

FAMILY MATTERS

SELF EXAMINATION – NOT SELF FLAGELLATION.

Most people I know want to be great parents... we are learning this takes hard work. Good parenting requires us to undergo self-examination. This is not a time to concentrate on a “woe is me” and self-flagellation session, but an honest assessment of our role as parents.

The question then becomes, how do we assess our “fruit” as parent?

The answer... we evaluate our progress through the behavior of our children!

The behavior of our children tells us much. It is like reading our own story book, exposing what is written inside. Make no mistake... the behavior of young children reflects the pages of a parent’s story book.

Folks embrace the “assessment” process... it will change the ugly spots inside your story book. During this process parents should view this as an opportunity to repent, change and grow. Be encouraged that you have a chance to reflect and change. Be encouraged that you can help your children avoid making the same mistakes. Your rewards will be great.

Parents become “Winston Churchills” and never ever give up on your self-examination. All the hard work and dedication will be returned tenfold... joy truly unspeakable.

There are no silver bullets guaranteeing success, but good practices do help. Yelling and barking orders rarely bring good results.

Example is the best teacher! Want your children to read the bible, then you parents had better make sure you read the bible and are seen reading the bible. Want your children to be kind and forgiving, then you parents had better show kindness and forgiveness.

Remember a parent can only give their children what they themselves possess. Doomed to failure is the parent who tries to force children to behave in a manner they themselves lack.

Let me ask a question... offering a small challenge.

When a parent sees flaws and failings in their children, what are they witnessing and how will they re-act?

Well they have two choices.

- They can view these characteristics as their own reflections and bring about change, helping child and parent.
- They can view the child as a rebellious individual that needs a good “flogging”, doing little good for either parent or child.

Parents and would be parents, we encourage you to examine your own story books. If a child were to pick it up... what would they witness inside? Will they see love, protection, understanding, guidance, and a safe home? We hope so.

“Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word appropriately spoken”. Proverbs 25:11 [CJB]

Until we meet again... good parenting.