

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

1. REVIEW

A. IF... PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN KNOW THEMSELVES, LIKE THEMSELVES, AND BE THEMSELVES... THEN THEIR "WAY" WILL BECOME SELF-EVIDENT.

B. ... AND, THEIR "WAY" WILL BE A NATURAL FIT FOR THE ADULTS THEY WILL GROW UP TO BE.

1. ... WHY, THEN, WOULD THEY WANT TO "TURN AWAY" FROM THAT "WAY"?

2. THIS PROCESS (SEE 1A) IS GOOD FOR HELPING CHILDREN:

a. MENTALLY...

b. EMOTIONALLY...

c. SOCIALLY...

d. VOCATIONALLY...

e. AND... THE SAME PROCESS APPLIES TO OUR CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT.

C. FOLLOWING IS A PARAPHRASE OF Proverbs 22:6...

1. CULTIVATE A THIRST, INITIATE A HUNGER, CREATE AN APPETITE FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS IN THE LIVES OF YOUR CHILDREN OF ANY AGE, AS LONG AS THEY ARE LIVING UNDER YOUR ROOF... AND DO IT IN KEEPING WITH THE WAY THEY ARE "BENT". DISCIPLINE THE DISOBEDIENCE AND THE EVIL WHILE ENCOURAGING THE GOOD, THE ARTISTIC, AND THE BEAUTIFUL. THEN, AS YOUR CHILDREN BEGIN TO GROW INTO ADULTS, THEIR "WAY" WILL BE AIMED DIRECTLY TOWARD THE SAVIOR, AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WALK IN HIS ENLIGHTENED PATH.

D. DO NOT BE FOOLED BY THE "QUALITY" TIME MYTH. "QUANTITY" T-I-M-E IS WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU AS A PARENT. IT IS YOUR PRIMARY PARENTING ROLE IN LIFE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. IT TAKES T-I-M-E TO KNOW ANYONE DEEPLY... LOTS OF T-I-M-E... T-I-M-E YOU DON'T THINK YOU HAVE, BUT MUST FIND... T-I-M-E TO STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, ENCOURAGE, AND LOVE... T-I-M-E, LOOKING BACK, YOU WILL NEVER REGRET.

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1. REGARDING YOUR CHILDREN, DO YOU REMEMBER ANYONE SAYING TO YOU, "ENJOY EVERY MOMENT... IT GOES BY TOO FAST"!

a. WHAT THEY MEAN IS ... "YOU WILL NEVER REGRET SPENDING T-I-M-E WITH YOUR CHILDREN!"

1) WHEN YOU ARE OLD YOU WILL NOT SAY "I WISH I HAD SPENT MORE TIME..."

- i. AT WORK
- ii. FISHING, GOLF, TENNIS, ETC.
- iii. WITH MY FRIENDS
- iv. TRAVELING
- v. WATCHING TV

E. PROVERBS -vs- GOD'S PROMISES

1. Proverbs 22:6 (NASB) Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2. MANY PEOPLE MISTAKE PROVERBS FOR AIRTIGHT PROMISES.

a. THEY READ PROVERBS AS THE LORD SAYING, "IF YOU DO 'X', I WILL SEE TO IT THAT 'Y' IS ALWAYS THE RESULT".

1) UNFORTUNATELY, CHILDREARING IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE.

b. GOD DOES MAKE PROMISES IN THE BIBLE... AND HE KEEPS THEM.

1) HOWEVER, A PROVERB IS A PRINCIPLE FOR LIVING... NOT A PROMISE.

i. SO LONG AS WE LIVE IN A WORLD FILLED WITH SIN, OUR BEST EFFORTS WILL SOMETIMES BE MET WITH FAILURE.

3. REMEMBER: CHILDREN HAVE WILLS OF THEIR OWN, WHICH MEANS THAT, UNLIKE MACHINES, YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING CORRECTLY AND NOT ALWAYS GET THE RESULT YOU HOPED FOR.

a. HOWEVER... YOU WILL HAVE A 100% FAILURE RATE IF YOU NEVER TRY!

1) "YOU WILL MISS 100% OF THE SHOTS YOU NEVER TAKE!" - WAYNE GRETZKY

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b. WE CAN PREPARE OUR CHILDREN TO MAKE WISE, RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS... NEVER-THE-LESS, THE CHOICES REMAIN THEIRS.

