

Disciple Children

It's more than being a 'parent'

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Parenting Today

- ❖ The world of parenting seems to be turned on it's head these days. Parents are running around with their eyebrows furrowed, yelling, speaking down to ad just over all living in a constant state of angst and finger pointing.
- ❖ The question everyone is asking is : Why do "Johnny/Sally" behave the way they do?
- ❖ No one is truly looking for truth. Everyone wants an 'easy' button.

Truth

- ❖ The truth is very simple. Johnny and Sally behave the way they do, because they are sinful.
- ❖ We are all sinful people, living in a fallen world
- ❖ "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 8:23

Parenting Today

- ❖ Turn on the television today and you will find the perfect parent is taking their children to every activity they possibly can and providing them with the latest technology and the coolest clothes.
- ❖ These things are supposed to provide the perfection everyone desires.
- ❖ But, if you watch the same channel the next day, the newest gadget is actually the best. Therefore, the old needs to be destroyed or given away so the new can provide that promised perfection.

The Perfect Parent

- ❖ Is a myth. There has never been, nor will there ever be a perfect 'human' parent.
- ❖ God is the perfect parent. He parents us with truth, love, grace and mercy. And at times, he does discipline us
- ❖ The first human parents were not perfect, they sinned and their oldest son sinned. The first man actually born on earth, sinned.

Broken Parents

- ❖ Not many parents are disciplined today and most parents are broken. We come from broken homes or have something broken in our life.
- ❖ Yet we think we need to be perfect.
- ❖ Once we realize we are broken, and need Jesus, we can become whole.
- ❖ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor. 5:17

Discipleship

- ❖ In our quest as parents, we need to keep a laser focus on what our goals are. We need to be focused on raising adults who have godly hearts. We are not trying to raise children to be God.

- ❖ Jesus told us to "Go forth and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19

- ❖ We need to do that in our own homes. Starting with our own hearts.

A Parent's Heart

- ❖ Before we can disciple our children, we need to know what that means.

- ❖ We need to be involved in a church focused on God's truth and discipleship.

- ❖ We need to find others to disciple us, so that we can in turn disciple our children and our friends.

- ❖ We can not give what we do not have....

Acknowledge

- ❖ Acknowledge our children were created by God

- ❖ *"and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."*
(Ecc 12:7)

Give Them Away

❖ Give them to God:

❖ "So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." (1 Sam 1:28)

Teach Them

Teach them about God:

- ❖ "He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children" (Psams 78:5)
- ❖ "*bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*" (Eph 6:4)
- ❖ "*these commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*" (Deut. 6:6-7)

Set The Example

❖ Set the example you want your children to follow.

❖ "Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money." (1 Tim 3:2-3)

Discipline Them

❖ Children need loving and gentle discipline. We need to remember we are seeking their hearts for God. If we keep our eyes and hearts on that, every discipline will lead them one step closer to the Father and not cause separation in the home.

❖ "He must manage his family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect."

(1 Tim 3:4)

Remember....

❖ LOVE on them....

❖ Read the Bible to them and with them.

❖ Pray with them....

❖ Pray for them.....



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