

Don't Leave the Children Behind

Exodus 10:8-11

Introduction: God created the family, or household, as a spiritual unit. It is unnatural for it to be divided spiritually. God wants it to be united.

1. For Salvation
 - a. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:9-10)
 - b. Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:30-32)
2. For Sanctification
 - a. The Believing Spouse (1Corinthians 7:12-14)
 - b. Example of Abraham (Genesis 18:19)

How can the family be a true spiritual unit? It takes ELC (compare to TLC – tender-loving care). ELC stands for Example, Love, and Command. This is taken from Ephesians 6:4 – “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

- EXAMPLE – *bring them up*
 - LOVE – *in the nurture...of the Lord*
 - COMMAND – *in the...admonition of the Lord*
- I. EXAMPLE – *bring them up*
 - A. Must Bring Up to Bring Out (Genesis 19:12)
 - B. Must Be Up to Bring Up (Proverbs 22:6)
 - C. The Power of Example (1Peter 3:1-4)
 - D. The Pattern of Example (1Timothy 4:12)
 - II. LOVE – *in the nurture...of the Lord*
 - A. Show the Butter and Honey to your Children (Isaiah 7:15)
 - B. Avoid Inconsistent or Unjust Dealings (Ephesians 6:4a)
 - III. COMMAND – *in the...admonition of the Lord*
 - A. The Part of the Children (Ephesians 6:1-3)
 - B. The Part of the Parents
 1. Command in the ways of God (Genesis 18:19)
 2. Demand obedience (Proverbs 19:18)

Conclusion:

- The Biblical Order is Required
 - Example first
 - Love before command
- Absolute Determination is Required
 - Satan is after your children
 - May take years of faithful application
 - Many obstacles will present themselves
- NEVER GIVE UP!!!
 - Not during the terrible two's – this is when most parents lose their children
 - Not during the early school years
 - Not during the rebellious teens
 - Not when they are grown and on their own

Invitation:

- Are you the example your children need?
- Are you balancing love and command?
- Are you praying for your children?
- Are you refusing to give up?