

ARBC

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Father we thank you for this morning. We are grateful for your amazing grace and that we can know you as our personal Lord and savior and as we have trusted in you that we will be yours forever. We pray you will be with us as we look into your word, move through our hearts. We pray in your name amen.

It's wonderful to be here and raise your hand if you are involved in VBS this week. Very good, we need other folks to help too. So please let Will know.

VBS coming up, next week is Fathers day I will stay on that theme of parenting, etc. I love kids and will tell you a few stories about bringing up children.

Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
2. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—
You have to say what is that promise?
3. "So that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."
4. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

That is our challenge that Paul has given us. To bring up our children so that they will grow up to love the Lord Jesus Christ. We see many problems today; we look for security in our future. We don't know what to expect around the world. At any moment war could break out.

But I believe there is a bigger problem and that is bringing up our children in the right way. If you are a parent or a grandparent, you can help the growing up of our children.

America's wealth is not in the cities, or not found in the landscapes or bank account. It is in our boys and girls. If we don't train them up in the right way, so as our children go our world will go.

A disclaimer is Lynn and I raised 2 daughters, we were not perfect, we made mistakes, but we surrounded ourselves with people that we felt did it right. That was so important. We are both the babies in the family and people say that babies should not marry babies. Could be a problem.

But as we were married, we courted a short time, but felt confident that we did not want children. Why? It seemed that when we went out to a restaurant there were screaming children. I didn't want that. You figure over the years of Ministry there would be plenty of people to show you how to raise your children the way they should be.

A lot of you are yelling that you need help. You think about being in church work, and the thousands of people and families we were involved with. It is sad, because there were only 2 influential people that helped us.

We met people and thought why are their children different? We would watch, go on vacation with them, watch and learn. Those parents were not perfect but there was some consistency. We picked their brains. Your task does not begin when your children are born.

Women were sitting around talking about when to pray for their children. "When he is six years old." "When he is one year old." and another said "You should begin twenty years before the child is born to give him the right kind of parents."

Think about it, your children will grow up, you want them to find the right spouse you want things for your children.

A man was visiting a very large farm and the owner took him and knew everything about his farm. He took him to the barn and told him everything about the tools, tractors, when to put the winter air out and when to put the spring air it.

True story, sends his wife out and says to tell the man to take the spring out and put the winter air in. So she did and the man says you take this paper back to your husband. She did and the man opened it up and it was a bill for \$120!

Lynn was driving and heard this squealing noise and people were passing her and looking at her funny. She got home and there was steel coming out of the back tires.

Anyway there was this farm, and they had dinner and they were sitting on the porch, a car drove up and the daughter ran out and jumped into the car. The man said who was that? I don't know, she goes off every night of the week with someone different. He knows more about his farm than his own daughter.

If our children go to church it's okay, if not it's okay. You need to know who your kids are with and what they are up to. You need to know who they are hanging around. You may think I was hard, if I wanted to go into my kids room and snoop around I did!

I am not picking on you young people, but it's true. You parents have a right to know who your child is texting, what they are watching on the internet, etc. I know my kids passwords and if you don't you have a lot standing in your way.

But Pastor Tim I need to be friends with my children. You will have plenty of time for that. We love to be with our girls. They love to come see us and we love spending time with them. But when they were home, they didn't run the house.

Well it's not politically correct!

We read a book which was..... "Because I said so". (Laughter)

Think about it. If your boss comes to you and says I want you to go over here and do that. John will probably say okay. He won't go "why?" You are the parent and if the answer is no, that may be God telling you to beware. If your student is out and is going to so and so's house, you say okay great, call me when you get there.

Okay they call and say I am here. Okay, now call me on their home phone. Bye! If they didn't have a landline we want their mom or dad on the phone. God gives us the brains to keep up with what our kids are doing.

There were times when our kids were gone, but we kept up. I would say Lynn, let's take a little ride, let's go to Chelsea's house and not stop just see if the parents car is there.

It's okay, keep up with your kids. God has put them in your care and you are responsible for their upbringing.

I. Parents Can See That Their Children Are Well Born

Someone said a new universe is created each time a child is born. So parents need to prepare themselves. The Bible says the sins of the parents are visited 3rd and 4th generations. You can sin now but it will pay off later in the lives of your children.

The head of an academy said this: One out of every 3 blind students at that school was caused by the sins of the mother or father. We need to help them to be prepared mentally. You need to study if you want to become a good doctor so be prepared to raise your children.

Surround yourself with people that can give you the best advice. Look at the people that have done it and done it well. Go to them for advice.

We need to be prepared spiritually.

When that baby is born into the family we need to be prepared. Hannah prayed for God to give her a son and if he did she promised to give him to the Lord. God did and she was faithful to devote her son to God. That was Samuel.

(Trouble with microphone).

Satan doesn't like what we are talking about. He wants to get into our homes; he doesn't like you or your children.

Parents should have a home where the children are welcome. The children did not choose to come here, they should be welcomed.

It should be a home where the surroundings are pleasant. You don't have to have money; you can raise your child with great love and nurture. I grew up in a medium income home and I thought we were rich, but we were not. We had 1 bathroom and it was really small. We had a great life together. You don't have to buy everything for your kid. They will make it.

The home should be a Christian home. It's sad when the child grows up and finds that his parents are not Christian but the people around him were. The desire of our heart should be that they grow up knowing you were the best Christians.

