

FAMILY MATTERS

Casting a Vision for the Future of our Children Psalm 78:1-7

September Awareness

- Bible Study Wed. Nite 7:00-8:15 pm
"Book of Hebrews"
- New Hope Food Pantry
September 21st
- 9/8 Family Picnic @
Redding Park in Lemoyne
- 9/15 Guest Speaker-Bishop
Rueben Kawinzi
- 9/22 Water Baptism 6:00pm
- 9/29 Hanan Itescu

Prayer Points

- Marriages & Family
Restoration
- Sanctity of Life
- Peace in Israel
- Our Communities &
Neighbors
- Government Leaders &
Law Enforcement
- Salvation
- Missionaries



The children in the above picture may look familiar to you because one may be yours! Whether they are yours or not, these children will be headed back to school this month for another year of classwork, homework, and for some, sports. In any case, these children will be shaped by the culture that surrounds them, as well as the type of education they will be taught. Whether they attend a public or private school, they will be influenced by what they read, see, study, and hear, through the teachers & coaches they sit under. This may sound very normal at face value, but we must be careful to not overlook an important fact which is, everything they take in is forming their worldview which will guide them through their teen years & into adulthood. I recently read a statistic that "a person's worldview is formed between the ages of 3-13." Consequently, a 14-year-old child will begin making informed decisions on how they view the world, people, and even God.

This brief letter serves a two-fold purpose; one is to encourage you to love & raise your children with God's heart and secondly, make a humble request on how to suggest to you two aspects to focus on as you nurture their early years which align with the work of the Holy Spirit. (over)



CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP

32 S Front Street Wormleysburg, PA 17043

717-737-1903

www.cfaog.org

The first and foremost aspect is to **instruct the mind** of our children with the Scriptures. This work creates a basis from which a child can draw conclusions about what is right & true. In essence, this lays the groundwork for helping a child discern what the will of God is and make informed decisions throughout life. Charles Spurgeon said, “discernment is not just knowing the difference between right & wrong but knowing the difference between what’s right and almost right.” With all the available technology & social media content vying for our children’s attention, they become influenced by the many worldly options which appeal more to their emotions & feelings rather than a Godly standard designed to give them a path to walk in and become more like Jesus. “In a day when relativism is rampant, the Bible still points us to God’s own character as the standard we must, with the help of the Holy Spirit, strive to follow. It is not enough to follow the norms that the world around us accepts as ethical” (Horton, S. 1996). As parents and guardians, we want our children to understand the Christian faith and the Scripture will help develop habits of Christian thought and form intuitions that are based on biblical truth.

The second aspect which follows, to instruct the mind is to **engage the heart**. It’s been said by some, “change the heart and you change the child.” A child’s faith will never prove true or changed in how much or how little they know the bible. Knowledge is good but it gives an incomplete vision for God. John Piper states this well . . . “What we want from the next generation is not just heads full of right facts about the works of God; we want heads full of right facts and hearts that burn with the fire of love for the God of those facts – hearts that will sell everything to follow Jesus into the hardest places in the world.” The hardest places in the world are not just found in the mission field. The hardest places in the world are right here and all around our kids, in schools, in the malls, on television, on social media, and in books, just to mention a few. Moving the knowledge of the Bible from the head into the heart is going to ultimately be the work of God through the Holy Spirit. As overseers of our children, this will be a hard & disciplined work as we must first show our unconditional love for them and for God. This will require much prayer on our part, monitoring their relationships with others, what they are learning in school and encouraging them to seek God & obey His word, and doing our ultimate best to get them assimilated into the church family. The goal of engaging the heart will help assure our children they, “take hold of eternal life,” not for just while they are children but forever finding God to be their life-long desire!

Lastly, I would like to honestly say, raising children is never easy. It takes hard work and discipline on our part as parents & guardians. Trust me, we know. My wife and I raised two boys. This is never a one-size, fits-all approach, even in the same family. To say we are a target of destruction by the enemy is an understatement but focus on this which has greater value & assurance, “We are all different & beautifully made in God’s image. Best of all, God is all about family and love and He gives us the grace, strength, desire, and wisdom to raise our children to be more like His son Jesus!

With all our love & prayers for you & your family,

John Cornacchio
Children’s Ministry Director