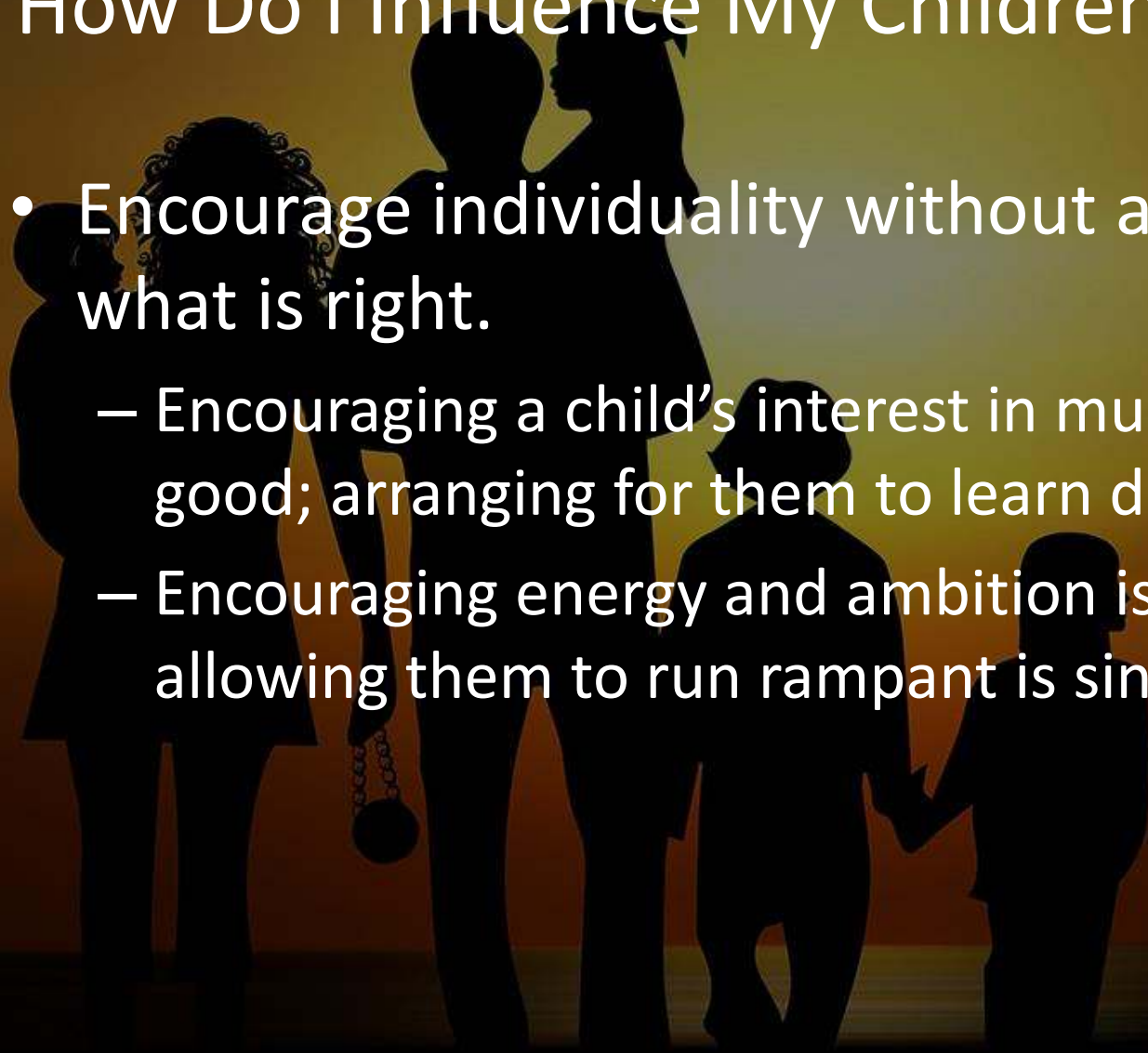
How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Find and develop each child's "way."
 - Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."
- Don't try to make him or her into what you wanted to be, but did not become. Parents who live vicariously through their children exploit them.

