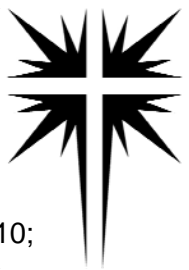


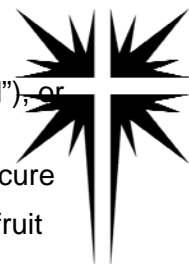
SESSION 1 – “Pure Hearts”



- I. INTRODUCTION: PURE HEARTS WILL CONSTANTLY SEE GOD WORKING (Psalm 46:10; Matthew 5:6, 8)
- A. Jesus prayed for our _____ (John 17:17), as we daily are exposed to an impure world.
 - B. He knew what would bring a hedge of holy protection (Job 1; John 17:15)
 - C. Are you daily living under the _____ of His holy grace (Psalm 91:1-2)?
- II. INSTRUCTION: “THUS SAITH THE LORD” (Psalm 127:1)...regarding protection (“watchman”)
- A. Be teachable to be an effective watchman who is wise in heart!
 - 1. Pray for a teachable heart of discernment – (Philippians 1:9-11)
 - 2. Parenting MUST follow biblical patterns, discarding preconceived _____ (Ro. 14; 2 Tim. 1:13-14)
 - 3. Cf. Isaiah 48:17-18...God will lead humble hearts on narrow paths well protected...His bountiful blessings keep on “rolling on”...
 - B. Be cautious
 - 1. Fleishy personal “feelings”, fostered by our carnal world will destroy our children, as we let our feelings seduce our faith (Isaiah 50:10-11)
 - 2. Cf. Colossians 2:8...
 - 3. God has a holy blueprint for homes (Ephesians 4-6), so we are _____ equipped for the tasks (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - C. Be strong
 - 1. Grace will abound to the faithful as parenting is hard work (2 Tim. 2:1-2)
 - 2. Have a backbone of steel, and a heart of loving velvet... _____! – (Isaiah 40:11)
 - D. Be fruitful
 - 1. Roots must go deep to bear abundant fruit (John 15; Colossians 2:6-7)
 - 2. Ask God to _____ from your heart damaging concepts of parenting (Ps. 90:12, 17)
 - 3. “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”- (Galatians 6:7)
 - E. Be consistent
 - 1. Be Jesus with skin on (I John 2:6; 4:17)
 - 2. Perfect love is a life _____ process of faith (Hebrews 11:1)
 - F. Be goal oriented

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1. Be sure your kids know _____ what you expect (“thus saith the Lord”), or you will exasperate them
2. Boundaries build biblical bonding, so kids know where they are safe and secure
3. REMEMBER our kids are on a learning curve (Proverbs 20:11)...check for fruit (Matthew 7:16)
4. Write out weekly measurable goals; monthly, yearly...but avoid legalism!

G. Be faithful

1. Full of truth (John 8:31-32); God sets you free from unbiblical beliefs/behaviors
2. Hypocrisy is _____ (Proverbs 11:9)...to neighbors and family (light?)

H. Be like-minded...parents MUST be on the same page!!!

1. Find other godly parents who have biblical standards, for loving accountability (Proverbs 27:17)
2. We need each other to help us remember the path (Hosea 4:6) prayerfully!
3. Application: Willful ignorance destroys families

I. Be honest

1. “I’m sorry”...integrity builds _____ (David & Jonathan)
2. God blesses honest hearts that apply truths learned from mistakes (Prov. 22:17)
 - a. Parenting patterns change?!?
 - b. Cf. 2 Peter 3:18

III. INSIGHT: KEY VERSES OF APPLICATION AND REFLECTION (COLOSSIANS 2:8)

A. Proverbs 22:6...this IS NOT a promise, but a general statement of practical truth

1. Train up a child
 - a. Learning _____ based on spiritual feeding patterns (1 Pet. 1:23)
 - b. Light dispels darkness (sin) (Psalm 18:28)
 - c. Midwife ...to touch the palate, olive oil – honey – crushed dates
 - d. _____, no one else, are responsible to create appetite (Jer. 15:16)
2. A child
 - a. While the clay is soft...tasted (1 Peter 2:2)?
 - b. Discipline is key (Hebrews 12:6)...proof of _____ (OK to sin?!)
3. In THE way
 - a. Absolute truth develops moral character and common sense (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - b. Jn. 14:6; Ps. 119:25-32...God enlarges hearts of teachable people
4. He should go
 - a. Each child has a “bent”...compliant...strong-willed?
 - b. _____ nature (Proverbs 22:15a; Jeremiah 17:9)

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5. When he is old
 - a. An elder in the Hebrew culture (40 yrs. old)...the BEGINNING of wisdom years
 - b. Long process..._____! (parenting doesn't EVER stop!)

6. Not depart from it (James 1:21)
 - a. Godly parents using godly training techniques should see results...
 - b. This is not a _____ a wayward teen will return to his "roots"
 - c. Incorruptible seeds should bear incorruptible fruits (prodigal)

- B. Ephesians 6:1-2a
 1. Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (righteous)
 - a. God expects _____ obedience...ears to hear...(gospel of Mark – "immediately"!)
 - b. Attitudes precede actions...respect for God-given authority is KEY!...
 2. Honor!!!
 - a. Means give weight to what they say
 - b. Listen closely, out of deep _____
 - c. Parents are the "heavy"...God ordained influence to prepare the day kids submit to God; father is foreshadowing of...

- C. Matthew 15:4
 1. Curseth
 - a. Esteem lightly
 - b. Not listen to
 - c. Death to the child...OT! (theocracy – God King!)
 2. Humble, holy hearts _____ to the right voices (Matthew 15:9-10)

- D. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 1. Hearts full of love come from hearts full of prayer (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
 2. Diligently disciplined parents raise godly children (Hebrews 11:6)... rewards! (enjoy your children?)
 3. Our homes must be Christ-centered, not just _____ (Joshua 24:15), totally dependent on Him (Acts 17:27-28), without Him we do nothing (John 15) and are nothing
 - a. His Word must be the _____ of our lives and conversations (Matt. 12:34)
 - b. Carpe diem...always be ready to teach our kids about the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23)
 - i. Public schools!
 - ii. Cf. 1 Pet. 3:15
 - c. Homework...look up and discuss as a couple...family

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- i. Proverbs 10:1; 17:21, 25; 23:24; 29:15, 17; 31:28
- ii. Write some measurable goals based on these verses
- iii. Plan and write a practical strategy for mutual accountability as a couple to become more godly parents, grandparents



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