

Parents, children & Examples
1 Sam 2:12-17, 2:22-26, 28-31
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of examples for our families.

Intro: 1. We know we are to be examples to the world, but if we are not careful we can forget to be the proper example for our children also.
2. God desires for us to put Him first, but this doesn't mean we forget about our families.
3. We want our children to understand that be faithful to God is more than attendance.
4. Being faithful means following the commands and laws of God so that we are pleasing in His sight.
5. Today we will look at what can happens when children are forgotten & not quickly corrected in their errors.

I. Evilness of Eli's Sons (v.12-17)

A. The sons were viewed by God as evil (v.12)

1. It was men like Eli's sons that caused Israel to be defeated by the Philistines.
2. They were evil because they were selfish and disobeyed God's law.

B. The evil tradition of the command of the sons (v.13-15)

1. They took the best for themselves.
2. Instead of giving God the sacrifice first they took their own portion first.
3. They obviously had priority and selfishness as problems in their lives.

C. They would punish those who didn't obey them. (v.16)

1. These men used their power to do evil and to threaten men.
2. They would harm or possibly kill anyone who argued with them about what they were doing.
3. Because of these actions and attitudes their attitudes were "great" before the Lord. (v.17)

II. Eli's displeasure with his sons (v.22-26)

A. Their wickedness was exceedingly great (v.22)

1. It would have been greatly disturbing to learn at such an old age that your children are not obeying God as they should be.
2. Men today, Godly men, while putting God first sometimes forget their duties as parents, as teachers to their children.

B. Their evil was public and was no small sin (v. 23)

1. He heard of their sins among the people, everyone knew their sins.
2. This no doubt would bring the priests into a poor position with the public and make the priesthood look terrible and the sacrifices of God would perhaps look void because of them.

C. Eli's anger & concern for his sons (v.24-26)

1. Eli loved his children no doubt, however he clearly had not taught them well enough concerning the idea of obey God, or you will be punished by Him.

2. Because of their disobedience they would no longer be priests for God, and they would be punished for their sins.

III. Lost in disobedience (v.27-31)

A. A message from a man of God (v.27)

1. Was I not CLEAR?
2. The man of God tells Eli he would no longer be the leader of God's people.
3. Why? Because his sons were wicked and he failed to teach them properly.
4. Eli didn't sin but He did have to deal with the consequences of his shortcomings as a parent.
5. The messenger of God tells Him, that God clearly appeared to Him in Egypt, was not His message clear then?

B. Eli would not stay as the leader if his family didn't obey (v.28-29)

1. Obviously the sons of Eli were not satisfied with what they were receiving from God. They were now greedy and selfish men, no doubt this greatly displeased God and Eli as well.
2. Positions of power often change people; many times it's not for good. We must remain humble whatever position we are in, or God will remove us from that position and punish us for our sins, and as He rightfully should.

C. God would remove their blessings if the family was not faithful (v.30-31)

1. The sons would no longer be priests for God.
2. Their sins would cost them the priesthood. Instead of being spokesmen for God, they were hindrances. A black-eye on the image of the people of God, they had to be removed or it would appear that God approved of such.

- Conc:
1. Eli failed to teach his sons properly or to correct them quickly.
 2. Because his sons were evil, they became an improper example. They became an example of evil and wickedness instead of an example of godliness.
 3. We must install the proper FEAR of God in our children & the cost of sin.
 4. Invitation