Encouraging Godliness In Our Children

Jesse LaRue · Ephesians 6:4

INTRODUCTION

- It is our job, our responsibility to raise our children to know the Lord.
- Our children cannot get into heaven on our merits. They're not going to be judged based on our deeds and the way we live our life.
- I cannot make my daughter righteous because I am righteous. And so we must set an example for them.

1 Let Them See Our Faith

Matthew 16:24; Romans 12:1–2; Psalm 78:1–8

- If we want to raise and encourage godliness in our children, we need to let them see our faith.
- Children are not fooled by hypocrisy. We have to show them that our faith is sincere. They see everything we do.
- If I want my children to set their hope in God, they have to see my faith.
- We cannot afford to pass this responsibility off on anyone else, namely the church. It's not the church's job to do this. It's my job.

2 Make Spiritual Matters a Priority

Matthew 6:33

- We need to make spiritual matters a priority because God demands the preeminence in our lives.
- We have to teach them that neither they nor their interests or hobbies are more important than him.
- If you really want to go to heaven, if you really want your children and your grandchildren to go to heaven, you're going to make it a priority.

3 Show and Demand Respect for God's Word

Deuteronomy 6:4; Romans 10:17; Luke 6:45

- Cannot teach godliness while neglecting God's word.
- We must use God's word to teach. And there is power in that word.
- Do I demand that God's word be a priority? Do I make my children read their Bibles?
- Do I talk with them about spiritual things? What do we talk about at home?

4 Providing a Focus on Heaven

Philippians 3:20; Ecclesiastes 1:14; John 14

- We must see ourselves, brethren, as belonging elsewhere. We are citizens of the kingdom of heaven.
- Heaven is where we're from, and it's where we're going back to.
- Our cultural heritage is not as important as the heritage that we have in heaven.
- We are a godly people with a godly origin and a godly destiny.

5 We Need to Maintain That Sin Is Terrible

Isaiah 5:20–23; Jeremiah 6:13–15; Romans 11:22

- Sin will stand in the way of them and God.
- That's what Satan does with sin. He takes bad things and makes them look good.
- God defines what sin is, not us.
- We need to hate the sin and love the sinner. But we cannot allow sin into our midst.

6 Surround Them With Godly People

Deuteronomy 7:1; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14–15

- We need to surround them with godly people. We need to remember the power of influence.
- It's a lot easier for an immature child to be influenced badly by bad peers than it is for them to be a good influence on them.
- Bad companions corrupt good morals. We cannot expect godly influence from ungodly people.
- We need to make God's people our people. We need to stress the importance of a local church.

THE CHALLENGE

Are we sacrificing our lives? As an example to our families in an effort to bring them to heaven with us.

MY NOTES