

Parents and Children – Lesson 2

Psalms 127:3, “Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him.”

Raising Godly Children

- Above all let's never forget raising children is a high honor, calling and privilege
- God's plan for raising godly children is through the marriage relationship

Malachi 2:15, “Has not [the Lord] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring.”

- Husbands and wives complement each other and provide a balanced upbringing
- Emotionally, God wired men and women differently to nurture and raise healthy kids
- Besides, it's a lot easier raising kids as a couple than as a single parent
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 11:16-21**
- Notice the language in this Scripture, *“when you sit at home and walk along the way”*
 - o As we do life with our kids, they learn from what they see and hear from us
- A child is very impressionable and teachable, like soft clay waiting to be molded
 - o Unlike us adults who like concrete become thoroughly mixed up and well set
- The reason God choose Abraham is because He knew Abraham would teach his kids

Genesis 18:18-19

Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Question: How has your childhood upbringing helped you in a positive way in life?

- The key is balance, not being too strict or lenient
- Being consistent and avoiding hypocrisy as much as possible
 - o We need to avoid the saying, “Do as I say, not as I do”
- We are called to be godly role models and examples

- **Please Read: Ephesians 6:1-4**
- One of the Ten Commandments addresses children obeying their parents

Question: Why is it so important for children to obey their parents?

- If a child does not learn submission and authority at home they are in big trouble
- How will they then submit to God and the governing authorities in society
- Rebellion of this kind always ends in tragedy and results in a short life
- Notice verse four, I believe God uses fathers as the primary source of teaching authority
 - o However, if they teach it incorrectly it can create resentment and anger
- Col. 3:21, *"Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged."*

Ephesians 6:4 AMP, "Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord."

As dads, if we train our children in line with Scripture, being an example, being careful to discipline them correctly and above all loving them, they will want to follow Jesus.

- Weaning our children from our care onto God's care is the greatest privilege we have
- Teaching our kids to be led by the Holy Spirit in life's decisions
- Directing them to be disciples of Jesus Christ is our highest goal

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, "For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."

- Biblical discipline is not child abuse as the world would like to depict it
- **Question:** What affect are we seeing in society today due to a lack of discipline?

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

An unfortunate consequence in our western society is that when children turn 19, parents feel their obligations to their kids is over. From what I see in Scripture it continues on for life.

- Our roles change as parents as our kids get older, but we will continue to be there
- **Please Read: 1 Timothy 5:3-8, 16**
- God created families to take care of one another when they are young or old

Proverbs 13:22, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.”

2 Corinthians 12:14, “Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

In our affluent society, we have often abdicated our responsibilities as parents to train our children and for children to look after their elderly parents to society and the government.

- In the past, children worked the farm/business and provided for their elderly parents
- Children and grandchildren were their social security pension so to speak
- It seems other cultures have a much better take on respecting their elders

Our affluent society has diminished the dependence of families upon one another. This in turn has diminished the godly influence parents and grandparents have on the next generation. Our culture is very independent and prone to doing their own thing = breakdown in values.

Question: Are we are too busy and distracted to invest time in our families as we should?

- It's our fault as a generation if the next generation is narcissistic and self-centered
- **Please Read: Mark 7:9-13**
- True biblical honor is more than just respect, its speaks of financial support too

Note: One last thing, beware of the trap of focusing on your children so much that the marriage relationship suffers. The priority is first to God, then to your spouse, thirdly to children and last but not least, ministering to the local church and the world with the gospel.