

## FAMILY MATTERS

Here you will find some helpful thoughts on issues families face in everyday life.

This week we are bringing some thoughts on the role of parents in bringing up children.

Bringing children into the world is filled with responsibilities. It also brings great change.... you are now a parent. Life will never be the same.

There will be great joy.... there is a chance there will be great heartache, disappointment, frustration, anger and even confusion.

Great joy we welcome with open arms....watching a child grow can be so engaging and inspiring....when all goes well.

Folks the outcome is squarely on the shoulders of parents. Is there a greater responsibility....hard to find one.

As parents we need all the help and guidance, we can get.... BUT.... we must be so careful where this help comes from. I am adamant that all our teachings, guidance and help must come from the Word and words of The Master....the Holy One of Israel.

He formed us, made us, knows us and therefore He and only He has the manual we must use for our learning.

I ask.... how can a parent be the parent The Almighty would have us be if we lack knowledge of His teachings? We cannot be and we will fail most miserably if we neglect the teachings of our Father.

“Sons of mine, take a lesson from your father; a lesson that will make discerning men of you, will you but heed it. A precious heirloom it is, the tradition I teach, not to be lightly bartered away.” Proverbs 4:1-2 [KT]

“Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children.....” Deuteronomy 6:6-7a [NAB]

Parents are to lead by example... there is no other example worth following other than the example set down by our Father through HaMoshiach Yeshua and the Torah.

This is no easy task....it cannot be done without prayer... parents must be in constant communication with the Father... talk, share, listen...

whatever you do, don't neglect prayer in the name of Yeshua HaMoshiach.

Parents must become true Children of the Most High God if they are to witness the joy children can bring... parents must know the lessons before they can teach their children.

**WE WILL BE WRITING ABOUT THIS TOPIC  
OVER A NUMBER OF ISSUES....WANT TO  
SHARE SOME EXPERIENCES OR ASK A  
QUESTION...EMAIL US ON**

More thoughts on raising children.

Throughout these articles we will be approaching this topic purely from a Biblical World View. In other words, these thoughts are driven by biblical faith and faithfulness to The Almighty. Only those who hold YHVH as the one true God, will understand and gain full benefit from these thoughts.

Let us begin by repeating the fact that the earliest education children receive is from their parents.... so, it is vital parents are well educated on how to guide their children.

We are not talking of university degrees or diplomas, but education and guidance from the Word of the Holy One of Israel.

I cannot emphasis enough... the first lessons, habits and behavior patterns of children are modeled on YOU the parents.

Please re-read the above sentence and let the enormity of this sink in.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not part from it."* Proverbs 22:6 [NASB]

What is the first task of parents or a would-be parent? Suggestion.... look in the mirror and study the reflection you witness.

Children will mimic their parents. Think about the first word children often speak... NO... because parents are always saying "no" to their children.

They reach for a sharp knife... NO. They start playing with food... NO. They pull the dogs ears... NO. You get the picture.

Children's minds are ready to be filled with all kinds of information... they are an "open suitcase". It is the parent's responsibility to fill the suitcase.

When you go on a trip... you choose what goes in the suitcase. You choose what cloths, what books, what shoes, what personal items go into the case.

No different with your children. Parents choose what goes in the suitcase... this happens even when you are unaware. Foul mouthed parents have foul mouthed children... whose fault is that?

**Important fact.** You can only fill your suitcase with items you have... you cannot fill your suitcase with items you don't have.

It is crucial you understand this point. As a parent **you** can only supply your children with items from "**YOUR CLOSET**".

What is in your closet... this is the?

Next week we will continue the journey...

Share your thoughts... let us know what you think.

## **DOES YOUR CLOSET NEED A CHANGE?**

We all have various items in our closets. Some do us proud, others we would rather keep hidden.

When we open the closet door, we choose what we are going to wear... right? We usually try and choose what is suitable for the occasion... formal wear for a wedding... casual wear for a day watching football... shorts and tee shirt for the beach... old jeans for farm work... wet weather gear for rainy days etc.

The question I would like to ask is... what clothes are you wearing when you are a parent? Make no mistake it can be difficult to make the correct choice... without the guidance of Torah – impossible.

Suggestion! Wear what you would like to see your children wear. If you have “clothing” in your closet that you wouldn’t want your children to wear... throw them out.

If you wear the coat of “bad manners” ... your children will wear the same coat around. If you wear the trousers of a foul temper... so will your children. On the other hand, if you put on the coat of “good manners” ... baruch HaShem so will your children. Put on the trousers of calm and measured responses... so will your children.

Please understand – children can spot a hypocrite from a great distance. The old... “do as I say and not what I do”, just doesn’t work. It is vital for the health of children that parents “practice what they preach”.

It is a fact, few had or have “perfect” parents... many have made some dreadful mistakes in bringing up their children. I only need look in the mirror to see this fact... unfortunately these mistakes often become family traits.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE??**

Take a careful look at what you have in your closet! There is every chance you will need to re-arrange your closet... you may even need a completely new “wardrobe”.

Parents before you can cloth your child in the coat of “good manners” you must first own the coat yourself... repeating ... you CANNOT give that which you DO NOT HAVE.

Consider the following statement of Yeshua for a moment:

***“I and the Father are one”.***

Take your time thinking about the above statement... how it relates to our topic.

Until next time... God Bless.

Send us your questions or comments...

## **BABIES AND SMALL CHILDREN ARE DELICATE... BUT PARENTS MORE SO!**

Why the above heading? Allow me to explain.

Babies and small children do not have the maturity or experience to process emotions and feelings... therefore they can be excused for “behaving badly” at times. They are playing with a toy and unfortunately it breaks... result tears and frustration.