

PARENTS ARE ROLE MODELS

2 Timothy 1:1-5 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Introduction: Ever been told when growing up, "Don't do as I do, do as I say?" Probably so and as parents we have told our children the same thing. The truth is children tend to do as their parents do, regardless of what they are told. However teenagers tend to do the opposite but still keep their eyes on their parents. We just have to listen to the speech patterns and watch children's body language and we see their parents in miniature size. Ever see or hear a child do or say something that brings embarrassment to the parent? They learned it at home. One of our popular t.v. shows often has tiny children, still in diapers, repeating words and doing things they heard and saw their parents do and some of those things are not nice. What parents DO speaks louder than what the children hear the parents tell them. Unless parents SHOW a love and respect for God, simply telling them to "not do as I do but do as I say" won't work.

I. PARENTS ARE ROLE MODELS FOR VALUES

1. If parents acknowledge God as priority number ONE, then all other values will take their proper places.
2. Children are aware of what is important to their parents which seems to be time, money, work.
 - Or what they keep, give away.
 - Parents, you can't hide what you really value from your children.
 - If God is number ONE, children will know it.

II. PARENTS ARE ROLE MODELS FOR RELATIONSHIPS

1. Children notice the parents' choice of friends. Also the value of friends compared to things and how their parents treat and speak about their friends.
2. Mary and Joseph contributed to Jesus' sensitivity for people. Joseph was sensitive to Mary and Mary was very concerned about Jesus when He was separated from them in Jerusalem.
3. Jacob's son, Joseph was arrogant, not liked by his brothers, and it was obvious to everyone whom the parents liked best, it was Joseph.

III. PARENTS ARE ROLE MODELS FOR EXERCISING FAITH

1. Timothy's grandmother and mother influenced his life both verbally and non-verbally. They lived a Godly life before him.
2. Faith in action always is stronger than lecturing, preaching or nagging.
 - Living a spiritual life with Bible study, attending worship faithfully, never gets by children and always makes an impression on them.
 - How parents handle decisions, stress and conflicts in relation to their spiritual lives are also noticed by their children. Do parents walk the talk?

3. To obey the greatest commandment: "love the Lord thy God with all the heart, soul and might" would be difficult to teach one's children IF the parents did not live what they were trying to teach their children about loving God.
4. The younger the child, the more need to DO, show, live, set a visible and verbal example rather than tell a young child this or that.

CONCLUSION:

1. An very visible example of how parents influence their children is shown in this story:
 - It was "parents day" at a pre school and each child was asked to tell something about their parents.
 - "My daddy is a doctor and makes a lot of money" said one.
 - "My daddy is a lawyer and travels a lot" said another.
 - "My daddy owns a big company and has his own airplane" said another.
 - "My daddy is HERE!" said a very proud child.
2. We have all seen parents drop their children off at the church door and then leave. What are those parents saying, showing their children?
3. Like it or not, know it or not, care about it or not, Parents are role models for their children. So goes the parents, so go the children.