

Sunday Service

19th November 2023

Topic: The Possibilities Of Every Child

Text: Proverbs 22:6 - *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*
(NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

Over the weekend, we had the Young Couple's forum retreat which was tagged "Divided Union". We looked at the possibility of identifying as a couple yet your purpose, vision and pursuit in life are completely different. Hence, this morning we want to look at another aspect of division in marriage - **PARENTING**.

The scripture above is loaded and I pray for grace to be able to dissect it to enable our understanding in raising and having the adequate knowledge of the possibilities of every glorious child.

I met a few elderly women and men some time back and I asked them a very curious and genuine question - "*What kept them together till now?*" This is because my interaction with our generation who keep proclaiming the subject of divorce and separation became a burden in my heart. Hence I decided to carry out a mini research in my surroundings to find out why they were still together with their spouse after so many years of

marriage. It surprised me to infer that nine out of ten of the couples told me practically that the reason they are still standing is because of their children.

So I concluded that parents who want to live a glorious life and raise great children look beyond the present circumstances and into the future which causes them to persevere mightily in hard times. I found out in the same research, that many of the couples who end up separating in their matrimonial journey all have wayward children. The exception of some of these children are those who by supernatural help had an encounter with Christ outside their home.

Why will you make a decision that will affect generations to come? Why would you victimize your spouse without thinking about the children watching your actions? Don't you know everything you do right now is moulding a destiny? No matter the age of your child, they are absorbing your actions into their patterns in life.

Why then will you begin to accept the erroneous gospel of separation on the internet? It became an issue in my heart; why will you not preserve the destiny of these children and do your spouse good to make your marriage work?

"The decision you make now is shaping and forming the future of the children."

Go and check statistics, many great children never come from a broken home. Can you please think of your children?

So I saw **FIVE** consequences of a separated home. There are 5 burdens in my heart that can cause a child to be wayward, irresponsible and a nonentity:

1. Consequence of favoritism

Genesis 25:28

And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. (NKJV)

Did you know the number of years Isaac and Rebekah waited on God to have these children? But after they received the answer to their prayers, in their journey each of them picked a child as their own. In our present generation, many husbands give preference to a male child over a female child. Please which one is not a child? Whether male or female, both are capable of repaying the labour of their parent. So why give preference?

In fact, this is a lesson to everyone, don't wait for a child to feed you in your old age. Have a retirement plan for yourself.

"What I know is that every correct parent always leaves an inheritance for their children."

Now back to Isaac and Rebekah who allowed favouritism to set in. I have seen how parents destroy the lives of their children, especially concerning the potential of elder siblings to the younger siblings when it comes to academics. Stop focusing on a particular area of life, allow your children to explore other areas that match their innate potentials.

Say with me, *"Every spirit of favouritism that wants to destroy the life of my children, I cast it out now."*

I tell you sincerely our children must not suffer because we decided to love one and abandon the other. Don't let them suffer.

2. Consequences of single parenting.

1 Samuel 2:22-23

Now Eli was very old, and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. (NKJV)

I began to ask myself where was their mother? Why is Eli the only one speaking? After all at a time, we saw the mother of Samson who had an encounter with the angel talk to her husband about it before the angel reappeared to him. What a wonderful family that they are working together.

Parenting is not a joke. You must wake up and make up that no matter the cost, both of you and your spouse will raise your children together. This is because you can have a spouse and still raise a child alone. There is a danger of separation.

2 Kings 4:1

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." (NKJV)

There are some people who by virtue of death became single parents like this widow. However, it is impossible to raise your children alone, there is a need to apply a very important principle as this widow did. She cried out to Elisha for help when things were about to get out of hand. In a situation like this, you must have a genuine father or mother figure for your children who augments your input in their lives.

So there is a balance to it, not all single parenting comes from a place of separation

3. Consequences of a broken home

Genesis 16:12

He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." (NKJV)

This scripture came after Sarah told Abraham to lay with Haggai, her maidservant, who after giving birth became arrogant to her master. She was sent away and single-handedly raised her son, Ishmael. The Bible records this prophecy about him, a child from a broken home. Be careful of your decisions now.

"Broken home can destroy eternally the life of a child."

4. Consequences of lack of education

When you study the first book of Chronicles, in chapter 24, there was a king who was misbehaving until he received teaching from a priest. You must understand that when you do not pay attention to your children, there is a problem.

"It takes two to give birth to a child, and it also takes two to raise them."

5. Consequences of peer pressure

Now let's go back to our main Scripture and pick out wisdom on possibilities of a child.

1. Every child can be trained.

It does not matter how terrible a child is, he or she can be trained and there are patterns in training. It can up or down. **Each time the child misbehaves the way you train must be UP. Never train down.**

Teaching does good in the life who practice. Every child has the capacity to respond to training. May God give you the wisdom to train them.

2. There is a pattern in which a child is to be trained.

You can't just train anyhow, there are patterns which include:

- **The way of prayer** - Many times, what keeps a child is prayer nothing more. As much as you discipline and raise your child, you must take time to pray over them. Call them out in the spirit and speak blessing over them.

"The more a parent pronounces a word over their child, the more they respond to it."

- **The way of involvement (Be part of their life)** - One of the patterns to make them follow and become is to be involved in their life. Play and that with them from time to time.
- **The way of discipline is very important**
- **The way of taking responsibilities**
- **The way of reward**

Many parents out there do not want to take responsibility but they want reward. Please don't seek a reward when you have not taken responsibility. Also, do not force them to act because of you, let them act bearing that the consequences are on them.

3. Every child has a great future (can grow)

As a parent, you determine the destination of your child. So do everything in your power to train them up.

Conclusion: Don't allow your decisions now to destroy the future of your child. So why will you allow bitterness between you and your spouse; and affect the tomorrow of your child? Can you please be careful of your decisions now? The child in your hand is a seed and a nation.