

“Raising Good Kids, Against Bad Odds” **Life’s Most Important Relationships, Part 4** August 9th & 12th, 2018

Doing “little things” in your Christian life **CONSISTENTLY** will **TRANSFORM** your life

Ask God, “Teach me something today from this message on how to **INFLUENCE** others”

Deuteronomy 6:1-7 (NIV) “These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

If you want to enjoy life & the blessings of God, it comes down to **OBEDIENCE**, & not just yours

Psalms 127:3-5 (GN) “Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a real blessing. ⁴The sons a man has when he is young are like arrows in a warrior’s hand. ⁵Happy is the man who has many such arrows. He will never be defeated when he meets his enemies.”

How to Get Rid of Your Kids (in a healthy way!):

- **Hold on tight: Commit to a **TOUGH PROCESS****

1 Kings 1:6 (NIV) “His father [David] had never rebuked him by asking, ‘Why do you behave as you do?’” (1 Samuel 3:13)

There are times where as parents, we must **INTERFERE** in the life of a child

- **Aim: Provide the **DIRECTION****

If you don’t provide the direction for your children, the **WORLD** will

Proverbs 19:18 (GN) “Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don’t, you are helping them destroy themselves.”

- **Motivate: Encourage **MORE** than you **DISCOURAGE****

1 Thessalonians 2:11 (NAS) “You know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,…”

Often parents talk more about what not to do or how to act rather than **ENCOURAGE** their children for

WHO they are

- **Release: Let them **GO****

2 Timothy 3:15 (GN) “and you remember that ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

God gives us our children to train how to **FOLLOW** God and **IMPACT** others for God’s Kingdom

Every Kid Needs to Have:

1. An **EXAMPLE** to follow

The most important variable in where your kids go and what they do in life is **YOU**

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

You are the greatest **SPIRITUAL LESSON** your children will ever see

Joshua 24:15 (NIV) "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

- Don't discipline your child using the **CHURCH**
- Don't use **BIBLE VERSES** against your child when you are upset with them
- Focus more on **GOD** than **MVP** or **GPA**
- Go to church as a **FAMILY**

Parents, you are the greatest **SPIRITUAL DETERMINING** factor in your child's life

2. A home to **RUN TO**, not **RUN FROM**

Proverbs 14:26 (NIV) "Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge."

Mark 3:25 (NIV) "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

- Seek to **UNDERSTAND**, not to be **UNDERSTOOD**
- You can pay **NOW**, or you'll pay **LATER**

3. Priority over your **SCHEDULE**

1 Timothy 5:8 (GN) "But if any do not take care of their relatives, especially the members of their own family, they have denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever."

There will be **SEASONS** in your family's life where you must make commitments & change some things

Remember, kids spell love "**TIME**"

4. Don't just focus on who you children are **NOW**, focus also on what they'll **BECOME**

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Remember, **PRAYER** is the greatest ally a parent has

My Next Step Today Is...

- I am asking God to help me be the godly parent my family needs
- There are changes I need to make to influence my children/friends, & with God's help I'll begin making those changes this week
- I/we plan to attend the seminar "Developing Your Child's Spiritual Life" next Sun, Aug 19th @ 11:30 am

Next week: Join us as we discuss "**When Good Kids Go Bad.**" Invite a friend!

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