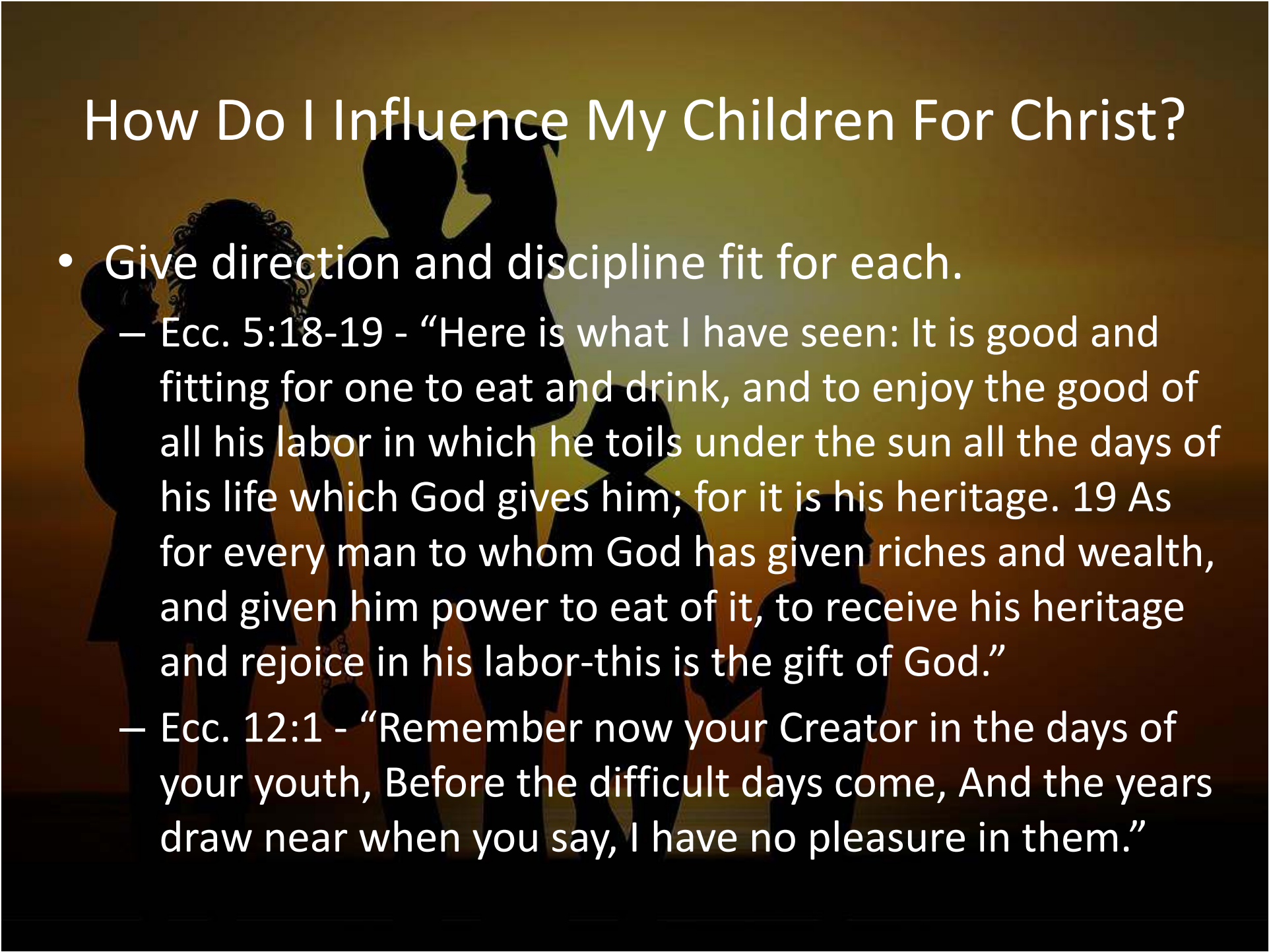


How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Encourage individuality without abandoning what is right.
 - Encouraging a child's interest in music and art is good; arranging for them to learn dance is sin.
 - Encouraging energy and ambition is good; allowing them to run rampant is sin.



