

Teach Your Children by Word and Deed

Colossians 3:17

PROPOSITION: Only when our words teach the will of God and our actions demonstrate that God's will is important to know and apply do our children see God in our homes.

INTRODUCTION:

1. "What have they seen in your house?" (Isa. 39:3, 4) is a question that concerns God and others.
2. On the theme we are studying, the important question is, "What do your children see in your house?"
3. Children, very early in life, learn their parents' priorities. We must put God first.

DISCUSSION:

I. Teach your children by word.

A. Valuation

1. God has always taught His people that His words are to be on their hearts (cf. Deut. 6:6).
2. Discussion of God's word is to be done at every opportunity (Deut. 6:6, 7).
3. The injunctions of Deuteronomy 6 had such an impact on the Jews that they were literally wearing phylacteries on their foreheads and hands, and there was a mezuzah on the doorposts of every orthodox home.
4. The word of God should be important to us.

B. Communication

1. The process of cultural and spiritual transmission is spelled out in Psalm 78:5-7.
2. The carrying forward of the will of God from heart to heart was the responsibility of parents.
3. How may parents teach their children by word?
 - a. In non-structured situations
 - 1) Discussing religious things in general conversations
 - 2) Reflecting to children that the Bible and church are a big part of parents' concerns
 - 3) Being ready to offer specific Bible teaching in answer to questions
 - 4) Having good Christian literature in the home
 - b. In structured situations
 - 1) Reading Bible stories to the very young
 - 2) Bible study and discussion periods
 - 3) Memorization games and drills

C. Application

1. Children must be impressed by parents' belief in, respect for, and adherence to God's word.
2. If children see their parents as God-fearing people, they will pattern their concept of adult responsibility on that value.

II. Teach your children by your deeds.

- A. It is important to tell your children what is right, but it is more important to set before them a worthy example.
- B. Jesus "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).
- C. Solomon was admonished to follow David's example (1 Kings 3:14).
- D. When you go, what will you leave for your children?
 - 1. A good name (cf. Prov. 22:1; Eccle. 7:1)
 - 2. The memory of a Christian home
 - 3. A Christian education (cf. Luke 2:52)
 - 4. An appreciation for the beautiful
 - 5. A genuine faith in God (cf. Rom. 10:17; Micah 6:8)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We cannot overemphasize the need to rear our children in the way they should go (cf. Prov. 22:6).
- 2. Neither can we overstress the need for every parent to be a faithful child of God.

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