

Do Not Sin Against the Child

100117AM

Genesis 42:21-24

- Joseph was brought up by a father who loved & favored him, but he grew up with brothers who were jealous to the degree of hatred.
- In many ways, children today are caught between opposing forces – a Father who loves them & a world that cannot understand love.
- Who we become has much to do with who influenced us the most as children.
 - **Seldom will a family, or a church, rise above its leadership & training.**
 - Children are a heritage of God – Psa. 127:3.
 - What can we do to care for God's heritage?

Cannot Let The World Teach Them the Meaning of Love

- The world teaches a conditional standard of love based on feelings & affections.
- 1 Jn. 3:1 “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”
 - God “bestowed” His love, we did not earn it!
 - We are children of God because of His love, not because of our merit.
 - The world does not understand this, because it does not understand God.
- **Rom. 1:31 (KJV) “without natural affection” Unloving - astorgous, hard hearted towards kindred: without natural affection. Cf. 2 Tim. 3:3 – It is happening again!**
- God teaches an unconditional standard of love – Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-8.

Worldly Examples Cannot Be Dominant

- What are good examples? Can you pick them out? Would you be picked out as a good example?
- 1 Tim. 4:12; Heb. 13:7; Jn. 13:15.
- Do not neglect to appropriately explain bad examples & fight the temptation to just ignore them.
- 1 Cor. 10:11-12; Jude 7; 1 Kng. 15:25-26; etc.
- **If children are not taught how to live right, how do we expect that they will live?**

The Home Is the Most Important Environment

- Children still need to be trained up the way that they should go – Pro. 22:6.
- **Fathers** are still responsible for bringing up their children in the training (nurture) & admonition of the Lord – Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.
- **Godly mothers & grandmothers** play a major role – 2 Tim. 1:5.
 - The destructive & painful nature of sin – Mat. 18.
 - The sacred nature of marriage – Mat. 19:3-6.
 - Faithfulness in youth – 2 Tim. 3:14-15.
 - Forgiveness through Christ – Acts 2:38.
 - Faithful assembly & acceptable worship – Heb. 10:22-26.

Decision...

- No right thinking person wants to be guilty of putting a stumbling block in the way of a child's eternal salvation – Mat. 18:1-6.
- We sin against them if we leave their upbringing to the world.
- We must remember, that **only those who know God** can demonstrate His love & care.

A House That's Built with Love

Without love, a house is just a house --
a ceiling, walls and floor,
But fill that house with faith and love
and it becomes much more.

A home is where your dreams come true
for love abides, you see,
And love makes a house a home
regardless of pedigree.

Home's a shelter from the storms of life
and sanctuary too,
For loved ones wait behind the door
to hug and comfort you.

It's a home where God is honored
and the Bible's often read,
And there the children seek Him
before they go to bed.

Home may be a simple shanty
beneath the stars above,
But blessed are those who dwell within
a house that's built with love!

--Clay Harrison