How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Give direction and discipline fit for each.
 - Ecc. 5:18-19 - “Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. 19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor-this is the gift of God.”
 - Ecc. 12:1 - “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

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- Each child may need different kinds of discipline, depending on his response.
 - Jude 22-23 - “And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.”
 - “The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” *(Elaine Heffner)*

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Set godly examples.


- Isa. 39:4 - “And he said, ‘What have they seen in your house?’ So Hezekiah answered, ‘They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.’”

- Prov. 4:1-4 - “Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. 3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me: Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Set godly examples.
 - Love God - Matt. 22:37 - Obey, worship, and put Him first.
 - Love man - Matt. 22:39 - Honesty, fairness, kindness, courtesy, and mercy.
 - Your children will notice and imitate your behaviors.

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Pray for God's help.

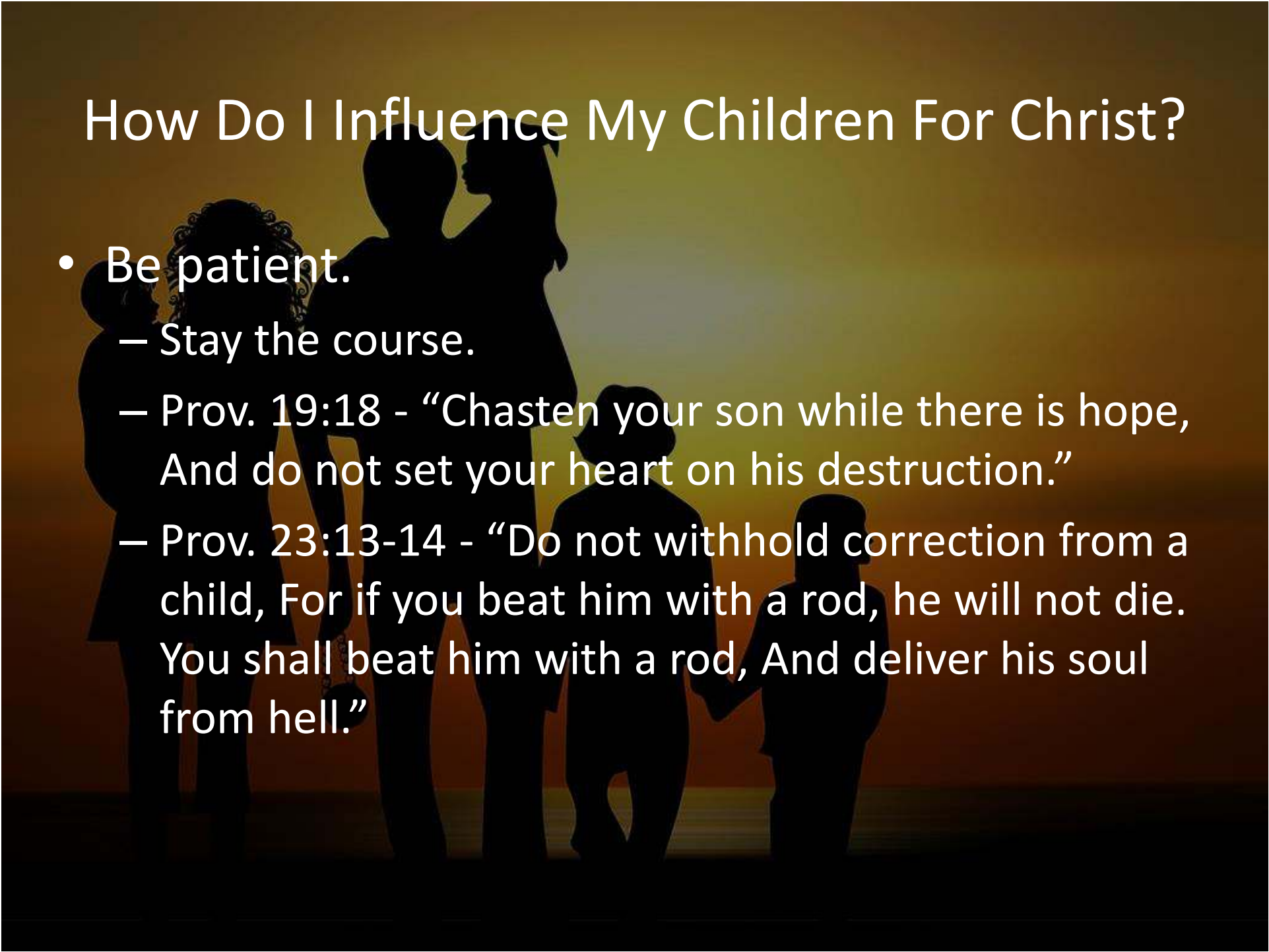
- Judges 13:8-9 - “Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, ‘O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.’”
- James 1:5-8 - For wisdom
- Phil. 4:6-7 - For assurance

