

Love the Lord and Teach your Children

Ponder: How can we ensure that our children will be faithful to God?

Scripture: “Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4b, NKJV).

Think of it! Israel had only recently come out of Egypt, where they had been exposed to rampant idolatry for centuries. Soon they would cross into Canaan, where moral and religious degeneracy exceeded that of Egypt. Israel craved idolatry, from Aaron’s golden calf to their insincere worship of the Lord (in their hearts they loved Moloch, Remphan, and other false gods, Acts 7:42, 43). How could they keep from drowning in the fierce currents of Canaanite paganism?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). In short, to avoid the corrupt cults of Canaan, Israel needed to do two things: 1) Genuinely love God by obeying Him from the heart; and 2) Diligently teach their children to do the same.

Today we live among countless cults, sects, and denominations. Political correctness insists that each is equally good and none is exclusively right. Pluralism is in; being exclusive is a huge no-no. How shall we keep ourselves and our children from being swept away with the tide of stand-for-nothing/fall-for-anything neutrality? 1) Love and obey the Lord with all your heart; then you won’t care whether you are politically correct or not. 2) Teach your children to do the same. “Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4b).

Our youth face tremendous pressure to conform to the worldly philosophy that all beliefs are equally valid. God, however, tells us not to conform, but to be transformed, and to prove what His good, acceptable, and perfect will is (Romans 12:2).

Being true to God isn’t easy. Let us love and obey Him from the depths of our hearts, and teach our children to do likewise!