

Wisdom for Parents in Troubling Times

Responding to a Rebellious Child

2 Timothy 3:1-2 – “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy...”

10 PRINCIPLES FOR PARENTS TO FOCUS ON **AS THEY RESPOND TO A CHILD WHO DOES NOT OBEY THEM OR GOD**

1. Remember that your child is a _____ from God – Psalm 127:3; Psalm 139:13-16;

Psalm 127:3 – “Behold, **children are a heritage from the LORD**, the fruit of the womb is a reward”

Psalm 139:13-14a – “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

2. Remember that God _____ - Isaiah 1:2

Isaiah 1:2 – “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: “**I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me**”

3. Remember that God is _____ you to the image of His Son – Romans 8:28-29;

Romans 8:28-29 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”

4. Remember to _____ your child the way God loves You – Sacrificially & Unconditionally – Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:1-10; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8;

Romans 5:8 – “But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:10 – “In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Question: What are you doing to **DEMONSTRATE** your love for your sinful child?

Question: How far are you willing to go, or how much are you willing to sacrifice, to show your son/daughter that you love them **UNCONDITIONALLY**?

This will include the encouragement of your child and getting involved with your child in something he/she finds interesting

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a – *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails”.*

5. Remember that _____ is not righteous or profitable – Psalm 37:8; James 1:20

Psalm 37:8 – *“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm.”*

James 1:20 – *“the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”*

6. Remember to Keep your life _____ on knowing, loving, serving, and _____ God – 2 Corinthians 5:9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;

2 Corinthians 5:9 – *“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

7. Remember to continue to be an _____ of a Christ Follower – 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9

1 Timothy 4:12 – *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”*

1 Corinthians 11:1 – *“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ”*

Philippians 4:9 – *“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Question: Am I willing to **MODEL** those same expectations I have for my children?

Question: If my child **LOVED** the Lord, **LOVED** others, **READ** God’s Word, **PRAYED**, **SERVED** the Lord, and was **GROWING** spiritually the way I’m growing, how spiritual would my child be?

8. Remember to Keep _____ -- James 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 62:8; Matthew 7:7-11;

James 5:16 – “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Psalm 62:8 – “Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.”

Philippians 4:6-7 – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

9. Remember to be _____ to God not _____ toward God – 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 4:31-32

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 – “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

10. Remember that Children have to make _____ -- Ezekiel 18:20; Ephesians 6:1-2

Ephesians 6:1-3 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Ezekiel 18:20 – “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”

Conclusion:

- ❖ Parents are not the **HOLY SPIRIT**. They cannot change their child but God can
- ❖ In the meantime our responsibility is to:
 - ✓ Walk by **FAITH** -- 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - ✓ **HOPE** in God not in people – Psalm 43:5
 - ✓ Depend on God’s **GRACE** -- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
 - ✓ Be **PATIENT** -- Isaiah 40:31
- ❖ **THE STORY IS NOT OVER** – “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear dull, that it cannot hear” – Isaiah 59:1