

PARENTHOOD - Making Disciples Of Our Children.

Colossians 3:20-21

- *"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."* (Colossians 3:20-21)
- **Children are called to obey their parents willfully, pleasantly and immediately if they are still in the homes (Ephesians 6:1-4).**
- The Lord - *"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you."* (Exodus 20:12)
- **Parenting has more to do with the environment, than it does enforcement.**
- *"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him."* (Proverbs 22:15)
- **We need to learn how to become shepherds and not sheriffs.**
- *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want…I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* (Psalm 23:1-4)
- **We have a responsibility to weigh our methods by evaluating our results.**
- *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4)
- ***What kind of parental environments produce adults who are Disciples of Christ?***

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

ACCEPTING THE <u>CALLING</u> OF A PARENT

- *"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! "* (Psalm 127:3-5)
- **There is no calling more difficult, challenging, or costly than the calling to parent, so we must constantly remind ourselves of its great reward.**

- *"When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the Lord remembered her plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the Lord for him."* (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
- **Parenting is still a type of worship and stewardship, because ultimately our children belong to the Lord who has entrusted them to us.**
- *"I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and He has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there."* (1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

BEING A GODLY EXAMPLE TO OUR CHILDREN

- *"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."* (Proverbs 22:6)
- **The most effective way to direct your children onto the right path is to show them by example how they are to hear from and submit to the commands of the Lord.**
- *"And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."* (John 13:14-15)
- **Jesus left his disciples with an example to follow, and we must leave our children with an example to follow.**

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

COACHING OUR CHILDREN WITH PATIENCE

- **Many times it feels more difficult to provide discipline than it is to receive discipline.**
- *"For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."* (Hebrews 12:10-11)
- **Discipline without patience comes across as anger and disappointment.**

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL EFFORT FROM OUR CHILDREN

- **Children's behavior often rises to the level of expectation of their instructors.**
- *"You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus."* (2 Timothy 3:15)

- **It is permissible and beneficial for parents to make their children attend church, give to God's kingdom, serve their community, and pray for others.**
- *"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children."* (Mark 10:13-14)
- **Parents have a responsibility to make sure their children encounter the presence and power of Jesus.**

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

EXPECTING <u>INTEGRITY</u> AND FAILURE

- **Children need to be taught that honesty is more valuable than perfection.**
- *"Better to be poor and honest than to be dishonest and rich."* (Proverbs 28:6)
- *"The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth."* (Proverbs 12:22)
- **Many children hide the truth because they have not encountered compassion or permission in times of failure and disappointment.**
- *"The Lord is like a Father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him. For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust."* (Psalm 103:13-14)

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

FRAMING LIFE'S <u>PROBLEMS</u> FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVES

- **It is impossible to live a life without problems, so our children need to be instructed on how problems fit within God's plans and perspectives.**
- *"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.* (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
- **Parenting requires a lot of repetition and wholehearted commitment.**

Creating A Discipleship Environment Requires:

GOING THE EXTRA <u>MILE</u> FOR OUR CHILDREN

- *"If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow."* (Matthew 5:41-42)

- **If God calls us to go an extra mile for a soldier, imagine how far He expects us to go for a son or a daughter.**

- *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”* (Colossians 3:20-21)
- **Environments of encouragement promote children who value obedience, want to go to Church, and want to be Disciples of Christ.**