

## Introduction

Under construction for the past several years, this family educational program is the result of my deep concern for today's families, particularly families of faith. I strongly believe that the family has been created by God for our mutual enjoyment and support, for the raising of godly children and to reflect His faithfulness to His people. Marriage is God's sacred design for procreation and demonstrates the mystical union between Christ and His church. I also believe that God has designed the family to be a means for His Spirit to use to restrain evil in this world and is a part of His plan to bring His Kingdom to pass.

I have designed and developed this program based on my experiences gained from more than 38 years in active clinical practice. The experience and insight gained from private practice, service at a community mental health center and academic appointments is the basis for the very useful and practical material which forms the structure and content of this program. The focus of my practice has always been educational in nature. I believe that the more practical and useful knowledge that parents have, the more confident and successful they will be in their parenting roles.

Today's families in westernized cultures are subject to many pressures and tensions in daily living. The pressures related to time, financial matters, workplace stressors and pace of living are all well known.

Additionally, families of faith must address matters related to living in a fallen world where the very foundations of the family are not respected by many and openly attacked by some.

Since the best places to work and live are those where serving others is a way of life, GROWING BETTER FAMILIES places a strong emphasis on teaching families how to serve one another in love: "and...but by love serve one another". Gal. 5:13b.

GROWING BETTER FAMILIES produces educational programs that are designed to meet the needs of families and the organizations that are a part of their daily lives. These educational programs are not covered by health insurance or other third party payors. GROWING BETTER FAMILIES does not provide any medical, psychiatric, psychological, mental health or counseling services. There is no contract, either expressed or implied to provide any of these services.

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