The last time I spoke with you it was concerning being Godly Mom’s & Grandma’s.

How many of you believe you had a Godly Mom/Dad or Grandma/Grandpa that influenced your life, and perhaps is much of the reason that you know Christ today?

The message today is important for all of us… it will provide us with some solid steps that we can take to be that person that positively influences the lives of the people God has entrusted to our care.

Something tells me he doesn’t think you can do it…

I’m fully aware that some of you have already raised your children and they have all flown the coop, and that some of you do not have children, but if you will endure to the end, and apply this message, you will be blessed.

There is no better place to turn to learn how to raise Godly Children than God Himself and His Holy Word.

Why is that? Because God has raised BILLIONS of children. And not all of them turned out so hot…

But many of them did turn out well and become great Godly men and women of Faith.

Probably the most well known verse that we turn to, and the verse we often use at baby dedications is Proverbs 22:6.

1. Train up a child

God gives this privileged responsibility to mom’s & dad’s. It should not be handed off to someone else.

When we dedicate babies to the Lord, what happens is mom & dad dedicated/commit themselves to “Training up the child that God has given them in the ways of the Lord.

The church family is also asked to stand with mom & dad in accomplishing that goal. That’s just one of the many benefits of being a part of God’s family.

Back in February, when the world was still normal…

Statistics revealed that 70% of a child’s education comes from your home mom’s & dad’s.

But when a pandemic breaks out, the world shuts down, and we have to self-isolate, that number jumps to 100%.

The bottom line is this… who your child is, and what they become, is a direct result of mom & dad. Especially in the realm of faith.

Your child will become a mirror image of you in many ways.

It may be the cultural norm these days…, but it is very unwise for parents to make statements like; “I’ll just wait for my child to grow up and make their own decisions about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Especially when it comes to faith.

Because what that does is turn your child over the world, and Satan who is running the world.

The enemy doesn’t back off because you’ve decided to follow the culture and not to train up (teach) your child in faith in Jesus Christ…

It makes them fair game for the enemy and he will jump on them and tare them apart.

So even if your child doesn’t have a heart for Christ yet, you show them & teach them anyway... That’s your job. (Mom & Dad/Gma & Gpa)

Their job is to learn faith in Christ from you… to learn what is right and what is Godly from their parents.

And unless someone teaches them, they won’t be able to make the right decisions.

And if you cave into the culture and allow them to make all the decisions, no where in the Bible does it say that a child should be raising their parents/grand parents.

And many parents, because they love their child, let them get away with many things they shouldn’t, thereby training the child, and themselves, that walking by faith in Christ and the Bible are unimportant…

It makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck when I hear parents these days say; “I want my child to choose their own path and do their own thing. I don’t want to influence them or they might resent me for it later…”

Because the Bible says “Train up a child in the way they should go”…

Meaning that God is saying, there is a way that He wants every child to go…

* And it’s not the way of the world.
* Not the way that pleases your flesh.
* Not the way the child thinks is best.

What will be said about such a person when they come to the end of their life… “Well… he/she lived their life their way and and did what was important to them?”

For heavens sake that sounds like my cat!

My Bible says that we are to live God’s way and do what is important to Him. Why? Because that is the SUPREME, ABSOLUTE BEST!

Training up Godly Children isn’t about us, it’s about Him! Jesus!

It’s about training them up into the understanding of who they are in Christ Jesus. A topic which I plan to preach on in the coming weeks.

It’s about training them to have faith that God will never leave them or forsake them throughout their life!

Why is that important? Because one day you will be gone…

Your child walking by Faith in Christ, will lead them to make the best choices for college, career, spouse, home and the daily, moment by moment choices that need to be made throughout their life.

Some parents may feel that if they just make sure their child gets an education, feed them, clothe them, bathe them once in a while, and make sure they have the same toys (or better) than the rest of the children in their neighborhood, that they have done their job.

All that does is make it more difficult for your child to be drawn by the Holy Spirit and be saved.

Because they get trained by something else… culture, TV, social media, etc… and they learn that having a heart devoted to Jesus and the things of God are not important.

Train up a child… secondly

1. In THE WAY that they SHOULD go.

John 14:6

When Dee and I were married in 1982 and eventually blessed with three beautiful children… we wanted to be good parents…

We did the best we could with what we had…

But it was impossible for us to train our kids in the way they SHOULD go, because we didn’t even know that WAY ourselves…

That changed in 1994 when we gave our lives to Jesus, the One who shed His soul cleansing blood… dying so we could live… and we were all in.

Our all was laid on the altar of sacrifice.

Our kids didn’t understand what what Faith in Christ was all about, nor did we expect them to at the age of 6,9, & 12.

We needed to be trained by our pastor and Sunday school teachers, so we could in turn train our children.

We came to church empty (forgetting the former things we had heard or thought we had known about Jesus) and pressed on, inviting the Holy Spirit to fill us with the TRUTH of God’s Word.

