

Your Family's Fear of God I the Circle of Learning, Part 4

I. The Relationship between The Circle of Learning and the Fear of the Lord

- No one in your family fears the Lord if they *aren't* using The Circle of Learning. If your child isn't engaging with The Circle of Learning — this means that they dislike acquiring knowledge, the refuse to deepen their understanding of the knowledge they have, and/or they have a bunch of information, but they don't use it in their lives . . . they are not fearing the Lord as they should.
- Your family isn't necessarily fearing the Lord just because they *are* using The Circle of Learning.
 - The real test as to whether or not your family member fears the Lord is not that they use the Didactic Circle, it's how they function within The Circle of *Divine* Learning.
 - A Christian absolutely will grow and mature in every facet of their lives as they fear the Lord. That includes cooking and public speaking and soccer and music and everything they do to the best of their ability to the honor and glory of God.

II. The Nature of the Fear of the Lord

- As an unbeliever, there should be nothing scarier to us than the Living God. If we live in defiance to Him, we will receive the consequences of that choice both now and for all eternity.
- As a believer we learn to revere God in holy awe.
 - A Christian should be in absolute awe as to His grace and mercy and long-suffering and kindness and the immeasurable riches He daily pours on me as a child of God.
 - However, it doesn't stop there. We don't just substitute dread for reverence. There is still an element of dread within the fear of the Lord. As a follower of Christ, I'm not afraid of God; I'm afraid of displeasing God. I Corinthians 9:27
- To fear the Lord is to respect and admire Him so much because He's so amazing and we're afraid to displease Him.

III. God Expects us to Fear Him

- Proverbs 3:7, 23:17; I Peter 2:17; Revelation 14:7; II Corinthians 5:11
- In Proverbs 3:7, there are three commands. 1. Don't be wise in your own eyes. Don't be delusional. Don't have mere Didactic Wisdom. 2. Fear the Lord, and 3. Turn away from evil. What's interesting is that you can't do one of those without the others. If you're wise in your own eyes, you're not doing the other two. If you're biblically turning away from evil, that is a result of fearing the Lord and not leaning on your own understanding.
- From the first book of the Bible ever written to the book that details the beginning of eternity, God commands everyone everywhere to fear Him.
- Is that the single most important desire you have for your kids?
- The very core of biblical parenting is a parent who follows Christ and does his very best to convince his children to genuinely follow Christ too.
- The problem is that we too often take all of our talk time with our kids discussing sports and grades and chores and friends and entertainment, but we rarely discuss how the fear of the Lord must not only be the most important aspect of all of that, it must be the very root of all of it.
- If we're not persuading our kids, the real issue is that we don't really know the fear of the Lord ourselves.

IV. There are Consequences for Not Fearing the Lord

- Romans 3:10-18; 1:18-32
- These passages show the results of people who know and understand certain divine truths, but they don't wisely live in the reality of them because they have chosen not to fear the Lord.
- And the consequences are so sad.

V. The Blessings of Fearing the Lord

- Proverbs 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16, 16:6, 18:23, 22:4, 31:30; Acts 9:31
- We will never experience any lasting, genuine, and worthwhile spiritual success in this life if we do not fear God.
- The Fear of the Lord Helps Us Learn Better
 - Proverbs 1:7, 29
 - When our kids start with the fear of the Lord, they will approach learning very differently. This is why so many kids who don't fear the Lord hate learning. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- **The Fear of the Lord Helps Us Understand Better**
 - Proverbs 9:10, 11:10
- **The Fear of the Lord Helps Us Live Better**
 - Proverbs 9:10, 15:33
 - Our kids may have Didactic Wisdom without fearing God. They may put a man on mars or transplant a heart, but they will lose their souls if they don't fear God. They need Divine Wisdom, and that only comes from the fear of the Lord.

VI. The Fear the Lord Requires Work

- Proverbs 2:2-5
- We need to teach our kids how to search for the knowledge and understanding, that will result in the wise application of the fear of the Lord.
- **To fear the Lord we must turn away from evil.**
 - Proverbs 3:7, 8:13, 24:21, 23:17
 - The fear of the Lord is not only going to cause me to turn away from the evil outside of me, it will cause me to turn away from the evil inside of me.
 - But not only are we to turn away from evil in the form of behavior, we must also turn away from the people who are evil.
- **To fear the Lord we must turn to righteousness.**
 - Proverbs 14:2; II Corinthians 7:1; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - Turning from sin to the Savior, turning from evil to righteousness, is known as repentance.
 - The grand and glorious end of what it is to fear God is perfecting holiness.
- If we're fearing God, we'll be growing in our holiness. If we're not growing in holiness, we're not fearing God.
- Whether our kids are living righteously or wickedly, even if it's hidden from your eyes, God is going to judge it. And there's not a single person who has or will ever live who can escape this reality. Therefore, we must fear God and keep His commandments. Those are completely indivisible realities. If we fear God, we will keep His commandments. If we're not keeping His commandments, we're not fearing God. In the same way, a person who fears the Lord will learn and understand and live accordingly. But a person who refuses to learn and understand and live accordingly absolutely is not fearing God.