

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Fundamentals of Parenting (8)

The role of the family and the role of the church

In last week's article, I briefly pointed out that the responsibility of raising children falls upon the parents in the first place then the church in the second place. Due to the importance of this topic, I thought of dedicating this article to it.

First: I am not the authority to speak on behalf of the church at large. I am merely presenting a personal opinion on this important topic.

Second: there is no doubt that parents are the first to be responsible for their children before God and the society. Children spend most of their time at home with their parents; therefore parents have the greatest impact on their lives. Some parents may claim that their work schedule is too busy to allow them to spend time with their children. Despite how busy parents might be, it is not an excuse to give up the most important responsibility in their lives. Our children did not choose to come to this world, we did! It is our responsibility as parents to find time to spend with our children so that we can anchor in them the love of God, sanctified life, give them love, and give them our spiritual and practical life experience.

Third: Most parents who have trouble with their children's behavior are puzzled by the conduct of their children although they see that they provided the best for them in terms of food, clothing, education, and good life. The reality is that these children only need our love, time, and communication more so than all materialistic provisions which, in some cases, are the reason for their misconduct especially if they are used to get what they want without learning to be responsible. These parents couldn't offer anything to their children except materialistic gifts, which don't fulfill their inner needs. Thus, children deviate in search of what gives them inner fulfillment through friendships, relationships, or sinful and deviant habits.

Fourth: The role of the church is to provide a good spiritual atmosphere for the children to grow in the knowledge of God and His love. Additionally, the church ought to search for those who drifted away and bring them back to the arms of Christ and the church.

Fifth: The role of the church and the role of the parents in raising the children complement each other. At home, parents must support the spiritual teachings that our children receive in church. Parents must do so in words, actions, and love.

Sixth: We should not expect our children to be perfect in everything. Therefore we must be open to any feedback from church servants regarding them. We should not take this feedback in a personal way, or consider as criticism to our children; rather we should accept it as collaboration between us and the servants for the benefit of our children. There is no doubt that the church bears the responsibility of choosing mature and well balanced servants as they have a profound impact on the life of our children.

Seventh: Parents should not leave their children at church, just for the sake of being there without knowing what they are doing. Children's activities should be coordinated with the servants so that their time at church is organized and beneficial. If children are in church without supervision or organized activities, it may be harmful rather than beneficial.

Lastly, our children are the greatest talent given to us by God and we are held accountable for them. If others didn't do their part towards the upbringing of our children, it doesn't release us from our accountability.



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