

Repositioning Yourself

3. Repositioning in your parenting

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

It does not say, train up a child in the ways of the world and hopefully somewhere along the way he will get his mind renewed and learn godly values, and discover his destiny.

The scriptures point them in a particular direction but the songs they listen in a different direction.

- Parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children
- The church has the secondary responsibility in education
- The State is not responsible for the education of children
- Biblical Christian education and parenting should not be left to chance

In Bringing up Boys James Dobson says that with boys in particular you actually have to be very intentional about keeping them civilised and helping them to be civilised. There is something about fallen man that degenerates to being uncivilised. We have to be intentional because societies have become uncivilised when churches are not strong and when families are not strong. The moment there is an attack on the family unit, society can be destroyed. We are seeing it today in many nations. Will Durant says from barbarism to civilisation requires a century but from civilisation to barbarism needs but a day.

Strategies have been developed to help children to use their heads not their fists in problem solving. Sometimes fighting is the result of intellectual laziness.

Diana Daumrind and others developed and popularized the notion of four basic parenting styles. What is your primary style? How are you positioned and what's the impact it's having on your kids? How does your style cooperate with your spouse's? Be careful of compensation parenting. This is a mindset that goes to the opposite extreme of what they grew up with. Some couples compensate for the behavior of their spouse.

- **Authoritative** (Strong on discipline and strong on affection. Nurturing. Healthy boundaries).
Kids are happy, capable and successful. Requests are seen as fair and reasonable therefore they internalize them as their own.

- **Authoritarian** (My way or the high way. Do this because I say so. No explanation of the rules, status oriented, fear of punishment).

Kids are obedient and proficient but low in happiness, social competence, and self-esteem.

Let your kids use their imagination through play, as this has been found to also help them academically.

- **Permissive** (More like a friend. Affectionate but non assertive. No significant rules. Freedom with little or no responsibility). Children don't actually want limitless freedom with no boundaries. High on affection but no discipline. The parent might have given up trying with regards to discipline.

Low levels of happiness and self-regulation. Lower performance at school. More likely to struggle with authority figures.

- **Uninvolved/Absent** (detached, self-absorbed, indifferent, low affection and low discipline).

Lower self-control, low self-esteem, less competent

What are you like as a result of how your parents were positioned in their parenting?

4. Repositioning in your relationship with the church

Acts 2:41-43

1Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day. **2**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **3**A sense of awe came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs....

The New Testament pattern is that they were added and devoted. You will always have something you are devoted to. **Your devotion determines your positioning.**

Devotion in dictionary means zealous or ardent in attachment, loyalty, or affection. In the Greek it means to attend constantly.

What's your relationship with the local church? Have you been counted in or are you just an observer. Don't make this year like last year. Your kids eat with you all the time and you always count them in for dinner. If you can skip for a while it probably means you

didn't have a people spot. I was blessed meeting with the media team because they carry the church in their hearts.

Are you part of the body? Can you be a Christian and not go to church? Yes, but it's an aberration. *An aberration is the act of departing from the right, normal, or usual course.* If you see a dismembered body you get search parties to piece it back together. We need to do that with people in the Body of Christ. Don't let your theology and your ecclesiology be determined by how you feel in your soulish self. The starting point should always be the Word of God.

What are God's expectations of your positioning in relation to the church?

- You have found a People Spot
- You are being fruitful
You are competent and fruitful in ministry (teaching one another, administering baptisms, healing the sick, worshiping and prayer, reaching the lost, establishing a kingdom community).

John 15:16

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

- You are accountable
Are you being pastored?

Acts 18:24-27

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. 27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.