

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

My next few articles will be directed to parents raising their children. I pray all will read these.

I'm not claiming to know it all, but what I do know are principles, set forth by God on how to raise godly children. It seems over the years, children are becoming more and more disrespectful of authority, wild and rude both to parents and others. Parents are left wondering what is wrong. Let me begin by saying, it begins at home! It's the training they are receiving at home that makes them what they are.

Teaching/training a child begins with fathers. God expects fathers to be responsible in teaching/training and the discipline of their children. That's where the first failure can begin. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) Homes where the father isn't walking with the Lord, not concerned about teaching/training their children in God's ways, will lead a child in ways that are destructive. I thank the Lord for godly mothers who are concerned for the spiritual welfare of their children, making sure they are trained toward the Lord when the father's guidance is lacking. Mothers are important in teaching their children (Prov. 1:8).

Many children are being trained toward the world because their parents are living that way. You can't teach or train what you don't walk or understand! Most parents agree their children, when they are young, need to be taught the Bible but when the parents aren't interested in the things of God, what does that train the children in? Parents train their children to have little to do with the church by their own lack of interest and when they grow up, many never have a love for Christ and His body. They see no great need to assemble (hit and miss at best), no fellowship with the saints and become easy prey for the world because there was no conviction in the lives of the parents.

There is a growing need for faithful, godly fathers pointing, teaching, instructing in the ways of God. The position of a father has three functions: (1) A father is a nourisher. He provides for the spiritual care and need of his children. (2) A father is a protector. He understands what is at stake with the soul and will protect them from the evil of sin to the best of his ability. (3) A father is an upholder. He supports and makes sure the things his children follow are solid and sound. He upholds truth and sound teaching for their spiritual well being. These things make for a godly father. In these three things, we see a description of God.

What are you training your children in? Are you showing them God? If not, you must remember that there will be accountability for your soul and where you took their soul. More next week. Think about it!!!

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