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Be patient.
 - Start early in life:
 - Lois & Eunice and Timothy
 - Hannah and Samuel
 - Jochebed and Moses



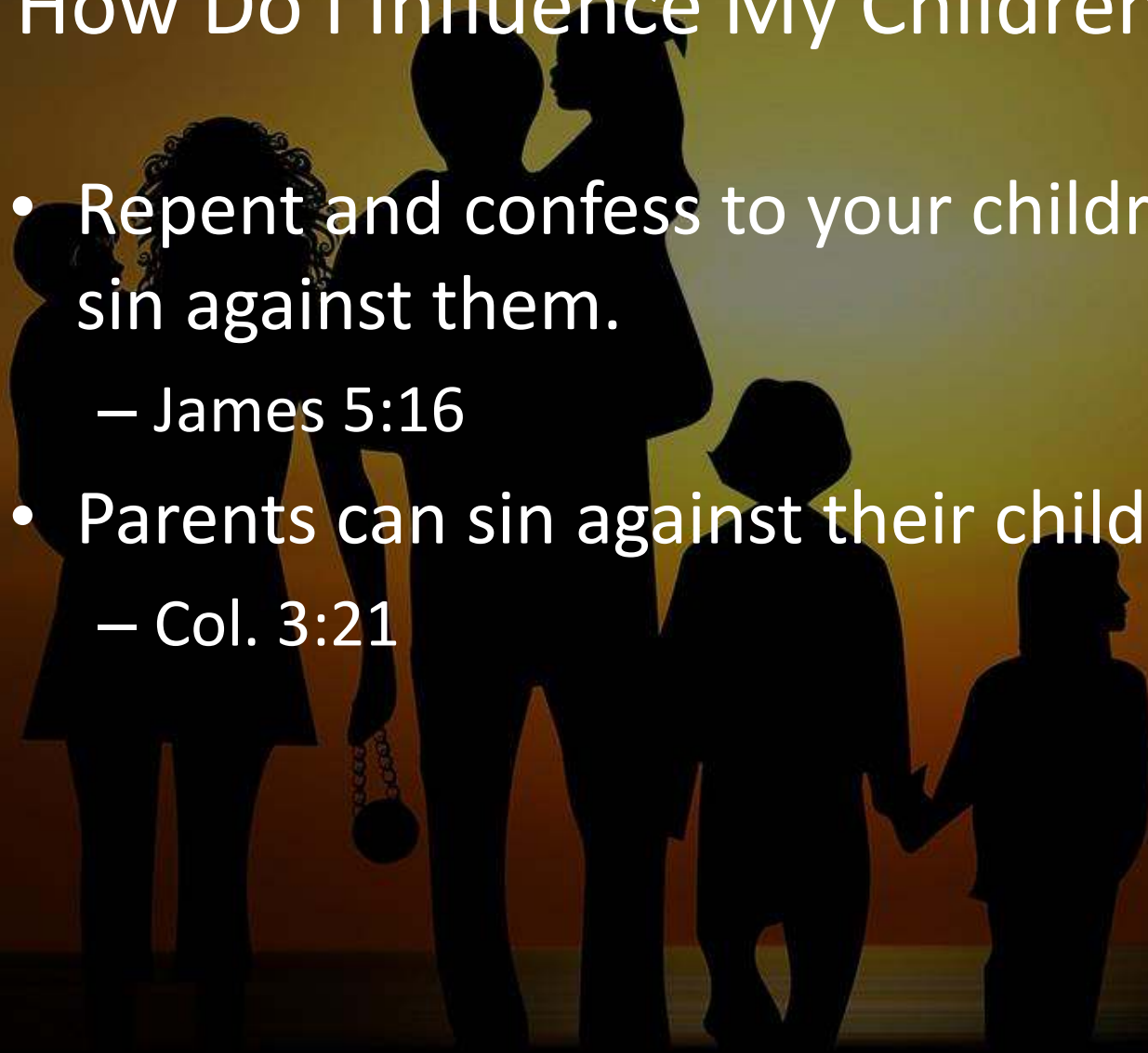
How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-brown sunset gradient. In the foreground, there are black silhouettes of a family: a man on the left holding a baby, a woman in the center, and two children on the right. The overall mood is intimate and contemplative.

