



Training
our Children for

LEADERSHIP

But ye shall not be so:
but he that is greatest among you,
let him be as the
younger;
and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

Luke 22:27

Are we training our children to be servants?

God has a plan for training our children to be leaders. As we consider this important task, may God's Word light our path.

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matt. 20:27

"But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." Matt. 23:11

"And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." Mark 9:35

"And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

"But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." Luke 22:26-27

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor." John 12:26

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." 1 Corinthians 9:19

"...by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13

"For even the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" Philippians 2:5-7

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," 2 Timothy 3:1-2

*“And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
“That no flesh should glory in his presence.” 1 Corinthians 1:28, 29*

“For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” 1 Corinthians 4:7

For From Within, Out Of The Mouth Proceeds Pride (Mark 7:21, 22)

Pride

is within the heart of every one of us and is

an ever present danger to avoid. We live in a world wherein pride surrounds us. “For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the PRIDE OF LIFE-is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1 Jn. 2: 16)

When listing the qualifications of an elder or an overseer, we are told that he is not to be a “novice, lest he being PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”(1 Tim. 3:6) Obviously it is implied that pride comes naturally and early in our Christian experience. Then training in the school of God is a needed discipline in our life and this takes time along with many humiliating experiences.

Pride was often demonstrated in the experiences of the disciples of the Lord. Having become one of his select ones would expose them to this danger. John said, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.” (Mark 9: 38) This is an example of the PRIDE OF POSITION. If someone occupies a privileged position, he is apt to look with pride on those who do not. We need to be grateful, not proud, of any privileges that the Lord has extended to us by His grace. We should never feel that we are better than others.

There is also the constant danger of seeking a place of leadership or recognition above others. When arriving at Capernaum, the Lord asked His disciples, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road? But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest." (Mark 9: 33, 34) This is an example of the PRIDE OF PROMOTION. There is within each human heart that selfish desire to want to be promoted above others. The Lord's response to this demonstration of pride was: "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." (v.35)

"Then Peter answered and said to Him, See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" (Matt. 19:27) Peter displayed that pride in his heart which expected reward for what he had done. This is an example of the PRIDE OF PRACTICE. We look for recognition because of what we have done. In a similar way, the Lord replied to this expectation with these words, "But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (vs.30)

May the lessons of experience in the Christian walk teach us daily that pride has no place in the Christian life. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4:10) "All you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." (1 Peter 5: 5, 6)

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