

Session 3 – Parental Roles

Dale Whitehead

We are to do all things to the glory of God or in other words we are to be striving to display God's greatness in everything that we do including our parenting. And if we do this and do it well then we can consider not only that our lives have been successful but also more specifically our parenting as been successful as well. For our success in life, as well as our success in parenting, is not determined by what our lives produce for that is in the hand of God, but rather by how our lives are being lived or in other words by whether or not we are living our lives to bring glory to God or not to bring glory to God.

But now having said this. It is important for us to understand that apart from us bowing before God and His Word, as evidenced by our constant and persistent desire not only to embrace the Word but to pass the Word on to others and more specifically to our children, there is no possible way for us to do all things to the glory of God nor to display His greatness in all things. We can only do these things if we in response to God bow before God and His Word.

And this bowing before God and His Word will impact every area of our lives and every area of our parenting. One of those areas that we will be considering this morning are parental roles.

1. The _____ parental role is to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

2. The mother's role is to _____ the father in bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord for she, according to God's design, is her husband's helper (Genesis 2:18).

3. The father and the mother will _____ therefore be involved in bringing up their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

a. “to bring up” –

b. “discipline” –

c. “instruction” –

d. “of the Lord” –

4. The parental roles of the mother and the father will require them to work _____ together with their children in order to achieve maximum effectiveness.

a. This harmony is best achieved when the husband in the oversight of his family strives to _____ his wife (Ephesians 5:25).

b. This harmony is best achieved when the wife in her assisting role strives to be _____ to her husband or in other words to honor her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24).

- c. This harmony is best achieved when they both, the father and the mother, are striving to speak with _____ (Romans 14:19).
- d. This harmony is best achieved when both the father and the mother are striving to not _____ or exasperate the children (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
5. So what are some ways that parents can provoke or exasperate their children?
- a. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- b. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- c. They can provoke their children through _____ .
- d. They can provoke their children by failing to _____ them.
- e. They can provoke their children by being far quicker to _____ than to praise.

Conclusion

The father's role is to bring us his children in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord. The mother's role, as the wife of the father, is to assist the father. And they both need in their respective roles to be working together harmoniously with their children. But neither the father nor the mother will be able to do these things, and to do so to the glory of God, unless they choose to bow before God and His Word.

Session 3 – Additional Study

What would the leadership role of bringing up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord require of the father?

What would the assisting role of bringing up her children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord require of the mother?

How difficult would it be for a husband to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord if his wife did not believe that he loved her?

How difficult would it be for a husband to bring up his children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord if his wife was not subject to him.

How are you most likely to provoke your child?