1) AND AS UNFAIR AS THIS MAY SEEM... THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE THEIRS ALSO.

4. SOMEDAY IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER CHILD WHO IS LIVING IN REBELLION, OR WHO HAS CHOSEN A LIFE CONTRARY TO THE ONE YOU PREPARED FOR THEM...

a. PLEASE DROP AT LEAST ONE BURDEN... SELF-BLAME.

b. ANY PARENT CAN SAY WITHOUT HESITATION THAT THEY COULD HAVE DONE BETTER.

c. ALL PARENTS WITH GROWN CHILDREN HAVE THINGS THAT MAKE US CRINGE WHEN WE LOOK BACK ON OUR PARENTING PERFORMANCE.

1) AND PERHAPS THEY COULD HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB AS A FATHER OR MOTHER.

2) MAYBE YOU STRUGGLED WITH ISSUES THAT KEPT YOU FROM BEING THE PARENT YOU OTHERWISE COULD HAVE BEEN.

3) NEVER-THE-LESS, THE CHOICES WERE YOUR CHILD'S TO MAKE.

d. BUT... FOR NOW, FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE PRESENT TO BE THE VERY BEST PARENT POSSIBLE!

2. ENDING YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY OF SIN

A. LAST WEEK WE DISCUSSED THAT WHEN GOD GOVES US A CHILD, HE DOES NOT HAND US A PIECE OF CLAY JUST WAITING TO BE MOLDED.

1. HE CRAFTED OUR CHILDREN WITH A SET OF:

a. GIFTS

b. STRENGTHS

c. A TEMPERAMENT

d. And, A DESTINY.

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2. AND... BECAUSE EACH CHILD IS DIFFERENT, PARENTS ARE TO TRAIN THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR "WAY".

a. THE HEBREW WORD "DEREK" MEANS WAY OR PATH OR ROAD.

1) ...THEIR CHARACTERISTIC MANNER.

B. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THAT EVERY CHILD IS "BENT" TOWARD EVIL AS A PART OF THEIR NATURE

1. WE ARE ALL BORN THAT WAY.

a. WE ARE ALL SINNERS...

1) BY NATURE

2) BY CHOICE

3) AND, BY BIRTH.

b. THAT SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

C. ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN CURE THIS FATAL DISEASE.

1. WE RECEIVE THAT HEALING WHEN WE ACCEPT HIM BY FAITH...

a. TRUSTING HIM, AND HIM ALONE, FOR OUR RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

b. Romans 10:9-10 (NASB) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (the son of God), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

D. A CHILD NEEDS A PARENT TO TEACH THEM ABOUT THE SAVIOR.

1. HOWEVER, EVEN AFTER THE LORD HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THE HEARTS OF OUR CHILDREN, THEIR EVIL "BENT" MAY STILL INCITE THEM TO REBELLION/SIN... TO DO THINGS "THEIR OWN WAY".

a. FRANK SINATRA... "MY WAY"

2. THAT IS TRUE OF YOU, ME, AS WELL AS OUR CHILDREN.

a. NOT ONLY DO THEY INHERIT A SINFUL NATURE FROM US...

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1) ... THEY ALSO INHERIT A PROPENSITY TO SPECIFIC SINS.

- E. Exodus 34:6-7 (NASB) Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

1. THAT SEEMS UNFAIR UNTIL WE REALIZE THAT OUR VIEW OF SIN IS THE PROBLEM... NOT GOD'S JUSTICE.

a. WE SIMPLY DO NOT TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

2. "INIQUITY" IS AN IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL TERM.

a. THE HEBREW WORD IS "AVON" (AH-VOWNE IT RYMES WITH ALONE).

b. IT MEANS DISTORTING OR TWISTING SOMETHING OUT OF IT'S ORIGINAL SHAPE.

c. "AVON" DENOTES BOTH THE DEED AND ITS CONSEQUENCES...

1) THE MISDEED AND ITS PUNISHMENT.

2) IT IS INTERESTING THAT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SIN AND ITS PENALTY ARE NOT SEPARATE IDEAS.

i. THE ACTION (SIN) AND WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT (CONSEQUENCES) ARE DIRECTLY RELATED.

ii. PRAISE GOD FOR JESUS CHRIST... THROUGH HIM, AND ONLY THROUGH HIM, WE HAVE FORGIVENESS OF CONFESSED SIN!

