

FAMILY AS A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Proverbs 24:3 (AMP)

“Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation],”

Joshua 24:15 (NASB)

“...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Psalms 127:3-5 (ESV)

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

Proverbs 22:6 (AMP)

“Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

For the purposes of this discussion, I define ‘family’ as spouses, parents with children living at home, and extended family such as older parents, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, etc., and those living with, but are not related, living under one roof. This discussion is relevant for those who live alone, in that your home is a sphere of influence, a reflection of you; and it will influence others. Your home is an indication of your influence for the Kingdom of God.

The home, the family unit, is the place where we develop the tools with which we interact with people, deal with problems, learn conflict resolution, learn time management and develop our view of the world. Whether good or bad, these skills are developed, to a great extent, before we ever leave home. For those with dysfunctional families, success in the ‘real world’ often requires unlearning and relearning certain skills and coping strategies. Those who come from strong, Godly families are usually better equipped to go directly into other spheres of influence with positive, Godly input.

Your home is the place where you influence your family and those who visit your home. It is the place where the kind of influence you and your family wield is nurtured. Your home is the place where you will influence others in a very personal way. The way you represent the Kingdom of God is evidenced in your home and in your family. The home is the ‘first line’ of training to be all God has called us to be.

For parents, their children are the most important sphere of influence to which they will be called. The Word of God says that children are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. Psalm 127 Arrows are tools that have been shaped and crafted for specific targets. God gives children to us to shape them to be influence generators in the earth. The better the foundation we give them in the Word of God, and the more we influence them to be people of honor, character and integrity, the more effective they will be in the sphere they are called to change.

The atmosphere in your home and around your family will influence others in some way. In your home and around your family - those who live with you - is the place where you are, more often, the 'real' you. Those who live with you know the truth about whether you are a true Kingdom of God representative, or just a pretender. You may be 'talking the talk', but those who live with you know whether you can 'walk the walk'! Posers are not effective in the Kingdom of God. Many people have visions of changing the world for God, but refuse to embrace the very basic principles of God's Word concerning relationship with God, honoring others and keeping order in their lives at home. If you have learned to honor God in your home and with your family, you will be more effective in the other spheres of influence.

If the principles of God are not operating in your home and in your life, you will not be successful in changing the world for the Kingdom of God. When we are faithful with what God has given us, we will be made ruler over much. Matthew 25:21 Whether you have few or many in your household, if you are faithful to establish the Kingdom of God there, then promotion comes to generate influence in other spheres.

RECOMMENDED READING

Communication: Key to Your Marriage by H. Norman Wright

Spirit-Controlled Temperament by Tim LaHaye

Discover Your God-Given Gifts by Don & Katie Fortune

Personality Plus by Florence Littauer

Boundaries with Kids: How Healthy Choices Grow Healthy Children by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend

God Knows How to Raise Your Kids Even if You Don't by Joe McGee

8 Things No Kid Should Leave Home Without by Joe McGee

Discover Your Children's Gifts by Don & Katie Fortune

Personality Plus for Parents: Understanding What Makes Your Child Tick by Florence Littauer