- Be patient.
 - Stay the course.
 - Prov. 19:18 - “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”
 - Prov. 23:13-14 - “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.”

How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?

- Repent and confess to your children when you sin against them.
 - James 5:16
- Parents can sin against their children.
 - Col. 3:21



How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Remember that the responsibility and accountability are yours.
- Seek counsel.
 - Titus 2:4 - “That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.”
 - Prov. 11:14 - “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”
 - Prov. 15:22 - “Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.”

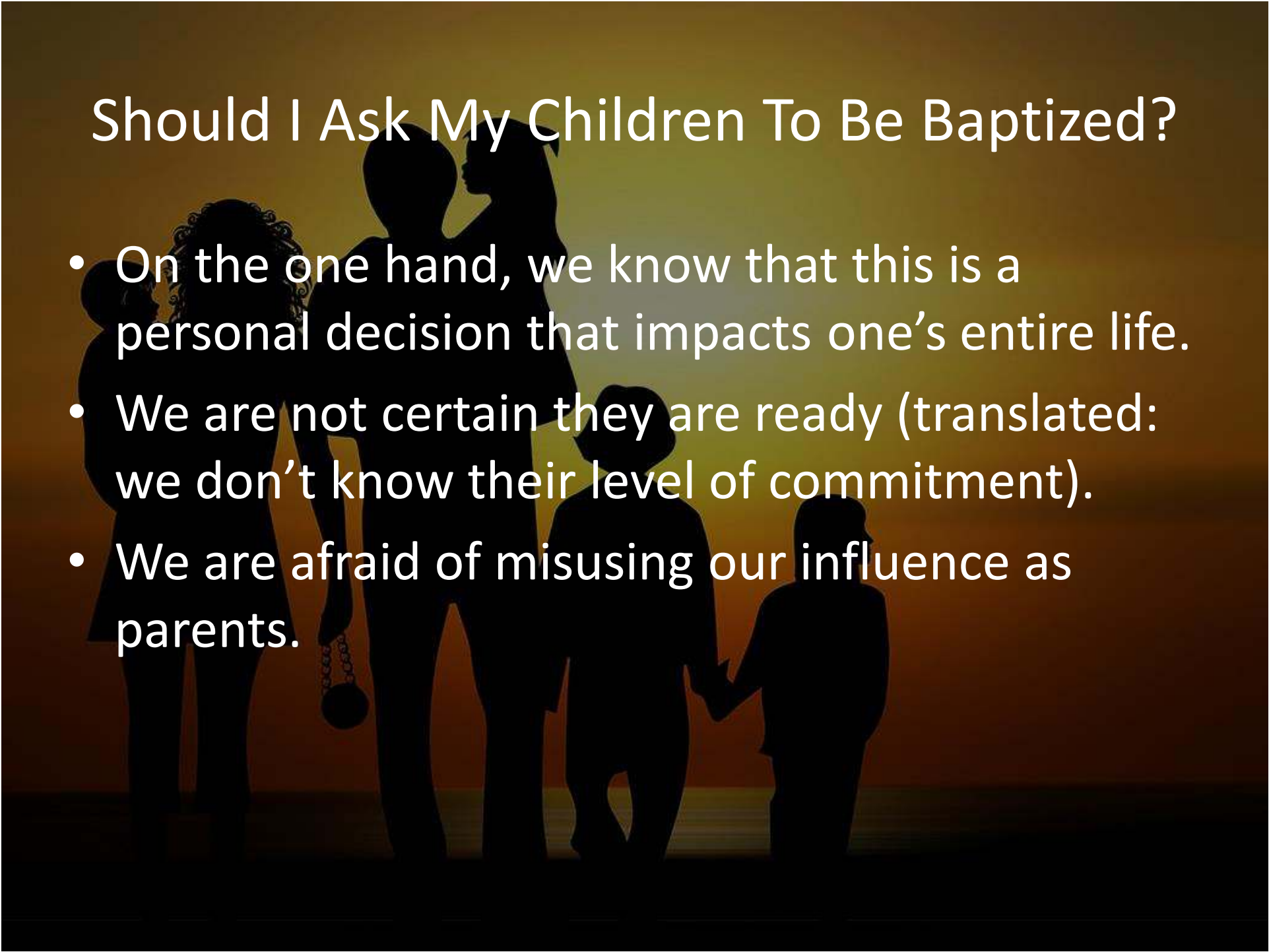
How Do I Influence My Children For Christ?



