

...Love your children

When we are told to love our children, we feel that is a redundant statement. Of course a mother will love her children. It's natural to her and she was so thrilled to learn she was with child.

But Titus chapter 2 says the younger woman needs to be taught how to love her children. The older woman can help her understand the long term value of loving the child.

But first I want to address a couple of earthly minded teachings that are not biblical and therefore have no place with the biblical mother.

Don't say things like my kids will not want for anything.

Really? You are going to enslave yourself and your income to the wants, desires and whims of a child? How would this glorify God? How would this be good for the child? Because we all know how well tamed greed is, right...it never goes beyond!

This sounds good in theory but what about when that infant becomes an unruly and lazy teenager who talks back and eats everything in the house? That slavery gets harder for you, I'm sure, and a coup might be in the near future, where you snap and go absolutely berserk and bag up all of your kids' stuff in large black trashbags and put them on lockdown for a month or two.

Also, we've heard it said that we are to show unconditional love and support for our children. I swear, unbelievers would have you thinking that they are perfect parents able to actually do these types of things but nothing could be farther from the truth nor more damaging for the child. To love and support unconditional means to let that folly bound inside of them stay there without being questioned and dealt with, it means to refrain from redirecting their silly antics and instead feed into their uncontrollable, fleshly urges to behave or shall I say misbehave as they please.

And if I hear gentle parenting one more time...this is nothing more than abdicating the throne of authority and instead, considering that child, with their natural tendencies, above all else, tailoring your speech and actions around their quote sensitive and innocent nature". I don't need to tell you how that will work out for everyone because we all know what it feels like to be drunk with power or to be on the receiving end of someone drunk with power. Misery, chaos and jealous blind hatred becomes manifest.

So I guess the first step would be to throw out the world's wisdom concerning parenting. Not that everything is absolutely wrong, there is wisdom all around us but this is about choosing the better way, God's way revealed in scripture. It may feel weird not hitching your wagon to the next parenting craze but I promise you'll feel better knowing you are doing work that will have an eternal impact.

It's not our job to tiptoe around our children and be afraid of damaging them, which is another fear hurled at us because therapy blames everything on a person's childhood. I am not diminishing the harsh reality of someone's personal experience and we aren't about to talk about this because all we do with our lives is talk about this.

We are talking about doing what God has called us to do and that is to love our children. We need to find out what He says and filter all other instructions and methods through that. Our best hope is to be in line with scripture concerning loving our children.