



The High Calling of Mothers and Fathers



Have you ever been offered a job promotion from your boss that led to greater responsibility and reward yet you felt unprepared or inadequate? I know I have! But I never responded by saying, “No thank you, I don’t think I can handle it.” Most of us would embrace the challenge while pursuing the joy of the greater reward.

Mothers and Fathers have been promoted by God to the high calling of parenthood. With it comes great reward but there is also the accompaniment of fear at the prospect of becoming the “primary” spiritual educators and godly models for our children. That’s right. The church and pastor are NOT the primary spiritual educators and models for your children. You are. Now you might think that there’s no way you can bring up your child in the discipline and instruction of the Lord—but this is your God-given calling and your church is here to help equip you for this high calling. As a matter of fact, we’ve entered into a covenant with every parent who has dedicated their child before the Lord. In dedication parents pledge to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The church, likewise, covenants to provide a supportive environment for the teaching and nurture of Christian families.

How is the Church Helping?

PBC’s attempt to “raise the bar” in making good on our covenant with parents is to enthusiastically pursue our upcoming launch date for our new Sunday morning Church School program called *Generations of Grace* (keep your eyes on your emails and bulletin announcements). *Generations of Grace* is designed to teach the whole counsel of God to the next generation in a more strategic, more organized, and more age appropriate fashion. It is a biblically based and God-centered curriculum. Over a three-year period, this curriculum will cover the Old Testament historical books, the life of Christ, and lessons from Acts and Revelation. We will begin meeting before church from 8:45-9:45am.

Parents will be able to bring their children to one of three classes from Early Childhood (3-5yrs), Early Elementary (1st-3rd grade), and Juniors (4th-6th grade) while also being able to grab a coffee, some pastry and attend a class of their own. Each week, everyone will learn from the same passage of Scripture in a way that is appropriate for their respective age levels. We call this a “unified curriculum.” A unified curriculum enables families to discuss one passage together each week, reinforcing the lesson that children have learned in Sunday School. Our goal is also to bring this same unified curriculum to the adult level, as much as possible, so we can have families all on the same page. In some cases we may pursue other teaching paths for specific purposes (like a 4-6 week new members class) and then return to the unified curriculum with the children.

So far we have approximately 11 children signed up and parents willing to come to the morning adult class! Will you join them? Remember that the adult class is not just for parents—all adults are welcome. Sign up your children with a required “Registration Form” at church or email me at SLLRoberts@hotmail.com with any questions you might have.

What Can I Do as a Parent? ~ Your Home

Getting you and your child to participate in this critically important before-church program is a start—but remember, as I said earlier, the church is not designed to fill the role of

primary spiritual educator nor is the pastor the primary godly model for your children. They each play an important role but you have been entrusted by God with the task.

My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life." Proverbs 6: 20-23

The blessings of a godly mother and father are evident from this passage yet, in our culture, we so often desire to "hire out" parental responsibility. Don't abdicate your role as the spiritual leaders of your children and rob them and yourselves of the joy of the great reward that God desires for you to proactively participate in! Listen to this quotation from author, Voddie T. Baucham, Jr. excerpted from Family Driven Faith © 2007

"If giving our children a biblical worldview is the why of family driven faith, giving them biblical instruction is the what. Our worldview shapes the way we think, but learning and memorizing the Scriptures determine what we think. For example, a child with a biblical worldview may understand the inherent dignity of his parents as human beings created in the image of God, but a child with biblical instruction also knows that the God who created his parents says, "Honor your mother and father." It is not an either/or proposition but a both/and mandate. We must give our children a biblical worldview, and we must instruct them in the Word of God. In fact, without the Word of God there is no biblical worldview."

What Can I Do as a Parent? ~ Stay a Step Ahead

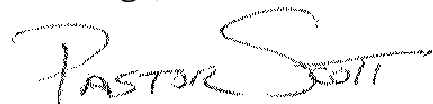
It may be overwhelming thinking that you might need to become the resident Biblical scholar of your home but the truth is, you just need to stay a step ahead of your kids to be able to teach them. This, of course, means that you need to constantly be learning from the Bible yourself. But if you can read, you can teach the Bible to your children. Personal time in God's Word coupled with your participation in our Sunday morning adult class will give you the tools you need to be a success.

Another tool for your use that I am using during our "Children's Message" portion of the Sunday service will be available on our website soon. This is intended as an additional resource for you to disciple your children at home in a fun and interactive way.

Mothers and Fathers, embrace your God-given high calling of raising your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Pursue the great reward of watching your children grow into God honoring individuals who will make a difference for Christ in this world! Your church is here to help but it begins with you!

"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice! My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways..." Proverbs 23:24-26

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "S".