- Filter the well-meaning advice, suggestions, recommendations of others through the sieve of truth.
- Beware of intrusive meddlers.
 - 1Peter 4:15 - “But let none of you suffer as a... busybody in other people's matters.”
 - Everyone is an expert: “Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories.” *(John Wilmot)*

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- On the one hand, we know that this is a personal decision that impacts one's entire life.
- We are not certain they are ready (translated: we don't know their level of commitment).
- We are afraid of misusing our influence as parents.



Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- At the same time, we want our children to be with us in heaven.
- Without reservation, every Christian parent of adult children is more concerned for their spiritual wellbeing than any other matter in their lives.
- We are aware of the passing of time and the loss of influence over our children as they go from childhood to adulthood.

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- When are they ready?
 - Human development is individual; the Bible does not reveal an age limit.
 - If a child is able to state that he is not ready for the commitment or that he doesn't think he is accountable, he probably is ready.
 - The Bible tells us when one is ready to obey the Gospel.

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Does the child believe?
 - Jesus is God's Son; God has spoken; in accountability for sins; in the Judgment?
 - Mark 16:16 - "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
 - Acts 8:36-37 - "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' 37 Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'"
 - Rom. 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Is the child prepared to repent?
 - Repentance (reversal of moral purpose; turning from sin to Christ) is a necessary prerequisite to baptism.
 - Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
 - Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Will the child confess the name of Christ?
 - Rom. 10:9-10 - “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Does the child understand the purpose of baptism?
 - It is obedience in baptism that removes sin from our record.
 - Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
 - Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - 1Peter 3:21 - “There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?



