

KINGDOM ESSENTIALS: MARRIAGE, PARENTING AND A GENERATIONAL VISION

“The Priority of the True Gospel in Producing a Transformed Generation”

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘the righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-18)

Paul tells us in Colossians 2:3 that it is ...

“Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3)

Wisdom and knowledge are not found in a book, a conference or a seminar. They are found in a person – the person of Jesus Christ!

Christian parents should live their lives to make Christ and His kingdom glorious to their children.

We must receive the words of Jesus when He says:

“Take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)

The question I want to pose to parents this morning is this – Have you been born again?

Children and youth need to be taught and led (by example) from within a CULTURE OF FAITHFULNESS so that they too learn the value of faithfulness.

John tells us,

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."
(John 1:12-13)

"All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." (Matthew 11:27)

All we can do is trust God by being faithful to create a culture of faithfulness, affection and the fear of the Lord. So let's go a little deeper by exploring what it means to develop ...

❖ A Culture of Faith and Affection

- Assumptions and Rationalizations
 - Assume that God is not Serious About His Word
 - Rationalize that We are an Exception to His Will

There was a time in Scripture when: *"... Every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 17:6)

"There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

(Proverbs 14:12)

- Faith and Favor

Our children are most affected by a culture of faith and affection!

- Faith is the Fruit of the Gospel
- Faithfulness is the Expression of Faith
- Favor is the Evidence of Faithfulness

In addition to FAITH & AFFECTION, we are to create ...

❖ A Culture of Fear and Awe

The key component of faith is fear. The Bible tells us a couple of things about this. First, *without faith, it is impossible to please God*. And secondly, *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*.

The favor of God is manifested as blessings such as:

Friendship with God (*Psalms 25:14*)

Fruit of Single-Mindedness (*Psalms 86:11*)

Secret to Wealth, Riches and Long Life (*Psalms 10:27; 22:4*)

- Key to Wisdom that Builds Families (*Proverbs 9:10; 24:3*)

"In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence and His children will have a refuge. 27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life ..." (Prov. 14:26-27)

- The Example of Abraham

"Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him for now I know that you fear God seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from me." (Genesis 22:12)

Abraham's fear pleased God.

"By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this (have feared me) and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:16-18)

Abraham obeyed God and his obedience was a by-product of faith.

- The Example of Moses

God spoke to Moses and said, *"Oh that they (Israel) had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever." (Deuteronomy 5:29)*

"Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being and his offspring shall inherit the land." (Psalms 25:12-13)

Notice the connection between the parent's fear of God and blessed children.

"But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him and His righteousness to children's children." (Psalms 103:17)

"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed." (Psalms 122:1-2)

"Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord." (Psalms 128:1-4)

- The Fear of God and the Love of God

Many struggle to synthesize the fear of God and the His love. Hebrews 10:31 tells us that, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

"When the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die' " (Ex. 20:18–19)

The people were afraid—and rightly so. But Moses' responded:

"Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin" (Ex. 20:20)

- Fear as Slaves

What Moses was saying, *"Do not fear God in the wrong way and do not fear Him as slaves."*

- Fear as Sons

Moses was saying that God has come to test you and cause you to fear Him in the right way, AS SONS.

"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD" (Isa. 11:2–3)

"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established" (Prov. 24:3)

Conclusion:

"Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God." (II Corinthians 7:1)