

## "Renewing our Families"

Psalm 78:1-8

### Introduction

Renewing our hearts and vision. Looking back so that we can move forward. What has God called us to?

- Renewing our hearts
- Renewing our vision
- Renewing our outreach
- Renewing our hospitality
- Renewing our marriages

Today, *Renewing our Families*, with a particular focus raising our covenant children.

[Psalm 78:1-8]

### I. The value of children

How does the world often view children?

Cute, fun, means to fulfill our dreams,  
expensive, bothersome, inconvenient

Summary – Valuable in a selfish way. Giving us what we want and need.

A biblical overview.

- a. They are the foundation stones of the covenant. (Gen. 17:1-8)
  - i. What place do they have in God's Purposes?

- ii. What is the significance of baptism?
  - iii. What is the implication of this for parenting?
- b. They are a gift from the Lord. (Psalm 127:3)
- i. What difference does this make?
  - ii. Story of responding to pregnancies (Keith and Becky's; seminary prof.)
- c. They are a key to God's blessing on the city. (Psalm 127:4-5)
- i. What are the implications of this? (We are preparing them for work in the kingdom.)
- d. They bring great joy and blessing to parents. (Psalm 128)
- i. They are fruit. Fruit brings gladness.
- e. They teach us about faith and our relationship with God.  
(Matt 18:1-4; Matt 6:9 John 1:12)

## II. The responsibilities of parenting

1. We must listen to God (vs. 1-3, 8)
  - What does it mean to listen to God?
  - Why is this important? (vitality of our wisdom)

2. We must tell our children what we have seen and heard from God. (vs. 4+5) What kinds of things?
  - The character of God
  - The works of God
  - The law of God
  
3. We must call our children to trust in and obey God (vs. 7)
 

How do we do this?

  - Connect life with the Word, see Deut. 6:7
  - Teach them to worship.
    - Family worship
    - Private worship
    - Public worship

### III. The obstacles and pitfalls of raising children

- Lies: There are fallacies concerning parenting, that are appealing to young Christian parents which they should be warned about?
  - That your generation is the hardest to raise kids in. - every generation has unique challenges.
  - That there is a magic bullet for success.
  - That the next stage will be better.- live in the moment
  - That teens will rebel
  - That your child is exceptional and always right

- That suffering is bad for your child. – suffering consequences of sin teaches obedience; suffering because of God's providence teaches trust.
  - Projecting today on tomorrow
  - Every activity is necessary
- The sin of our children
    - Born in iniquity
    - Nature like their father, Adam
    - Need for conversion
    - Need for holiness
  - The sin of parents

*The principle of reproduction teaches that we will produce after our own kind. When God told Adam and Eve to 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth', He was commanding them, before the fall, to fill the earth with offspring who loved God like they did. This command is restated numerous times through the Bible with the qualification that we are to raise them in the fear of the Lord. The warning of the Bible is that the sins of the father will be passed on to the children. We will build into our children many of our own perspectives and convictions. This job of parenting is not easy. It requires incredible amounts of time, wisdom and perseverance.*

*But here's the key: in Jesus Christ we are new creatures. And so we are not left to reproduce after our old nature. We now have the great privilege of returning to the*

*creation mandate to be fruitful and multiply a godly seed.*

Goal is to drive out the old and bring in the new by leading them to love Jesus. We can't do many things. We can't change their hearts. But we can strive for:

- - More love & holiness Deut. 6:5
- - More time Deut. 6:7
- - More scripture Deut. 6:8+9
- - More transparency Deut. 6:10-14
- - More humility Deut. 6:15-19
- - More discipline Prov. 29:15
- - More gentleness Eph. 6:4
- - More flexibility Col. 3:21
- - More prayer Phil. 4:6+7

Children:

You belong to God. You have great privileges. You also have great responsibilities. Your baptism has set you apart for Christ. You can't rely on your parent's faith. You must trust in Jesus Christ and live a life of faith and repentance. Turn to Jesus.

To all:

This can only happen through Jesus Christ. Overcoming the sin of our children and our own sin so that we might reproduce a godly seed is impossible apart from Jesus Christ. Good parenting is profoundly spiritual.

Conclusion:

Coming back to the cross and the covenant promises. What is most important to you when it comes to your children? Is it their future job,

financial security, wife or husband, education?

Often these things are reflected in where we invest our time and our money. Or is your primary concern his or her relationship to Jesus Christ. If so, then we need to cry out to God for the souls of our children and prioritize our lives around the things of God.

Your children belong to God. Have you entrusted them to Him? If so, then your work as a parent is to be a channel of God's grace to them.