

The Intentional Parent vs The Passive Parent

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I Samuel 2: ¹² Eli's sons were wicked men; they did not respect the Lord ¹³ or the priests' share of the sacrifices from the people.

. ²⁶ By contrast, the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

3 sons.....

I. Commonalities in the three sons.

All three were “raised in church”.

All three were exposed to scriptural teaching.

All three were exposed to faith leaders.

II. Contrast in the three sons.

A. Hophni and Phinehas had zero respect for The Lord.

2: ¹² Eli's sons were wicked men; they did not respect the Lord

B. Samuel actively served the Lord

2: ¹⁸ Samuel served in the Lord's presence—this mere boy was dressed in the linen ephod.

C. Hophni and Phinehas left no spiritual legacy

2: ³¹ Look, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your forefather's family, so that none in your family will reach old age.

D. Samuel left a deep and rich legacy of faith

3: ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the Lord.

III. Why the difference?

Hannah made effort to provide mentors, training and opportunities for Samuel to thrive spiritually. Eli did not for his sons.

IIIV. What can we do to raise a Samuel and not a Hophni and Phineas

We are one generation away from ending our legacy of faith.

“He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future!”

A. We can.....Love our spouse!

Eph 5: ³³ To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

B. We can.....Commit ourselves to discipleship

Duet 6: ⁴ “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol ^[b] on your forehead. ^[c] ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

C. We can.....Answer the next generations questions!

The heart of discipleship today is explanation. - James Emery White

Three responses from parents when asked a hard question.....

“Because the Bible says so”

“I do not know”

“Let’s study this together”

We must teach the next generation not just simply to declare what scripture says but rather defend what scripture says.

Philippians 1:7 Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart,^[c] and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Philippians 1:16 These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

D. We can.....Pay attention to their influencers.

Psalm 1:1 How happy is the one who does not
walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners
or sit in the company of mockers!

² Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams^[a]
that bears its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

E. We can.....Balance grace and truth

John 4: ¹⁶ “Go call your husband,” he told her, “and come back here.”

¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” she answered.

“You have correctly said, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus said. ¹⁸ “For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

Eph 6:4 Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

F. We can.....Surround them with a faith community.

I Thess 5:11¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

G. We can.....Commit to serving the next generation through the local church

I Cor 12: 4 Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.

Close:

Judges 2:10-12 (GNT)

¹⁰ That whole generation also died, and the next generation forgot the LORD and what he had done for Israel.