

Parenting in the Fear of the Lord

June 18th & 19th, 2016

Ephesians 6:1-4

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

God has entrusted children to every generation. To the Church, God gives children in order that we train them according to biblical values. Therefore, our children will become the “arrows” that will either overcome evil tomorrow or will encounter defeat and fail to practice a life of faith and godliness.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

↪ God is addressing the heart of children. He is emphasizing that obedience to parents is obedience to the Lord as well as consistent with His will in which a parent must be the authority in the lives of children.

❖ God has established order in the family. This order provides success in a home as well as in a healthy society where both require a correct subordination from its members in order to function properly.

Mark 3:24-25 “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”

❖ Children are not competent to reason independently, and therefore are not capable to direct themselves. This dependency will give them the ability to understand and submit to authority.

❖ It is expected of a parent to be able to love, guide and instruct their children to some extent, by the love which God has implanted in human hearts even when they are disobedient to Him. Yet when a parent is forcing a child to go against God’s will, it is necessary to obey God before anyone else.

❖ God guarantees that the concept of obedience to the parents is right in every aspect and it is vital for the children, for the parents, and for society in general.

“‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise).”

↪ This observation concerning the promise in the fifth commandment to those who honor their parents, was emphasized by the apostle Paul to show that honoring parents is a matter of great importance to God and for the wellbeing of society.

❖ We can be certain that as we honor our parents, God will directly reward us according to His power. Yet if we disobey this commandment, we will not only suffer the lack of reward but also consequences of our rebellion.

“That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

❖ There is a godly blessing to those who choose to honor their parents even when they are not believers.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,”

↪ God emphasizes fathers, reminding us again of a man’s responsibility and the leadership role in which God has placed him as the head of his household.

❖ The reasonable and appropriate instruction from the fathers to the children must be such that it is attainable and correct so that children will not be discouraged. As parents, we can cause such affliction that our children end up in anger.

❖ The commandments of the Lord are impossible in the flesh but as we chose to train our children in the Lord, having in mind His purposes, His rewards, and His consequences, God will give us the grace to impress on them spiritual direction and insight into God’s instruction.

❖ As father’s we must train and discipline our children out of love and not out of anger and frustration.
Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

❖ We must win the hearts of our children!

“But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”

↪ Sin and depravity in the hearts of our children is a reality.

Proverbs 22:15 “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”

- ❖ God is instilling in us the responsibility to train our children in His ways. The goals of a godly father are to see their children experience salvation and spiritual maturity.

Colossians 1:28-29 “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

- ❖ Salvation is a work that is done entirely by the power of the Holy Spirit but parents long for spiritual maturity to be formed in the lives of their children.

Galatians 4:19-20 “my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ...”

- ❖ The primary responsibility to train the children in God’s Word is the parents – not the Sunday school teachers or pastors in the church.

- ❖ God has provided for us the resources necessary to bring our children to maturity.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 “and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

↪ As we bring our children up in the discipline of the Lord, it will require great investment on our part to accomplish His will.

Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to Me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

- ❖ We must be convinced that everything we do in the lives of our children is for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

- ❖ We must fight continually against every argument that comes against the knowledge of Christ in order to overcome the philosophies of our age.

2 Corinthians 10:5 “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,”

- ❖ We must be transformed by the renewal of our minds according to the Word of God.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- ❖ As fathers, God’s call in our lives is to give our children an education about God and His will. There are sacrifices that fathers must make in order to instruct and guide our children into the fear of the Lord.

- ❖ As parents, we must model Christ to our children!

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

Genesis 18:19

“For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

Endnote:

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