

Title: Raising Kids God's Way

Text: "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Cor. 6:18)

Target: Parent your kids the way God parents you.

- I. **Parenting is about Calling:** "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." (3 John 1:4)
 - A. **Not Owners, But Stewards:** "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." (Psalm 127:3)
 - B. **Spiritual Formation:** "And these words that I commanded you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children." (Deut. 6:6-7)
- II. **Parenting is about Connection:** "And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers." (Malachi 4:6)
 - A. **Live a Life worth Imitating:** "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1)
 - B. **Pursue your Child's Heart:** (Quality Time, Gifts, Touch, Service, Affirmation)
 - C. **Avoid Exasperation:** "Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they be discouraged." (Col. 3:21) *Favoritism, Neglect, Overprotection, Criticism
- III. **Parenting is about Consistency:** "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)
 - A. **Teaching:** "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching." (Proverbs 1:8)
 - B. **Training:** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)
 - C. **Correcting:** "For the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:12)
 - D. **Reproving:** "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline." (Rev. 3:19)
- IV. **Parenting is about Commissioning:** "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate." (Psalm 127:4-5)
 - A. **Straighten the Arrow:** Correction unto Character
 - B. **Sharpen the Arrow:** Character unto Conviction
 - C. **Shoot the Arrow:** Conviction unto Confidence
- V. **Parenting is about Confidence:** "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." (Luke 15:20)
 - A. **God's Timing is Not Our Timing:** "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promises." (2 Peter 3:9)
 - B. **You Are Not Alone:** "No temptation has seized you except what is common." (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - C. **Your Identity is in Christ, Not in Your Child's Choices:** "No condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)
 - D. **Keep the Door Open:** "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:7)

E. Don't Give Up Praying: *"The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* (James 5:16)

Takeaway: A Christ-centered home is a threat to the schemes of hell.