

# SEASONED PARENTING IN A COMPLEX WORLD

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Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

We are living in a very selfish and busy society. The “time is money” life-style has been so in fashion nowadays like never before. People run from one point to another almost 24/7 all for money, money and money. In the midst of this crazy atmosphere, there is no quality of life, no healthy relationships and zero spirituality.

That is the picture from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – “modern society” where we are all surrounded and affected by.

Knowing the reality we are living in, we have two options:

## **First option**

we can adapt our lives according to this society code, and let the rivers flow. Let's behave ourselves in the way the secular and humanistic principles lead us to do, but knowing that whatever happens with the next generation is totally our responsibility. This is the most convenient way to live.

## **Second option**

knowing that the next generation's destiny is in our hands as parents, we can then stand up right now and take a radical position in order to rescue this generation, leading our children into the way God planned for us as His children. Not doing that, we will be in a sin of omission (negligence).

Isaiah 65:23 (NKJV)

They shall not labour in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

Isaiah 65:23 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.

Therefore, if you are choosing the second one, you have chosen the right thing to do. Well done!

So, what do we do now?

Let me present you the following steps to reach the family's welfare

## **1. Prevent your children from Cultural and Intellectual ostracism**

- They must have access in all kinds of information available
- Include them in a healthy conversation at home valuing their opinions
- Have an open wide mindset allowing all kinds of discussions
- Upgrade yourself in technology and latest news
- In any kind of matter, give them always a biblical perspective about it

Titus 2:7 (NKJV)

in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

## **2. Create a very strong bond between you and your children**

- Make sure you are always online and connected with them
- Ask questions about things they do, show them you care for them
- Support your children in assemblies, tournaments and interviews
- Never compare your children with somebody else's children
- Never hide anything concerning the family's decision from them

Psalm 127:3-4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

### 3. **Don't be afraid bring correction and set boundaries**

- We aren't supposed to hear YES always in life, NO, is very positive
- When kids hear only YES they are getting a wrong picture from the real life
- Boundaries are very healthy in children's lives
- Spoiled children produce frustrated and insecure adults
- One day in the future ahead they will thank you for saying NO to them in the past

Proverbs 29:17 (NKJV)

Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

### 4. **Don't forget to guide them always in the Way of the Lord**

- God has given us children as a gift to nurture them
- Be relentless concerning church & ministry while they're under your authority
- Set yourself as an example of dignity, balance and transparency
- Spend time reading the Bible and praying with them regularly
- Be faithful to God and to the church if you want to see them doing the same

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.