

Finding the middle ground: Learning to Sacrifice Self Without Compromising Faith

Lesson 8: Training Children God's Way:

Ephesians 3:11-21

*The word family is only listed one time in the KJV in the New Testament here in Ephesians.

*This scripture begins by telling us that we would have boldness and access to our Father through faith

*It goes on to say that the whole family in heaven and earth was named

Named: To bear the name of a person or thing.

*We are covered by the blood through faith...as a Christian or disciple of Christ we also bear the name of Christ,
Showing association with and being a part of God's family.

*As a part of his family we receive many things:

-strengthened with His might in our inner man (heart);

-should be rooted and grounded in love;

-know the love of God and that his love surpasses knowledge. In other words, all biblical knowledge will not - compete with or replace the love of Christ.

-His power is at work in us

*This foundation however is still build on a faithful relationship between a father and a mother; a bride and a groom; Christ and the church together establish God's family. This is important because the name of this class is entitled faithfully yours. God is faithful, Christ was faithful and the relationship was designed to show faithfulness from a Groom to a Bride and vice versa...but what happens if there is unfaithfulness? What happens to the family unit?

Jeremiah 3:19-20

Jeremiah 31:21-23

*The unfaithfulness of this woman is a metaphor for our unfaithfulness of the church and a foreshadowing of the destruction of our families when we become unfaithful to God. This has once again proved the Bible to be true, there is hope however, if we return God is faithful and just and will forgive and restore the church. But it starts with restoring our families.

Children

1) Provided for and Used by God

(They will be upheld by God even when they stumble, they give freely and become a blessing to those around them)

Psalm 37:23-26

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. [fn]

Foot Note: Or freely; / the names of their children will be used in blessings (see Gen. 48:20); or freely; / others will see that their children are blessed

2) Prepared and Confident for Battle with Parables, Discernment and Wisdom

(Teach the next generation so they will not be stubborn and rebellious or unfaithful, instead they will be able to confidently press forward in the day of battle)

Psalm 78:4-9

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their ancestors— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him. The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle;

*We do not want to be the generation Vs. 9 refers to

Go Back and Read vs. 1-3:

What is a parable?

Why would he speak in a parable?

Old Testament

Proverbs 1:1-9

Proverbs 26:9

New Testament: Jesus used Parables

Mark 4:9-13

*Not to say everyone has the gift to automatically understand the parable, for example with the gift of discernment or the gift of wisdom, but when those with the gift explain the parable (as Christ did, pastors, teachers, etc.) but revelation for parables is often times through the Holy Spirit to those teaching and receiving. Plain and simple each person should allow the Holy Spirit to speak ethical wisdom or ethical maxims.

Matthew 15:13-17

(Biblical Dictionary) **a placing of one thing by the side of another, juxtaposition, as of ships in battle** metaph. a comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude

an example by which a doctrine or precept is illustrated, a narrative, fictitious but agreeable to the laws and usages of human life, by which either the duties of men or the things of God, **particularly the nature and history of God's kingdom are figuratively portrayed A.) a parable: an earthly story with a heavenly meaning**, a pithy and instructive saying, involving some likeness or comparison and having preceptive or admonitory force, B. an aphorism, a maxim, a proverb, an act by which one exposes himself or his possessions to danger, a venture, a risk.

3) Representatives and a Voice in this World

Psalm 127:3-4 (NIV)

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

(KJV) o, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

*Gate is the court, public meeting place, royal castle

* Children of the Lord are not only prepared for battle but are the battle in and of itself; one of the first commandments was go forth and multiply (Deut 8:1; Deut 28:63).

We were told to increase and not decrease because numbers lead to influence.

Matthew 18:1-9

***Change and become like a child**

***Lowly position- children naturally look to depend upon you, they expect you to take care of them.**

*Christ says "Do Not Cause them to stumble"

*It is better to be drown in the sea than to cause a child to stumble.

Mark 10:13-16

*Do not hinder them

*Took them in his arms, placed his hands (KJV laying hands on them) to bless them

Hands: (Strong's- the hand (literally or figuratively (power))

4) Trained with a Promise

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”[fn] Fathers,[fn] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

*Children Obey your parents In the Lord; (Strongs- is a title of honour expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master)

Similar to wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord

*Honor Father and Mother- 1st Commandment with a promise

Meaning obedience comes with a promise and/or blessing attached

*Do not provoke them but train and instruct them in the Lord

Train/ Discipline (KJV): (Strongs- **the whole training and education of children** (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for **this purpose** now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body)

Instruct: (Strongs- admonition, exhortation)

5) Trained for a Purpose

Proverbs 22:6- Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Train: (Strongs- properly, to narrow; figuratively, to initiate or discipline:—dedicate, train up.)

Greek Root meaning to make narrow

The way: a road (as trodden); figuratively, **a course of life or mode of action**, often adverb:—along, away, because of, by, conversation, custom, (east-) ward, journey, manner, passenger, through, toward, (high-) (path-) way(-side), whither(-soever)

Depart From: to turn off (literally or figuratively):—be(-head), bring, call back, decline, depart, eschew, get (you), go (aside), grievous, lay away (by), **leave undone**, be past, pluck away, put (away, down), rebel, remove (to and fro), revolt, **be sour**, take (away, off), turn (aside, away, in), withdraw, be without.

Challenge: Go this week and reflect on the 5 conflicts in parenting. Are there areas you have struggled in? Young or adult what areas can you still grow in to influence your children? How can you apply this to your grandchildren...future generations?