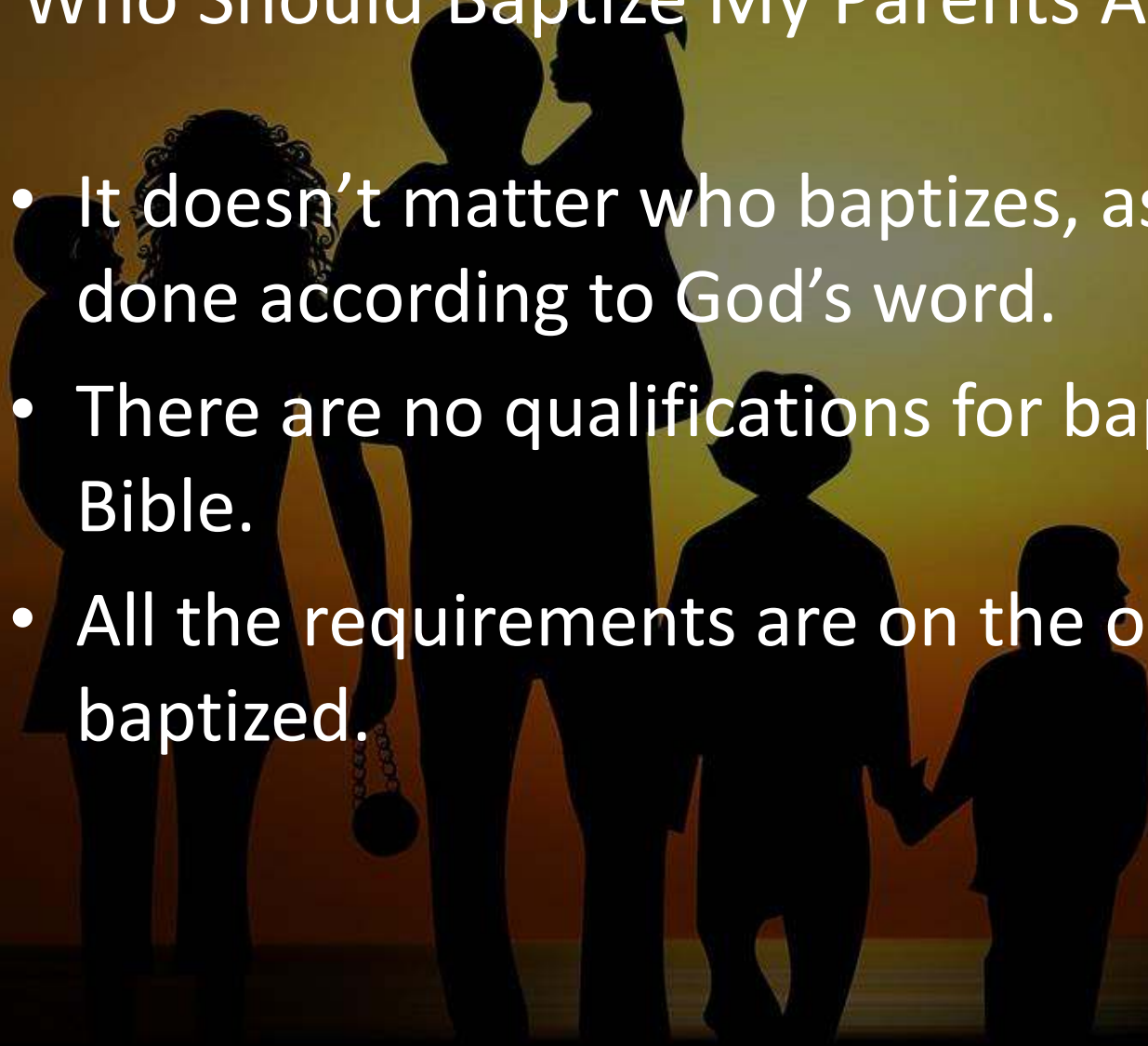
- Does the child understand the purpose of baptism?
 - It puts us into the family of God.
 - Gal. 3:26-27 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 - Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Should I Ask My Children To Be Baptized?

- Infants and young children are sinless and therefore safe from condemnation; they have no sins from which they need to be saved.
- When a child matures to the point of understanding the moral consequences of right and wrong and still does wrong, he has committed sin and needs salvation through Christ.
- Teach them your expectation that they become Christians someday. If you are unwilling to do that, you are unqualified to parent your children.

Who Should Baptize My Parents And Children?

- It doesn't matter who baptizes, as long as it is done according to God's word.
- There are no qualifications for baptizers in the Bible.
- All the requirements are on the one being baptized.



Who Should Baptize My Parents And Children?

- 1Cor. 1:13-17 - “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”