

Parenting Freedom (7)

Family Night – Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. – Philippians 4:8

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. – Galatians 5:22-23

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. – Colossians 3:12-14

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. – 2 Peter 1:5-7

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. – John 10:10

Teaching Values

We want to teach our kids a way of life that brings blessing to families, churches, and communities. Incidentally, science agrees with the Bible about these life-giving values.

- *Name some heart-level values we want our kids to learn.*

“Why does this matter?!” – Teaching your children values happens in stages.

1. We are all born with the “Only I Matter” value system. (Babies)
2. Through structure and discipline, children start to learn that rules and laws also matter. (Young children)
3. Ultimately, values matter because God and other people matter! (School-age)

Teaching and modeling #3 should happen at all three stages, but babies and young children don't have the capacity to fully understand the connection between what and why.

- *How do we manage our kid's exposure to values we disagree with?*
- *What do you do when your teenager starts questioning your values?*

Keep Your Kids in Church

Many of the young adults who have abandoned the Church in the past 20 years are believing a lie – that religion is bad for the world. The research says otherwise:

- Church people are happier and healthier.
- Church people live longer.
- They are less likely to suffer from depression.
- They are five times less likely to commit suicide.
- Church people are twice as likely to volunteer their time.
- They are three and a half times more likely to give to charities.
- People who demonstrate gratitude are happier and healthier than people who don't – regardless of their circumstances.
- People with integrity and fortitude are more likely to be successful than people with talent, good looks, or intelligence.

Of course, Christians don't make church a priority only because it makes us happy. We stay committed to church because:

- God created us, saved us, invited us into His family, and commands us to meet regularly.
- Spiritual growth does not happen without worship, sound teaching, and the sacraments.
- We need the support, encouragement, and accountability of other Christians.
- We work together as a team of missionaries to make disciples.

If you want to help your children establish a strong spiritual foundation, shapes their moral and ethical values, foster a sense of belonging, counteract cultural pressures, model priorities, encourage service and purpose, and build a resilient faith... keep them in church.