

Children's Ministry Training

FHCC 8/22/10

I. The Year in Review

II. Our Vision

We seek to raise up the next generation to fear and love our magnificent God by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

- Psalm 78:4 We will not hide them [Scripture] from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
 - Psalm 145:3-4 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.
- A. Why does the next generation need to fear the Lord? Because:
1. The fool (non-Christian) does not fear God
 - Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.
 - Romans 3:18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."
 2. If our children fear God (and His just wrath), it leads to salvation
 - Luke 1:50 And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him From generation to generation.
 - Psalm 103:17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

3. If our children are saved and born again, they will continue to fear God but in a new way – as sons and daughters of God which leads to love for God
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 5 "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded *me* to teach you, that you might do *them* in the land where you are going over to possess it, 2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged...5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

B. The timeframe of biblical parenting?

1. Generational = each generation is training the next generation.
2. Eternal = the focus is on God – fearing Him and loving Him for His glory.

III. **Our 5 core values:**

1. We are God centered
2. We see all of life with a biblical worldview
3. We promote parental responsibility
4. We are perpetually raising up the next generation
5. The Gospel is our only hope

A. Core Value #1 – We are God centered.

1. We must be an example
 - “Parenting is about leadership, and example is the first principle of biblical leadership. When parents practice what they teach, God gives them moral authority in their children’s eyes. All teaching in the Bible starts with example.”
Farley in *Gospel-Powered Parenting*
 - “Instruction, and advice, and commands will profit little, unless they are backed up by the pattern of your life. Your children will never believe you are in earnest, and really wish them to obey you, so long as your actions contradict your counsel.”
J.C. Ryle in *The Duties of Parents*

2. We must fear God:

- Deuteronomy 5:29 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!
- Psalm 25:12 Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. 13 His soul will abide in prosperity, And his descendants will inherit the land.
- Psalm 128:1-4 How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, You will be happy and it will be well with you. 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine Within your house, Your children like olive plants Around your table. 4 Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.

3. We must love God

- “Kids also internalize their parents’ passions. They alone see what or who you *really* love, and not what you merely pretend to love. Maybe it is upward mobility. Maybe your passion is entertainment (sports, movies, music). For others it is hunting, shopping or golf.”

William Farley in *Gospel-Powered Parenting*

4. Spiritual accountability – the self evaluation twice a year

“Confession sends a crucial message to our children. It reminds them that, yes, my parents are imperfect, but they are deadly earnest about following Christ, about wanting to change, and about doing things God’s way. Failure to confess our faults sends the opposite message. ‘My parents talk much about Christ, but following him is not really that important to them.’ They don’t walk the talk. They tell us to do one thing, but they do the other. *And when they fail, they go on as if it doesn’t matter.*”

Italics his Farley in *Gospel-Powered Parenting*