

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

For many parents, their idea of raising children is providing for the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter and a good education. These things are necessary, but they won't raise godly, faithful children.

There are 3 basic things needed in raising godly children:

(1) Instilling within the child the fear of the Lord. If parents have little fear (awe and reverence) of the Lord, their children will have even less. "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and turmoil with it." (Prov. 15:16) At a congregation, the nursery was known as a gathering place of the women for a gossip session and no interest in what was taking place in the worship to God. As the worship began, one by one, the mothers would take their child to the nursery to "visit" with the other mothers. I wonder what kind of reverence for God that reveals to the children?

(2) Give them true love. Read I Cor. 13/I John 3-4 to see what true love is and how it works. That means parents are going to have to be walking in the ways of the Lord and His love (Eph. 5:1-2).

(3) Provide a peaceful family life. Troubled children come from homes where godly love is lacking, not money! "Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife." (Prov. 17:1) God is a God of peace, not turmoil. "He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind..." (Prov. 11:29) Children that come from homes that are constantly in an upheaval mode will have difficulty coping with things in their own lives as they grow up. They won't know how to deal rightly with situations they encounter, only through strife and anger, as that is all they were trained in by example. Children of God are peacemakers.

In these three things, that means putting God first and foremost in everything in your life. This leads to God watching out and providing for your needs (Matt. 6:33). Children with godly fathers and mothers are indeed truly blessed! Children with fathers and mothers that constantly put "things" first, the world first, training in everything but godliness, their children will suffer that result.

The church of our Lord will either be strengthened or suffer because the way parents have raised their children. Their souls are in your hands. "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward." (Psa. 127:3) More next week. Think about it!!!

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