3. ALL OF US BEAR THE DNA OF OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS

A. THEY HAVE PHYSICALLY TRANSFERRED THEIR MAKE-UP TO US

1. WE OFTEN SAY, "YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER/FATHER."

B. OUR DNA DETERMINES THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN AND THE SHAPE OF OUR FEATURES.

1. WE ARE REFLECTIONS OF OUR PARENTS PHYSICALLY

a. AND WE PASS OUR DNA DOWN TO OUR OWN CHILDREN

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1) THAT'S HOW BIOLOGY WORKS.

C. **PHYSICAL DNA** IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT GETS TRANSFERRED.

1. THERE IS A **SPIRITUAL DNA** THAT GETS TRANSFERRED, TOO.
2. THAT IS AN UNSEEN REALITY THAT PASSES BETWEEN GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS, AND CHILDREN THAT LEADS TO **GENERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES...** IT IS **SPIRITUAL DNA**.
3. WE NOT ONLY PASS **PHYSICAL DNA** TO OUR CHILDREN... WE PASS THE **PATTERNS OF SINFUL BEHAVIOR**.
4. THESE PATTERNS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER CREATE SPIRITUAL SCARS ON OUR LIVES.
 - a. AND WE PASS THEM ON UNPLANNED, BUT VERY REAL TO OUR CHILDREN.
5. **NOTE:** ALL SIN IS NOT THE RESULT OF GENERATIONAL PASSAGE!!
6. WHEN I TALK ABOUT GENERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES, AS OPPOSED TO GENERATIONAL CURSES, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE NEGATIVE REPURCUSSIONS OF THE PASSING OF SINFUL PATTERNS THAT WE PICK UP ACROSS GENERATIONS.
 - a. THESE NEGATIVE PATTERNS CREATE NEGATIVE RESULTS IN OUR LIVES AND IN THE WORLD AROUND US.
7. THESE GENERATIONAL REALITIES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND ALL SIZES:
 - a. LYING
 - b. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
 - c. PHYSICAL ABUSE
 - d. EMOTIONAL ABUSE
 - e. DIVORCE
 - 1) ADDICTION
 - 2) ANGER
 - 3) FEAR

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- 4) DEPRESSION
- 5) IMMORALITY
- 6) IDOLATRY
- 7) JEALOUSY
- 8) DECEIT
- 9) FAILURE
- 10) LUST
- 11) PRIDE
- 12) UNBELIEF
- 13) REBELLION
- 14) MANIPULATION
- 15) GUILT
- 16) CONTROL
- 17) UNFORGIVENESS
- 18) BITTERNESS

8. DISCUSS: OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT BORN RACISTS

D. EVERY FAMILY HAS SOME LONGSTANDING NEGATIVE TENDENCIES
(GENERATIONAL SIN) THAT NEED TO BE BROKEN.

1. WE NEED TO STOP IN THE PRESENT GENERATION

a. ...SO WE CAN PREVENT THEM FROM TAKING ROOT IN OUR CHILDREN.

2. THAT'S MY CHALLENGE TO EACH OF US TODAY.

3. WILL YOU TAKE THE T-I-M-E TO EXAMINE YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY AND LOOK FOR HARMFUL TENDENCIES (SIN) THAT HAVE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED YOU, YOUR PARENTS, AND YOUR PARENT'S PARENTS?

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- a. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DETERMINE TO TAKE STEPS TO KEEP THOSE GENERATIONAL TENDENCES FROM BECOMING REALITIES FOR YOUR CHILDREN?
 - 1) IS "RECLAIMING SURRENDERED GROUND" SOMETHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT?
 - i. IN THIS CLASS
 - ii. IN A SEPARATE CLASS
4. FIRST STEP: ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU AND TO GIVE YOU THE INSIGHT, WISDOM, AND COURAGE YOU WILL NEED TO RESCUE YOU FROM THE SINS THAT HAVE PLAGUED YOU, YOUR PARENTS, YOUR GRANDPARENTS... AND PERHAPS WILL PLAGUE YOUR OWN CHILDREN.
 - a. DISCUSS: THE GOAL OF GENERATIONAL GODLINESS
5. REMEMBER: ALL SIN IS NOT THE RESULT OF GENERATIONAL PASSAGE!!