

June 30, 2013

**Family #5 - Marriage
Children
Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

There is a definite challenge with the rearing of children in the time that we are living. The Word of God never changes and will work today just as it did in the past.

Gen 18:17-19 *"And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." KJV*

This truth was spoken of Abraham because God was not going to hide from him what His plans were for him. This was part of the plan of God in relationship to the children.

Psa 127:3-5 *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 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." KJV*

A mighty man has a direction or a target; he has a purpose where the arrow is to go. There is a goal that he is pointing them to in a specific direction and end result. It is a great responsibility for whoever might be raising the children. Many times as young parents we don't know what is going on with children. The Bible has definite things to be said for the raising of children.

These two scriptures speak of the heart of God in relationship to the children. The children are so precious in the sight of God, either in the marriage relationship or outside of marriage. God has made us caretakers of the children. Do we have a goal or target for our children? Are we pointing them toward God?

Being a parent today is more of a full time job and challenge than in years past. Start teaching them at a young age. Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother at a young age. Begin to teach and read to them about what the Bible is saying.

Psa 128:3 *"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" KJV*

Plants need special care; they must be watered and fed proper food. Fathers need to give their children special care. They must be given approval, told how special they are to Jesus and how much they are loved. Plants need a triple A rating meaning acceptance, approval and appreciation. This must be given by fathers and mothers unconditionally.

Pro 22:6. *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart*

from it." KJV

Training up a child is a joint effort between mothers and fathers. Both must be active and choices must be made. Parents have a responsibility as to what is being taught their children, whether it be in a home school or a public school situation.

What does train up mean? Train up must be on a consistent basis, it cannot be done whenever, it is a full time job. There is a goal or end result in mind. Train means to have limits, in a restricted area, being prepared for a contest, there must be boundaries.

Train up in the way they should go. Children who are never disciplined when grown up have no will power, wanting to do what is right, but with no will power they are unable to do so.

The story of Helen Keller was shared and how the lack of discipline played such an important part of her upbringing. Ann Sullivan was the lady who was able to teach her, but first she had to teach her discipline. Her parents had given into her and they had to make a choice in regards to letting Ann teach her. She said that Helen could not be taught until obedience or discipline came into her life.

The children belong to the Lord, but we have been made caretakers or stewards of them, in order to point them in the right direction. His plan for parents is to get rebellion out of them so that He can use them as they come to age.

John G. Lake is an example of how the life of God in him allowed him to minister to the people of Africa. He was strong in faith, and was able to share with people regarding the input that some had for their children's lives. Teaching them that they had to have faith that God would undertake in their situation and that they were to give the children over for the Lord to do His work in them. Trusting God, not trying to hold on was the key that brought them back to the families. Walking by faith, not trying, praying and hearing the voice of God that everything will work out. Believing God.

Training our children, starting at an early age, putting limits and boundaries instruct and prepare them for that day when they go out.

Discipline today is not a popular thing; it is not received well in the church or in the outside world. Selfishness comes into their lives when left to this kind of thinking. The world teaches let the child do whatever they want to do. The results affect everyone and are destructive.

There are examples in the Old Testament of people who disciplined their children and the end results and those who did not discipline and their results. Samuel had been raised by Eli having a good outcome, however, with Eli's sons, they were not disciplined, allowed to do whatever they wanted and their outcome was tragic. Samuel had the same problem with his children, their end was bad. The order for families must be put; God first, family second and the job third or last whatever the case may be.

Heb 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." KJV

Discipline is a sign of love, refusing to discipline is the same as refusing to love.