

Parenting



In the Beginning God was the Parent, He created a “Perfect Couple”, unfortunately they ran amuck. Today we search for the perfect parenting technique and for the most part none of them are 100% successful, the aggravating part of it all is that you only get one chance at getting it right and you never know until well in the future if the approach your using is the correct one or not. Wouldn't it be convenient if God had included in the Bible a chapter devoted exclusively to “Parenting” and even warranted the results if you followed the directions? I think that we all understand that life is way too complicated for any set of instructions to perform perfectly under all circumstances, yet we are constantly in search of that “Handbook”.

Even though God never included a chapter exclusively for parents there is though for the ardent pilgrim much information to invoke even in our modern time. For starts, God gave His children only one restriction but when they broke it (as bad as that was in God's eyes) He actually forgave them and He expressed that forgiveness by replacing their impromptu attire with more appropriate garments. However, He went beyond just saying “That's Alright” by explaining in detail the consequences of their act of disobedience and meting out a punishment fitting the infraction, which amounted to no longer having access to the idyllic environment that had been theirs up to that point.

Did God's technique work? The jury is still out, since the happy couple may not have used the same method on their offspring and the results were devastating, which doesn't testify well to their parenting skills.

When God approached Noah and commissioned him to build a boat, Noah was presumably able to convince his children to participate in the effort and he also convinced them that they really needed to be on the boat once completed even though they faced intense opposition from most of the rest of the population. The end story didn't work out however, since Noah ended up getting drunk and that part of the narration lead to the division of his sons and the cursing of one.

God told Abraham he was going to have a son. According to the Bible Abraham believed God but apparently he was confused as to the process. He fabricated his own process and the results were a bollixed-up mess that God had to straighten up even before He could fulfill His promise. The results were favorable for Abraham but generated a rocky road for Israel even until today but that's another story. God told Abraham he was going to have to sacrifice his son and Abraham didn't flinch, although he didn't reveal this information to his son right away. The part where Abraham's parenting shines is once Isaac constructed the altar, he actually allows his father to bind him and commence using him as the sacrifice. There is a certain level of confidence that Isaac was in his upper teens or perhaps 20 at this time and certainly might have resisted Abraham who at this time would have been 120 years old.

Buried in these two narrations is an important piece of parenting intelligence. Modern terminology asserts that “More is Caught Than Taught” and if you take that into consideration, we see that the offspring of both these families had to have both significant trust and obedience to willingly comply with the parents' wishes. Trust and compliance aren't easy to achieve in our modern culture with all its deviant and diverse coercions from outside the family but we see that even in ancient times it wasn't all that easy yet each of these families had an inseparable relationship with the God who created them and except for moments of weakness devoted their lives to His service. Since God has more authority over your life than you realize, you shouldn't be disappointed when things don't work out as you would like

them to, however, you should constantly pursue knowing and adhering to the commands that Jesus set before you no matter how difficult they may be.

Isaac's parenting skills weren't the same as his father's and he actually played his two sons against each other with Esau being the "Father's Son" and Jacob being the "Mother's Son". Isaac's downfall though, was that he rejoiced in Esau's hunting ability but never taught him about the God of his father Abraham and the promises that had been given. Esau's choices to barter away his birthright and then marriage partners certainly put him at odds with God. Jacob wasn't a whole lot better; deceitful, deceptive, displacer are some descriptions of him but from the narration it appears that Jacob had the attributes that God could mold into a generation that could bear His name.



Once Jacob had received his father's blessing, he also received the directive to drive to his mother's home land in order to acquire the proper spouse. On the way God interacted with him so as to give him some insight of what his future would include. Which would shortly include 14 years of servitude to acquire the love of his life.

Although our inspection of these five families has been quite brief, it appears that through out the Biblical Narrative there seems to be no discourse with God as to what parenting techniques would be best used. Rather the parents used the then cultural norms with occasional interspersions of God to reinforce their authority.

The Meta-Narrative still holds true, God is, "Defeating Satan, Sin and Death to make a people for Himself, to His Glory and our Good". In this vein God here is using these five families of questionable virtue to fulfill His promise to Abraham and build a nation (Israel) and provide real-estate for their habitation. While this promise will take many generations to come to fruition, never the less God is faithful to do it.

God has made you a promise, through Jesus The Christ, that you will banquet at the “Table of God”. Jesus even indicated that some might be compelled to come to the table (Luke 14:23). Wouldn't it be better if you were more introspective, determined those carnal and materialistic things that prevented you from accepting His first invitation and appeal to the Holy Spirit to administer His power (With your cooperation) to diminish those forces and “Accentuate The Positive”