

# Faithful Parents and Unfaithful Children

Ephesians 6:1-4

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- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

# Faithful Parents and Unfaithful Children

- “Why do some good people have bad children?”
  - It is not my intent to cause pain to parents whose children have never embraced the faith or have abandoned the faith
  - I am addressing parents whose children are at home, over whom they presently have influence while they shape their lives
- In the very first family on earth, Cain apostatized
  - “Cain went out from the presence of the Lord” - Gen. 4:16

# Not All Good People Are Good Parents

- Just being a good person does not necessarily mean one is going to be a good parent
- It is a mistaken assumption that being a good person ensures that their children will be good
- A child can no more inherit wickedness than he can inherit righteousness
  - Ez. 18:1-20

# Not All Good People Are Good Parents

- Children come into his world morally pure; it is through a process of personal choices that they enter into sin.
- The job of a parent is to help that child in the decision making process.
- Some good people do not properly help in their children's decision making processes.

# Not All Good People Are Good Parents

- I believe in helping children mature by involving them in decisions for their future.
- I believe in allowing children to experience the consequences of their decisions
- But a line must be drawn. If a child is not mature enough to make a decision that will affect their eternal souls, then parents are obligated by God to step in and help.

# Good People Whose Children Went Astray

- Eli, the priest who raised Samuel
- No question that Eli was a good man; however, he was not a good parent to his older sons
  - 1Sam. 3:13 - “For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.”
  - 1Sam. 2:22-24

# Good People Whose Children Went Astray

- Eli's areas of vulnerability:
  - Failed to restrain or rebuke them; possibly afraid of losing their affection?
  - Realized the problem too late
  - He was busy being high priest, guiding Israel in the wild times of the judges, and being a guardian to Samuel.
  - It's not good to save the world or a community or a congregation, and lose one's family along the way.

# Good People Whose Children Went Astray

- David was a man after God's own heart
  - 1Sam. 13:14 - "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."
- Yet he failed as a father.

## Good People Whose Children Went Astray

- One of his sons assaulted and defiled his own sister - 2Sam. 13:1-20
- In response, another son murdered his own brother in revenge - 2Sam. 13:21-36
- His favorite son led a revolt that nearly toppled David's throne - 2Sam. 15:7-12

# Good People Whose Children Went Astray

- Isaac's son Esau
- Samuel's sons (1Sam. 8:3)
- Hezekiah's son Manasseh (2Kings 20:21 - 21:2)
- Et al

# Overcoming Obstacles To Good Parenting

- Is there a surefire method of parenting that will guarantee that children will grow up in the Lord?
- No. Children are free moral agents, too, and will occasionally decide to abandon the faith of their fathers for no evident reason that can be attached to fathers and mothers
- But diligently following the wisdom of the scriptures will give them the best chance to grow up in the Lord

# List Of Behaviors Of Parents Who Raised Their Children In The Lord:

- A warm love between parents - Eph. 5:29
- A love for the brethren and sacrificing time to help them - 1Peter 2:17
- Only morally upright forms of entertainment at all times - James 1:22
- Having an active prayer life
- Extending hospitality - Rom. 12:13
- Faithful in worshipping with other Christians, refuse to use cop out excuses to stay home - Heb. 10:24
- The absence of profanity from parents both at home and all other places - Eph. 4:29

# List Of Behaviors Of Parents Who Raised Their Children In The Lord:

- Involved in saving the lost and other works of the local church
- Rejoicing in the fact that you are Christians - Phil. 4:4
- Make the effort to get your kids to get-togethers and activities that involve other Christians their age.
- Take children to gospel meetings and help organize classes for their age group
- Limit the amount of time that you are away from them.
- Have regular and deep spiritual conversations with your children - Deut. 6:7
- Do not turn your head when you see your children taking the first few steps down the wrong path.

# List Of Behaviors Of Parents Who Raised Their Children In The Lord:

- Make it clear by word and example that God's laws take precedence over your opinions.
- Make it clear that your marriage takes precedence over your career.
- Worship and Bible study takes precedence over ALL sports, hobbies, school activities, and homework.
- Honoring God and obeying Him takes precedence over everything else - John 14:15
- Have fellowship and relationships with faithful Christians
- Talk about your faith
- Convictions take precedence over convenience.

# List Of Behaviors Of Parents Who Raised Their Children In The Lord:

- Make it a priority to work with an energetic and growing congregation.
- Do not choose a congregation because of convenience or shortness of the service
- Remember the impact of your choice of career or residence on your children.
- Don't sacrifice their eternal future for short term interests
- Mom and Dad need to be equally strong
- Love your children - 1Cor. 13:4-7
- Discipline your children - Prov. 22:15, 23:13
- As much as is reasonable, protect them from the influence of the world - 1Cor. 15:33

# Faithful Parents and Unfaithful Children

- Parents have been entrusted with shaping the lives of their children
  - Psalm 127:3-4 - “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.”
- You only have them for a short time; do better
- If you haven't been taking parenthood seriously, then do so with determination today