As we applied that truth more and more our children began to rebel. But our response was simple.

* You eat our food, you go to church with us and serve our God.
* You live in the home that God has allowed us to have, you go to church with us and serve God with us.
* You wear the clothes that God has blessed us with the finances to purchase for you, you go to church with us and serve God with us.

And thank God…

* And all three of them were hungry… all of the time!
* They all loved sleeping in their cozy warm beds!
* They liked wearing clothes!

So guess what?

* They went to church with us and served God with us!
* All three eventually turned to Christ and were baptized.
* And now all four of our grand-babies have invited received Jesus as their Savior.

But Pastor, isn’t that harsh and hard? YOU BET IS!

But isn’t it hard & harsh that the devil wants to tear your kids/grand kids apart?

To get over the “harsh & hard” hurdle… picture your child with a;

* Needle in their arm. Strung out on drugs. Or being a drunk.
* Picture them being human trafficked into prostitution.
* Picture them not being able to succeed in life, because they weren’t taught the importance of humility, discipline & respect toward others that is found in the Bible.
* We would prefer to picture them living a good life…, even respectful and caring towards others, with a great carer, beautiful home, beautiful family and lots of money.

But what does it profit a person if they gain the hole world, but lose their soul, spending eternity away from Jesus and missing heaven…

The solution? You and I getting tough about raising our kids and our grandkids in faith in Christ.

Doesn’t that make much more sense…

They devil is not going to back off just because you do.

Don’t back off on teaching/showing your kids/grandkids what faith in Christ looks like.

Acts 1:8 (Home, work, everywhere else you go)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

So often today if a child sneezes 3 times in a row the immediate response is take them to the doctor… get them some pills… our society is great at that.

I’m not saying we shouldn’t take our kids to the doctor or give them medicine.

I’m saying teach your children that God should be our first choice, not our last resort… when the doctor says they’ve done all they can do.

The Bible is filled with many historical accounts of many Godly parents training up Godly children by their example. Genesis 22:1-8

What did Abraham’s faith teach Isaac? God will provide! Just walk by faith and not by sight.

Do our children and grand children need to learn that today?

We can’t expect them to learn it from Abraham, they need to learn it from you mom & dad/Gma/Gpa.

Revelation 3:14-22

Why doesn’t Jesus want a Lukewarm, ineffective, social club church?

Look at the deteriorating devotion to Christ that has occurred in the church over the last 60-70 years… and the culture it has produced…

Parents & grandparents… If you want those little ones coming up behind you to compromise/be half-hearted/be lukewarm towards Christ and the things of God… then live that way yourself…

If you want different, than you have to do different, and seek the Holy Spirit to transform you by the Word of God.

It’s no different than breaking an addiction. Steps… One day at a time.

Be a child of God that He can be proud of!

* If you have only been attending church once a week, make it two starting this week.
* If you hide every time volunteers are needed. Make it a point to get involved.
* If you have been robbing God by not faithfully giving your tithes (Mal 3:8)… God says STOP! (Mal 3:10) and begin to give.
* If you’re not reading His Word or telling others about the amazing & Awesome Jesus who died so that they could be free from sin.

Then pick a day and intentionally start.

* And bring your kids along on that journey with you…

Thirdly…

1. When they are old they may not depart from it.

When they are old? What happened before the child became old?

It implies that your children may or may not have a heart for God or serving God when they are young…,

but if you & I have obeyed God and TRAINED them in “THE WAY they SHOULD go”… the promise of God… is they will return.

The prodigal will return to their Father in Heaven.

Sometimes Christian parents get angry with their children because they aren’t doing what they were trained to be and do.

But that’s not the correct example of Christ, and sometimes we need to ask God, and our children to forgive us for our ungodly examples, and begin setting better ones.

Our job is to show/demonstrate the Character & Faith of Christ to the children that God has put us in charge of, for as long as we have them (or they have us).

One day they will be tested and they will go out on their own… we hope!

* Don’t crucify your children because they aren’t passing that test like you think they should be…
* While at the same time not CONDONING their ungodly choices…
* Always love them, pray for them, forgive them and encourage them to get back on THE WAY they should go. The WAY of FAITH in Christ.

That is the proper response…

You’ve been sitting awhile, so please stand with me as we close…

Let’s close our eyes and bow our heads…

Has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you this morning?

I invite you now to come and kneel at an altar of prayer…

Perhaps as a child of God yourself (mom/dad/grandma/grandpa) you know that you’re not walking as closely with Christ as you need to.

Perhaps you’ve been living life the way you think you should, rather than how God says you SHOULD. Perhaps you’re doing some things that you would not want your child/grand child to do.

Perhaps you’re not walking with Christ at all, but you know you need to…, and you want to be ready for Heaven if today were your last day here.

Maybe you have a child who isn’t walking with the Lord and you would just like to come and intercede/pray on their behalf this morning.

Come now… don’t delay… Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling you.