



... Heart to Heart ...

God says children are a gift to us from Him (Psa. 127:3). They are a blessing from God placed into our hands to mold and shape. Have you ever looked into the eyes of a child? You see trust, love and innocence. No wonder Jesus said a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven and we (adults) need to be converted and become like them (Matt. 18:1-3).

There is another important aspect of a child. They have a soul, an eternal soul that we are instructing to spend somewhere eternally. What an awesome thought and responsibility! Parents need to take this responsibility seriously. How can parents mold and train their children if they themselves aren't being taught? Many times parents instruct their children in the ways of the world, the thoughts of the world and follow the world's path with little toward the Lord. Examples of what you live for and how you act and react teach volumes! Our children need to see their parents denying *“ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.”* (Tit. 3:12) You've seen children acting in a certain way and hear someone say, “They are just like their mom/dad!” Children will imitate what they've been instructed.

Parents who don't see the importance of assembling to worship the Lord, their children will learn from them. Their soul is being molded into what is important and not. Parents who don't love the brethren and practice righteousness, their children will learn from them and not see any importance in those godly qualities (I John 3:10). Parents who are not involved in helping the cause of Christ in the church among a lost world will instruct their children not to be concerned or help Christ's cause through His church. Parents who use language that is not becoming to the Lord will put that in the heart of their children. Parents are to be role models of what a godly marriage is, to prepare those children toward what God expects of a husband/wife.

I want to encourage parents and grandparents to train, instruct and teach your children/grandchildren. Show them by example, speak to them about the Christ who died and point the way to *“examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.”* (I Thes. 5:21-22) Instruct them on the importance of worship and what it is for. Train them to walk in the ways of the Lord no matter what others around you say or do. Teach them to stand firmly on the truth of God's word, not accepting falsehood but gathering from God through His word. The souls of your children and grandchildren are being molded for an eternal stay. Where are you taking them? Think about it!!!

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