

“Am I a Parent Who Makes a Difference?”
(Part 8 – 10 Part Series on “A Mature Disciple of Jesus”)
June 19, 2011 (Father’s Day)

Scripture Reading - Eph. 6:1-4

What are the three best gifts you can give to your children?

1. Love the Lord! (Deut. 6:5-7)

2. Love their mother! (I Tim. 3:2)

3. Lead your home! (I Tim. 3:4-5)
 - With a consistent example. (2 Chron. 17:3-4)
 - With careful words. (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4)

Application:

1. Think of ways to communicate to your children in new ways that will share the love of the Lord and your love for their mother.
2. What kind of a leader was your father? What would you like to do similar to him? Different than him?
3. If you are not a dad, spiritual maturity has the ability to have a positive impact on others. Pray for clarity this week concerning who the Lord wants you to influence.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
"Am I a Parent Who Makes a Difference?
(Part 8 – 10 Part Series on "What is a Mature Disciple?")
June 19, 2011

1. What kind of impact did your dad have on your life? What areas or qualities do you seek to imitate? What areas or characteristics do you seek to avoid? This week we will look at the three best gifts to give to your children.
2. Read Deut. 6:5-7 and identify the first priority of our lives. (Also Mark 12:33; Matt.22:36-38) Discuss the three critical areas or core values for our lives. Does your family know them and live by them?
 - The Great Confession – (KNOW) (Matt. 16:16)
 - The Great Commandment – (GROW) (Matt. 22:36-38)
 - The Great Commission –(GO) (Matt. 28:19-20)
3. If the best gift you can give to your children is a love for the Lord, what does Deut. 6:5-7 say about when you should talk to them about the Lord? Discuss some creative options of teaching and influencing your family spiritually.
4. The second gift to your children is to "love their mother." Discuss the qualification for elders in I Tim. 3:3, to be a "one woman man." Respond to the description below and discuss how to safeguard our marriages.
 - Physically faithful.
 - Emotionally faithful.
 - Visually faithful. (Job 31:1)
5. The third gift to your children is for you to "Lead your home." Fathers need to see the management of the home as their responsibility. (I Tim. 3:4-5) How does this ability transfer to church leadership? There are two primary ways to lead your family –
 - Lead with a consistent example. Read the description of the life of Jehoshaphat. (2 Chron. 17:3-4) How many generations of "influence" does a person have in their life? (Ex. 20:5) What areas do you need to change in your life? (If your kids or grandkids fully followed your life, would it be a good thing?) (I Peter 5:3)
 - Lead with careful words. (Prov. 22:6)(Eph. 6:4) Discuss as a group the things parents do to "provoke their kids to anger." What brought irritation to you when you were a kid? What did Jesus do in his style of leadership with the disciples? (John 13:15)