3. Parents Can See That Their Children Are Given the Proper Home Training

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

You and I may see parents that are godly and faithful but the kids were not disciplined enough. If you love your children you will chasten them for their own good. "Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth."

Here is a sensitive subject, when we had little ones at home, Lynn did not work outside of the home and it was rough financially. But we were committed to raise our kids with visible parents. Many kids are dropped off at daycare for 12 hours a day. I know it is necessary in some cases for the parents both to work, but not in every one. You will need to sacrifice but invest in your children.

Proverbs 29:15-17

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct the son and he shall give thee rest; yea; he shall give delight unto thy soul."

Why do many kids misbehave in church and school? Because they are not disciplined at home. If I got into trouble somewhere else, I got it worse at home.

At the moment our child is being disciplined they will not like it, but the Bible says no punishment is pleasant now. Go to prisons today and you will see young people there. Because they were not disciplined at home. Prepare home training includes teaching principles of life.

Honesty - Lincoln (returning change)

Unselfishness - Teach sharing - (Celorias) Alan Soloria had 5 children. We would go on

vacation with them every year. He was tough, Italian and knew how to get his kids to do what he wanted. But I loved how he taught them to share. At dinner he picked on child to cut the dessert. The child got to cut it but would take the last piece

Politeness - what happened to that?

Hard work - work ethic. What happened to that? Dad passed away father's day last year, but I remember that my dad instilled in my brother and I an incredible work ethic.

We need to teach that and pass it on.

Hard study - I remember telling mom I don't need that math stuff because I was in music.

An aim in life you need a goal and your children need a goal.

Purity - sexual and all other kinds. It is easier to bawl our kids out rather than to teach them what is right.

As we continue on...

IV. Parents Can See That Their Children Are Given a Good Education

Whether public or private school is important. A high school graduate has an 87% better chance of succeeding; a college graduate has an 800% chance.

V. Parents Can Set the Right Example before Their Children

You say, I am not a bad person, but if you leave God out of your home, don't set the right example for your children, you will pay the price. They say what a parent does in moderation; the children will do in excess.

If the parent criticizes the preacher, the children will do it more. If you do your best, you children will grow up and do their best.

I believe this all means to be real. Admit your mistakes. Read God's word to your children. And they know if you are in the word too.

We didn't do everything right, but I remember when she was pregnant and I got right up in her belly talking to that baby, singing, reading the Bible to her.

Parents need to pray for your children. If ever a time to do that it is now. Satan is out there to seek and destroy our families.

I know these are busy days for all of us, but don't be too busy to pray with and for our children. Start before they are born.

VII. Parents Should Bring Their Children to Christ

Every parent should be able to lead their child to Jesus. What a peace we can have when we sit down with our children and pray with them to accept Christ.

A man was visiting a mental ward and heard this lady screaming out "We let her slip, we

let her slip.” The man asked what happened to here?

The woman was from a wealthy home, and gave her child everything. The daughter went to a church service and wanted to accept Christ. The preacher went to the mother and she said no. The girl went further and further into sin, and then died. The mom lost her mind. She kept crying out “We let her slip, we let her slip.”

Parents and grandparents, be careful, the lives of your children are in your hands. Don't let them slip. All I have said can be summed up to this. Let our lives be the right example for our kids, and if that happens, their lives will be much sweeter as they follow the Lord Jesus.

If you are a parent that has a baby, a teenager, or not married and not thinking of children, Dedicate your home and your life to teach your children the right ways, to be examples.

A relevant sermon, one for all of us to learn and to grow from. If God is calling you to commit your life and your family, I encourage you to come forward. You can come up and pray.

Maybe you heard this and know that you are not saved. Let today be the day of your decision. I will ask you to stand and as God touches your heart, don't shut him off.

Stand as we sing.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: His grace can cover you and me. Let it cover you.

Father we thank you for your love and grace. I pray that you will make each of us be what we need to be as we look at the importance of you in our families.

Be seated. I ask that the deacons come forward as we share The Lord's Supper. As we reflect internally on where we are and what our relationship is in the Lord Jesus. The Bible says that he was in the upper room, and broke bread and he says that as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me. Search your heart before you partake this morning. As they were entering the upper room, Jesus tells of his betrayal. It goes on and says... While they were eating, he took the bread, and gave thanks, and says take and eat this; it is my body. As we remember the body broken for our Lord, let's go to him in prayer. Father we thank you for the symbol of your death, burial, Resurrection, thank you for your broken body. Live within us; use us in your service. I pray in Christ's name, amen. Take and eat.

The Bible then says that Jesus took the cup, told his disciples to drink from it. This is my

blood for the new covenant for the many for the forgiveness of sins.

(Music playing) As we drink from the cup, in His remembrance. Father as we come this time, we do this to remember you. Because you are worthy. You are worthy or Lord. Help us to follow you as we remember you. In Christ's name. Amen, drink ye all of it.

Thank you church for your patience this morning. Has it good to be in the house of the Lord? Thank you Lord thank you. Be in prayer this week for VBS. The impact on children's lives can be incredible. We talked about training up a child and here where they may depart for a while but I hear stories about how God's word was planted and later in life was able to pull back. Pray for VBS. Tonight no activates and no Wednesday activities too for VBS.

Is Brother Cinco Sinclair here? Would you dismiss? Also pray for Seth and Shelly they are getting married next Saturday. God bless you all.

Praying... (Cannot hear him/her)

Amen!