

Series: Nurturing Healthy Families – Part 3

Scripture: Selected

Date: September 28, 2008

FIVE KEYS TO BETTER PARENTING

Here are five keys to parenting found in God's Word...

1. VIEW YOUR CHILDREN AS A _____ FROM GOD

Psalm 127:3 (CEV) Children are a blessing and a gift from the LORD.

The first thing that every parent needs to have is the right _____ about parenthood.

A lot of times as parents we can think of our children as " _____ " rather than " _____ "!

"People are about as happy as they _____ their _____ to be!" John Wooden

2. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THEY ARE _____ TO GOD

Proverbs 14:26 He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Psalm 34:11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

What you want your children to understand is that there is something _____ in life than _____.

3. SET AN _____ FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO _____

Proverbs 20:7 (NLT) The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.

John 5:19 "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. "

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ"

The key to being a good example for your children is to concentrate on _____.

4. _____ YOUR CHILDREN IN _____

If I do not discipline my kids then two things are true:

1. It proves that I really don't _____ my kids.
Proverbs 13:24 *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*
2. If I let my child get away with anything it shows I really don't _____ enough about them.
Proverbs 19:18 (GN) *"Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't you're helping them destroy themselves."*

Hebrews 12:6 *"The Lord disciplines those whom He loves."*

Hebrews 12:7-11 *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?...Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live...No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Three points about discipline in this passage...

1. First, discipline is _____ out of parents.
2. Second, they will _____ you for it.
3. Third, discipline produces a _____ result.

5. BE A _____ IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILDREN

Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Colossians 3:21... *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged*

Four common ways parents can "exasperate" their children.

1. We want them to behave like _____!
2. We give _____ expectations or demands!
3. We judge them _____!
4. When our _____ doesn't match the _____!