

PARENTING WITH CONFIDENCE

Proverbs 22:6 (niv) Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.

This is not a promise, it's a proverb. There is no guarantee it will work but it can, and it should!

22:6 can read "initiate a child on his path; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Parents are to guide their children onto God's path, and as they grow older, they will seldom deviate from His ways.

"Train a child." Parents are to train young children but teach older children and adults.

Children will emphasize and do the same things they have seen their parents emphasize and do.

Parents are the best examples to their kids in living a life based on Biblical practises and principals.

Parents should be demonstrating God's character traits and nurturing them in our children.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22

Love: self-less and self-giving love that keeps giving without asking anything in return.

Joy: comes from a secured relationship with God regardless of what is happening.

Peace: comes from knowing that we have peace with God because we are at peace with God.

Patience: is the power to exercise restraint and the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.

Kindness: is acting for the good of others following Jesus' act of kindness toward us.

Goodness: is simply doing good to others because God's goodness is living within us.

Faithfulness: is having full confidence and complete trust in God because He is trustworthy.

Gentleness: is not weakness but it is power and strength under control.

Self-control: is the ability to control one's thought and actions.

SELFISHNESS WORKS AGAINST THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

As parents, we need to be intentional in training and teaching our children not to be selfish.

The Bible says our natural inclinations are the exact opposite of what God wants us to do.

Romans 8:8 (njb) Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God.

The truth is we are all naturally self-centred.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” - C.S Lewis

“When we’re constantly thinking about ourselves, our world shrinks.” - Seth Smith

THE ANTIDOTE TO SELF-CENTREDNESS AND SELFISHNESS IS GIVING!

Selfishness damages relationships but giving enriches relationships!

*James 4:1-2 (pt) What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn't the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires? ² You jealously want what others have so you begin to see yourself as better than others. You scheme with envy and harm others **to selfishly obtain** what you crave -that's why you quarrel and fight...*

The root cause of most relational difficulties is selfishness and self-centredness.

2 Peter 1:7 (tlb) Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly. This will make

*possible the next step, which is for you to **enjoy** other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.*

Philippians 2:3-4 (nlt)** Don't be **selfish**; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. **Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

We are not going to give to someone we are not interested in. Nor are we going to serve someone we don't care for.

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving!

True love endeavours to pursue self-less-ness. The Bible says that God is love and because God loves He therefore gives.

Being selfish is not how God intended for us to function.

Philippians 2:3 (njb)** Nothing is to be done out of jealousy or vanity; instead, out of humility of mind **everyone should give preference to others.

In the end parents do the best they can. But ultimately children, when they become of age, will decide what path they will take!