**KINGDOM PARENTING**

Text:

* Ephesians 6:2 "Honour your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise.
* Eph 6:3"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

**INTRO:**

* Pro 2:11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.
* Guard/keep us from where?
* Bad decision, bad choices, bad actions, grumpy behaviour,
* bad attitude, frustration..
* From being fooled.
* One problem that mothers/fathers faced today is the generational gap between them and their children.

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO BE ABLE TO HONOUR OUR MOTHERS & FATHERS
* FOR THE PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CHILDREN.

**I. THE PARENTS’ NATURE**

**A. PARENTS ARE WISE**

* Parents have accumulated wisdom over the years.
* Their life experiences have taught them many things which help them know and understand certain things.
* They have already experienced what children are going through, and have gained wisdom from the school of hard knocks.
* Ex. Many parents have gone through teen pregnancy, drug abuse, wild
* Partying, and irresponsible living, so they have collected memories over the years, and recall those experiences.
* This is also the reason many overreact because they don’t want you to make the same mistakes.

**B. PARENTS ARE REALISTS**

* Teens particularly have great ideas but parents view things realistically.
* They went through their own period of idealism and resigned to what they consider the “realities of life”.
* Realism is part of adult life.
* Working 9-5, paying bills, and caring for children can cause a serious dose of reality to set in.
* When you don’t have bills to pay or other responsibilities to take care of, you can dream all day and think of possibilities and be idealistic.

**C. PARENTS ARE PRACTICAL**

* Parents normally inclined to calculate the risks and rewards and to determine what’s most practical before making a decision.
* A young person will often act first and worry the consequences later.
* The first question a parent will ask is, “How much is this going to cost?”
* The question is born out of their having to deal with the cost of living, paying bills, and balancing the budget.

**D. PARENTS ARE USUALLY SETTLED**

* Parents when they were younger do the same things as teens.
* As they grew older, such causes gave way to the realities of making ends meet and providing for their families.
* They don’t feel like protesting and become comfortable in what they have fought for and achieved.
* Therefore parents are not enthusiastic about the activism of teens.
* The older you get the less turmoil you want in your life.
* Parents want a predictable life, a routine schedule, and a simple life as possible.
* Settling down.

**E. PARENTS ARE PROTECTIVE**

* Parents want to make sure that their children don’t get hurt or feel pain.
* This is a natural instinct of a parent.
* Often, mothers are protective because they had to go to the delivery room, endure great pain and discomfort to deliver their children into this world.

**F. TODAYS PARENTS ARE BUSY**

* There is so much to do, but there never seems to be enough time in which to do it.
* Parents sometimes have 2 jobs, work late, or are involved in
* something that prevents them from being available for you.
* Often parents spend more time at work than they do at home.
* When dealing with the immediate issues of earning a living and of self preservation, sometimes you seem to be an afterthought.
* Please understand your parents hectic pace, they are providing a good life for you.
* It would be nice if it wasn’t that way but that is how the world turns today.
* This is especially the case in homes where there is only one parent.
* It is unfortunate but true that parents do not have the time they once had to care for children the way they should.

**II. UNDERSTANDING TEENS**

**1. TEENS DESIRE THEIR OWN IDENTITY**

* Parents enjoy having their child believe everything they say, look up to them for advice.
* Parents are shocked when their teens start to have their own ideas.
* Teens want to establish their own identity-they want to form their own ideas, apart from their parents.
* This is very natural and logical process for a young person to go through (Individuation).
* These are life stages.

**2. TEENS DEVELOP THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

* This is where generational gap sets in, in language, music, and culture.
* We must face one thing: Most teens think their parents are “un-cool” or out of touch.
* Usually parents don’t have the time (or take the time) to figure out or understand the latest fashion trends, music styles, or cultural phenomena, so they are out of touch.

**3. TEENS ARE IDEALISTIC.**

* Teens are full of idealism, they believe they can change the world and that they have ideas different and better than their parents.
* They proudly believe and proclaim, “We can make it better, do it better”

**4. TEENS ARE FULL OF ENERGY**

* Most teens are full of unbridled energy.
* They always want to know “What’s happening?” Where’s the party? Where can we go to have a good time?
* If this energy is not channelled into the right direction, it could be destructive.
* Kids have to be busy, parents must provide opportunities for them to keep busy doing the right kinds of things.
* It is wrong to expect a teenager not to want to have fun, play, and expend their seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy.
* The teen years are naturally a stage of development that is full of energy.

**5. TEENS OFTEN REBEL AND QUESTION**

* Conflict between parents and teens are inevitable when a youth begins to question and challenge the way things are.
* No institution is safe from the questions of youth.
* Let teens determine for themselves what truth is.
* Adults should just provide the best information possible.

**6. TEENS TAKE CHANCES**

* Young people may blurt out their feelings and do things before thinking them through or considering the consequences.
* They will often experiment with many things, including limits and boundaries.
* They want to go where no man has gone before.
* Many times teens do things they later regret.
* In many cases they are experimenting with things their parents have already tried.
* It’s just like saying to us, you had your time to experiment, now is mine.
* Unfortunately, taking chances can lead to prison, death, or physical harm.
* It is important to create an environment of accountability.

**7. TEENS HAVE RESPECT FOR TRUTH.**

* They are searching for someone to look up to.
* They don’t like hypocrites
* They are looking for adults who live by enduring principles.
* Kids cry our for discipline, direction, and purpose.
* They look up to and respect adults with strong moral convictions.

**8. TEENS ARE GREAT COLLABORATORS**

Peer pressure is a fact of teenage life.

* Teenagers experience gratification from impressing each other and from beating the system.
* Teens hardly ever do anything that is not designed to impress their peers.
* Parents on the other hand, they do not collaborate with peers in dealing with their children.

**III. HOW TO HONOUR OUR MOTHER/FATHER?**

* Obey them.
* Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
* Love them
* Fear them
* Respect them
* Submit to their corrections
* Acknowledge your offences against them
* Bear with their temper
* Cover their infirmities
* Honour them in thought, word, and gesture
* They are to be highly thought of and esteemed.
* They are to be relieved, assisted, and maintained in comfortable way when aged.
* Provide their necessities.
* Giving them food, drink, and clothing.
* 1Ti 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.
* Mat 15:4 "For God commanded, saying, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'

**CHALLENGE:**

* Have you honoured your Mother and or Father?
* Today is a special day to honour them.

**CONCLUSION:**

* Ephesians 6:2 "Honour your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:
* Ephesians 6:3"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."