

Grandparenting



Reclaiming the Lost Treasure

Hand Out #1, Jan. 21, 2018

Vision: Why is family discipleship so important?

In the beginning, God instituted the family (Gen. 1:27-28) as a primary vehicle to accomplish His purposes on earth, mainly through procreation and _____ (Gen. 18:19). The OT narrative primarily follows one family, generation to generation and ends with a strong _____ for family discipleship (Mal. 2:15; 4:6). The NT begins with the same (Luke 1:17), Jesus affirmed the created order of the family (Mark 10:6-8), and the Apostles once again, repeatedly called parents to discipleship (Eph. 6:4). Nothing in the NT abrogates the OT value and purpose of the family. Fathers are specifically called to lead the discipleship charge within the home (1 Th. 2:11-12). God *the father* chooses to reveal himself to us in a family framework. The Family has been greatly devalued in our culture and that diminishes our perspective as well. We need to gain a more biblical understanding and _____ prioritize discipleship of our kids, grandkids, and neighbour kids. (in that order)

"The downfall of the church will not come from a lack of apologetic teaching, it will come from a disintegration of the families in the church." -Josh McDowell

How To Disciple

Note: We affirm that we are saved by grace alone through faith. We also believe that true faith manifests itself through deeds. God commands us to take certain actions (2 Ti. 2:4-7). In this course we aim to grow in fulfilling our part, while increasingly depending on God for his part.

1. CULTIVATE CONVICTION: A parent's primary task is discipleship and grandparents are to be a complementary, generational extension of that (Ps. 78:3-7). Therefore *Grandparenting*=_____. Grandparents are warriors for the Kingdom (Eph. 6:10-18). God thinks, plans and works generationally and so we must do the same. We need to " _____ " on these truths and put feet to our faith.
2. MODEL: Lead by _____. *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done."* (John 13:15). You simply can't lead where you've not been. Test: Give your kids or grandkids an anonymous survey about grandpa or grandma, asking them, *"List (in order) grandpa (or grandma's) top priorities in life."* If appropriate, ask for reasons why they wrote what they did. Then prayerfully evaluate, do these resemble Jesus' priorities?
3. TAKE AIM: Take time to write down Biblical spiritual _____ for your progeny. For example, focus on the heart and nurture: humility, repentance, dependence on God, love, fear of God, worship, conviction, godly vision/purpose, wisdom, etc. External evidenced such as Church attendance, a moral lifestyle, or even Bible memorization should not be the primary focus, nor should they be the main measure of spiritual health (remember the Pharisees). Too often we check the external boxes but neglect the heart (Deut. 8:1-2). _____ is more important than What.

Note: These are three of many practical principles we will be covering in the weeks ahead.

"...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." Malachi 4:6

Optional Homework:

Prayerfully consider the content we covered so far. Meditate on the scripture verses and the context of them, asking God to reveal to your heart, what changes He wants you to make. Write those changes down in a journal. Show someone you trust and ask them to hold you accountable to take action.

Meditate on Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and write some practical applications in your particular situation. Bring them to our next session where you may have opportunity to share some of them.

If you have comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss a particular situation, I would be happy to offer my perspective and/or brainstorm ideas for your consideration. Email: richard@malachiman.com

Enjoy the great privilege of being used by God to impact eternity!

Recommended resource:

Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World, (2008) by: Ken Ham, Steve Ham.