

Bringing Up Children In A Whole New Millennium

Here we are, over a decade into the new millennium. When we read the Bible, we see that it hasn't changed to meet the demands of a new age. When we look at Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, we see instruction given to parents and children. As I believe the Bible is God's inspired word, I believe these words are just as applicable to us today as they were when written to the Ephesians.

God tells us to "bring up our children", ***Eph 6:4(KJV)*** *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* Although sometimes it seems impossible to bring up our children in this ever-changing, God-forsaken, warped generation, God would not have told us to do it if we couldn't. So, as parents we must understand the task before us, rise up to meet the challenges and DO what God has commanded us to do.

Only a couple generations ago the task of child rearing was much different than it is today. That's not to say it was easier, just different. I believe it was a much more physical task to bring up a child in the first three-fourths of the 20th century. I mean, parents were still commanded to "take charge", and "bring up the children", but this involved physically knowing where your kid was, what he or she was doing, and trying to make sure they had friends that would influence them in a positive way. There was tobacco, alcohol and drugs for sure. I imagine alcohol (moonshine down in Kentucky) and tobacco were worse back then. Dating was a lot different too; much of the "courting" in years gone by involved family-oriented activities and visiting each other's homes. Kids lives have changed dramatically, back then, when the kids got home from school, especially in rural areas, they were set to important tasks that impacted the well-being of the family. Yes, even 8 year old children contributed to the survival of the family. Today, it is much different. We still have the issues of friends, dating and school, but we also have scores of hobbies and activities that demand time and attention. Now, we have the internet, cable TV, IPODs (private music), facebook (and other "social sites"), blogs, chat rooms, movies (bad movies) and video games. Not to mention, sports, clubs and other extra-curricular activities at school. All of these demanding time, attention and focus. Each also offers a unique brand of temptation aimed at stealing the hearts and souls of our youth.

Over the next few weeks, I plan to look at some of the new and unique challenges facing us as parents today, and hopefully offer some words that will encourage us to rise up and overcome the adversity of this new millennium. The burden is upon us as parents. Just because it's difficult, God isn't going to give us a pass. His plan has always been for parents to bring up their children to be faithful Christians, so that they will have Godly off-spring and perpetuate His church. Sadly, I don't see much of that happening in the church today. I am NOT saying I have all of the answers to bringing up children in the Lord. What I am saying is that I am aware of the seriousness of the responsibility to do so, and I do believe it can be done. I also try to be aware of the environment surrounding our youth and observe the way the youth respond. I know that every child is different and what works with one may not with another. I do believe, though, that awareness is very important. Today it is even more important to know what our kids are doing. Today what looks like a call from a friend can be posting to facebook, texting or something else. Not only do we have to know what our kids do in the physical realm, we have to watch them in cyberspace as well. I have talked to a number of parents who have no idea what their

kids are doing on their computers and mobile devices. In these articles I hope to make both parents and kids aware of the dangers of these devices of Satan.

We often read Ephesians 6:1 to our kids. Maybe, we even make them memorize that verse. ***Ephesians 6:1(KJV)*** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.* Well, I think parents should think about that verse as well. Because it says a lot about we as parents should be doing as well. We need to be setting a proper example, and we MUST take charge. This charge is given to children because when parents do their job, it's not easy for the children! There are things the kids will have to do that they don't want to, and things they want to do that they will not be allowed to do. Sadly, many times today the parents obey the children. As Christian parents we need to stand up and take charge of our children's life, not because I say it, but because God says it.