

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Kingdom Kids

Ephesians 6:1-4

Series: *Kingdom Families*

Introduction:

The foundation of the *nation* is, by and far, related to the foundation of the *family*. Today's family has gone through a living hell. Today's family faces problems and pressures like no other in American history. Today's family doesn't know if their children will be released early from school for bad weather, or held over indefinitely because of a mass school shooting. Our society today is reaping the consequences of family disintegration.

Although the Bible never dictates how many children a family should raise, I suggest that you have only as many as you can properly care for and provide for physically and spiritually. No parent should bring a child into the world, then leave that child to the devil and populate hell. You should not have any more children than you can point toward the Kingdom of God.

I. Kingdom Kids Need Encouragement

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

"If you decide that what God is asking you to do with your life is just too much on you and is just a little too inconvenient, then you will never see the miracles He has for you."

--Karen Bennett,
Founder of Metro Assembly
A Ministry to Inner City Kids in Atlanta GA:

II. Kingdom Kids Need Nurture

Ephesians 6:4b *...but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Four Elements of Nurturing:

- A. Intellectual
- B. Physical
- C. Spiritual
- D. Social

- Every parent must recognize that 'today' is all you have with your kids. At best, you have them for only a few years. Today they love Sunday School, AWANA, and church in general. Today they are innocent and today they are teachable, but 'tomorrow' they will follow the road that you have shaped for them 'today' whether it be good or bad.

III. Kingdom Kids Need Discipline.

Hebrews 12:6-8 (ESV) ⁶ *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.* ⁷ *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?* ⁸ *If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.*

- Love is always demonstrated by discipline and every child needs to know their parents love them enough to take the time to correct them for crimes done.

A Word of Caution:

Children are never to be disciplined apart from love. Without love children will turn to rebellion.

IV. Kingdom Kids Need Instruction

Deuteronomy 6:2 (ESV) *That you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.*

- It's not enough to simply come to church; we must have a deep-seated love for the God of our church.

"There are exceptional women and there are exceptional men, who have other tasks to perform in addition to, not in substitution for, the task of motherhood and fatherhood, the task of providing for the home and of keeping it. But it is the task connected with the homes that are the fundamental tasks of humanity. After all, we can get along for the time being, with an inferior quality of success in other lines, political or business, or of any kind; because if there are failings in such matters, we can make them good in the next generation; but if the mother and father do not do their duty, there will be no next generation."

-- President Theodore Roosevelt