

BRING UP YOUR CHILDREN TO LOVE THE LORD.

S.R. Mat.22:37-39

Intro. Jesus said that to love God with *all* our being was the most important commandment & the second (to love your neighbour) was equally as important.

God required the Israelites to teach their children this love as well as the statutes, laws, commandments & traditions handed down by Moses.(Deut.6:4-7) Like most things with God the Jews had re-interpreted God's original meaning & purpose. (Mat.5:43-44) Today, Christians face a very difficult task in teaching Godly love to their children due to the many false and emotional views expressed by "experts". (Those people often have a completely different definition to that of God). The love we are concerned with is the love defined & described by God Himself in the sacred writings known as the bible. Only here do we find the love of God for man, of man for God and of man for man. It is clearly obvious that Christian parents (not a care giver or substitute parent) are responsible for TEACHING their own children how to love God & to bring them up IN this love! Deut.4:9-10; Eph.6:4.

Responsibilities of Parents

1. Teach them the right kind - 1Co.13:4-8; 1Jn.4:8 & 16 (1Jn.2:15)
*agape - NAS Jn.15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (self-sacrificing; divinely inspired)
2. Teach them DILIGENTLY! - Deut.6:7, 11:18-19.
3. Teach them from infancy - 2Tim.3:15
4. Teach them how (begins IN family) - Eph.5:25, 28 & 33

Responsibility of ALL Christians

5. Set a good example for the young at all times. 2Tim.1:5
6. Encourage children not to follow evil example of parents. Ez.20:18

Special Note:

You can not TEACH love (agape) if you do not have that love in your heart! 1Jn.4:20

Children will see your hypocrisy if you profess to love a brother to his/her face, yet speak badly of them behind their back. Rom.13:10

Love also includes discipline. Many will be emotional with their children, but fail to discipline.

Pro 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Heb.12:6 "because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Conclusion

Parents must teach their children to love the Lord and to remain in that love. Parents must teach diligently & faithfully how to love and be the best example they can. In this way we will bring up our children IN the love of the Lord and help them to have a life long relationship with God.