

## **Raising godly children**

Mal 2:15\* No one has acted like that if he had a remnant of the Spirit. And what should the union seek? Godly seed! So take heed to your spirit let none be faithless to the wife of his youth. ("God made husbands and wives to become one body and one spirit for his purpose—so they would have children who are true to God. So be careful, and do not break your promise to the wife you married when you were young."- New Century Version

"Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth."- New Living Translation)

## **One Flesh**

When God made Adam and Eve He made them one (Gen 2:24; Ephesians 5:31; Matthew 19:4-6. Why? To replenish the earth and bring forth a godly seed.

Although children love their parents individually what is actually bigger is relationship that exists between the Dad and the Mom. From the relationship that exists between the father and the mother springs out the family relationship that exists not only between Mom and Dad but also between the siblings and the child/parent relationship. Therefore every dimension of the relationships that exists in the family springs up between that which exists between the husband and the wife.

## **The heritage of the Lord**

Abraham and Sarah sought a child that would bless all the nations of the earth. They sought a godly seed that would inherit the earth whose legacy would be so great that the number of offspring would be innumerable (Genesis 22:18). Should we have any less of a vision for our children? This should not just be the desire of Abraham and Sarah but should be our desire too.

Psalms 127:3-5 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

## **The Covenant**

We come to understand that marriage is not just a two-way contract or covenant between husband and wife but a three-way contract involving God. One of the most important elements of this contract is the raising of godly children.

*Warning: Intermarriage between those belonging to the faith with those who do not know the Lord is a violation against the production of a godly seed (v- 11). Divorce is the second great violation (vs. 13-16).*

## **Training**

If we train up a child in the ways of God it will not depart. This cannot be a training of ritual but one of relationship (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

One of the outstanding things about Abraham was God knew that Abraham would command and teach His children to do that which was right in His sight (Gen. 18:19).

God has commanded every person belonging to His covenant to teach their children His ways (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7)

*Warning: Your children will take on your spirituality- they will act like you for good or bad. The children will treat their father just like the mother treats him. If she shows disrespect in anyway then she is undermining the most important relationship and that is the one in which the father is empowered by God to teach his children the ways of God.*

## **Legacy of a godly seed**

If we desire to see the anointing and blessings of God upon our children then we must be willing to walk faithfully with God. The divine principles must be our principles. Our lives and conduct of seeking God and being faithful to His commandments and His ways will result in our children following the same example. If we will walk with God he will pour His Spirit as well as His blessing upon our children (Isaiah 44:3).

Psalms 25:12-14

What man *is* he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Psalms 112:1-2

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

## **Scriptures:**

Malachi 2:11-16: Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts. And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth,

against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Pr 22:6\* Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Eph 6:4\* And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ge 18:19\* For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

De 6:7\* And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.