

What Children Really Need

“Do not sin against the child”

Genesis 42:22

What Children Really Need

- Who we are today is often greatly influenced by who our parents were yesterday.
 - Seldom does a nation, a congregation, or an individual rise above its leaders.
- Psalm 127:3 - “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.”
 - As Reuben said: “Do not sin against the child” - Gen. 42:22
 - I am astonished and dismayed by Christian parents who seem to want everything for their children except the salvation of their souls
 - You generated those children; you are obligated to them by God for the following things:

We Owe Our Children Unconditional Love

- Failing to love our children unconditionally distorts their view of God's love for them
 - 1John 3:1 - "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"
 - Psalm 103:13 - "As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him."

We Owe Our Children Unconditional Love

- Love your children equally
 - Abraham with Isaac and Ishmael
 - Isaac with Jacob and Esau
 - Jacob with Joseph and the rest of his sons

We Owe Our Children Unconditional Love

- You might be surprised to learn that parents do not love their children
 - Rom. 1:31 - “...without natural affection...”
- Parents who fail to put their children’s spiritual needs above all of their other needs do not truly love them in spite of their words

We Owe Our Children Our Time And Our Best Examples

- Learning is so much easier when we can see an example.
 - Matt. 1:19 - husbands
 - John 13:15 - Jesus
 - Phil. 3:17 - apostles
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - young preachers
 - James 5:10 - prophets
 - 1Peter 2:21 - every Christian
- Likewise, children will profit from parents' good examples

We Owe Our Children Our Time And Our Best Examples

- They need to be shown and not just told how to live.
 - You will never be effective as a parent until you live what you teach
 - Would you follow the teaching of a preacher or the leadership of an elder who did not practice what they taught?

We Owe Our Children Our Time And Our Best Examples

- Children need both quality time as well as quantity time with their parents.
 - You had the time to produce them, now make the time to raise them
 - That is not accomplished by proxies

We Owe Our Children Spiritual Development

- Our children are eternity bound beings
 - Ecc. 12:7 - “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.”
- They need to be taught God’s will
 - Deut. 6:6-9 - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

We Owe Our Children Spiritual Development

- They need to be taught God's will
 - Eph. 6:4 - "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
 - There is no part time job, no school sport or activity, no homework assignment, and no community function that takes precedence over your God required duty to see that they are taught God's will
 - In 38 years of preaching, I never had a parent say to me, "I wish I had allowed my child to miss more services for part time jobs and school activities."

We Owe Our Children Spiritual Development

- No one likes to hear that they are putting a stumbling block in front of our children, but often what we like to hear and what we need to hear are two different matters
 - Mark 9:42 - “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”
 - But it won't be a millstone; it will be an eternal home in perdition

SEP • 66

