

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 5, 2022

## Mission Possible

Is it possible for a single parent to do all that parenting demands? Is it possible to ride a two-wheel bicycle with one wheel? Even though it is still a bicycle, could we ride it without difficulty?

I believe that the reason why single parenting is such a challenge is that God did not structure a child to be raised this way. *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over...over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"* (Genesis 1:26-28)

The first issue a single parent must recognize is that this is "Mission Impossible." The only way to ride a two-wheel bicycle with one wheel is to allow God to guide and direct the entire process. *"But he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."* (Luke 18:27) It is with more urgency that a single parent must seek God daily for direction and protection. We see this vividly when Hagar was lost, disserted, alone, feeling dejected, and having to watch her child die. God rescued her, and her son. He established them and allowed them to develop a great nation (Genesis 21:14-21; the mission was accomplished without a father) that rescued Joseph from the hands of the Midianite traders (Genesis 37:28) and delivered him to Egypt to fulfill God's plan (Genesis 15:12-15). Read how God planned on fathering her son. *"And God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is...'"* (Genesis 21:9-21; Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

If a single parent believes that their parenting is going well because their child is doing well at school and seems to be obedient at home (any parent for that matter), they will not totally fulfill their Biblical role until they respond as Hagar did. It is as a result of her dependency on protection, provision, and direction that God empowered her, to do all things, effectively and powerfully. Only God can powerfully add the wheel and ride the bike at the same time. His long-term development in the life of the child is when the mother or father allows God to rule how they live, lead the home, and take very seriously their involvement in church; for themselves and the child (the church is God's supportive structure to help nurture families to be strong). The child learns that God is their teacher, healer, encourager, and protector.

Be encouraged; God's got your back!



## UPCOMING Events



**Acts 2 Houston Worship Service Today**  
June 5th at 5:00 p.m. at  
**Bayou City Fellowship Church**  
Spring Branch Campus  
1400 Brittmoore Rd. Houston, TX 77043

**Stand Against Human Trafficking** with our own Pierre Cannings to **Worship as ONE CHURCH for ONE CAUSE** Register at [www.acts2houston.org/register](http://www.acts2houston.org/register)



**600 Club 3-Month Giving Campaign**  
Living Word Family, please give to the **600 Club Giving Campaign** over the next three months so we can replace everything lost in the recent fire, including the lawnmower tractor trailer which keeps our grounds in compliance with city codes. Also we will improve the parking lot at the Christian Outreach Center, which has been feeding over one hundred families 3-5 times a week throughout the pandemic. To give, use the envelopes and boxes around the church or **Give Online** by clicking on the Give Tab and choosing the **600 Club** dropdown in the menu. Thank you so much for your continued support!



**SPARK - FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER**  
JUNE 7th, 8th & 9th at 6:30 p.m. each  
**Night Dinner Served at 5:45 p.m.**  
Don't miss the 2022 Family Bible Encounter at Living Word! Bring the Entire Family for SPARK, a fun-filled week with activities, games, crafts, workshops, guest speakers, and more! Register on the **Event Page of our Website** or contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards for more information at [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org)  
Reignite The Spark for Christ! See You There!



**SINGLES MINISTRY PAINTING WITH CHRIS**  
June 10th @ 6:30 pm  
Who says painting has to be boring? It's time we change that! Come enjoy painting and fellowship with friends and the Singles Ministry. Register on the **Events Page of our Website** or contact **Alex Wolfe** for more information at [ajwolfe83@hotmail.com](mailto:ajwolfe83@hotmail.com)



**KINGDOM BUILDER'S MEN'S MINISTRY**  
**MOVIE DAY—SHOW ME THE FATHER**  
Join us for a Watch Party Sat. June 18th from 12- 3 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary. Come and get a fresh perspective on the roles fathers play in today's society. Get new perspectives on your earthly father and above all learn how to better relate to God, your heavenly father. For more information visit the **Events Page of our Website** or contact **James Thompson** at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.com)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

"Shapers"

Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

**Infants—6th grade**

**LEGACY**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY  
e 2:30 PM

## Shapers

Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4

### A. Nurture vs. Nature (Proverbs 22:6):

1. The word to train means to set the child on a narrow path so that they become dedicated to it. To dedicate means that the child is set aside, based on the guidance of the parents to achieve what is to be accomplished as directed by the Word of God and the wisdom God provides to the parents.
2. Train also means that there is a divine service that the Lord has dedicated the child for, based on the ability God gave them, and their future to build a family, as well as their spiritual gift when they accept Christ as their Savior. The parent seeks to influence the child by lovingly guiding them to experience God's purpose.
3. Child is referring to a young person who is like a servant. In other words, the child must remain in a mode of compliance, like a servant under the parents' leadership, ready and willing to accomplish various responsibilities in the home.
4. Notice Solomon said, "the way". He did not say "ways". It is stated as "the way" because it is directed by God's Word and wisdom, which means the best way to nurture a child is to love them, to create a spiritual environment in the home so that the child at a young age accepts Christ as their Savior.
5. "The way" should shape the character and disposition of the child so that the inside change in the child's life becomes an outward manifestation that exposes the direction the child will take.
6. This child who is in "the way", vividly displayed by the way they act will be so influenced by the Holy Spirit that it is impossible for them to turn away and take a path that is contrary to the very nature of who they are.
7. "The way" becomes such a lifestyle and so much a part of who the child is on the inside that it becomes everything the child wants to do and become, that the child does not even have a desire for another course of life.

### B. Call to Duty (Ephesians 6:4):

1. The word father has to do with the author and beginner. God, by the word meaning, has structured everything to begin here.
2. Paul orders us to not continuously (to the point it becomes a habit) overprotect, show favoritism, purposefully neglect our children, say words that stimulate bitterness to them or become physically abusive when raising our children.
  - a) There are several things that can cause a child to become embittered:
    - **By overprotection** – The overprotective attitude has the tendency of depriving the children of confidence and of instilling in them an angry mood, especially when they compare themselves with other children who are not receiving this special treatment.
    - **By favoritism** – Isaac favored Esau above Jacob. Rebekah preferred Jacob (Gen. 25:28). The sad results of such partiality are well known.
    - **By discouragement** – The child says he wants to be a doctor and the father says there is no way you will ever make that.
    - **By neglect** – Absalom (2 Sam. 14:13-28).
    - **By bitter words and outright physical cruelty** – Here is a father who loves to throw his weight around and to make use of his superior strength.
3. There needs to be a tenderness provided to a child while they are being raised. If you want to win a child's mind, nurture their hearts.
4. Discipline is teaching the child for the purpose of stimulating spiritual growth in them. Therefore, all of this is done in the Lord (in the sphere of all that God desires to achieve in and through the child's life). Each child is a gift from Him; Ps. 127:3. What we do with them determines if they are a gift back to God; 2 Tim. 1:5-6).
5. Discipline also involves correction. Correction takes place when the child willfully and persistently violates the rules that are in place.
6. The purpose of instruction is for training the child to understand what they are dealing with so that they learn to make wise decisions. Also, to ultimately change their will to the Lord's will.
7. Also, the purpose of instruction is to influence the child so that their disposition is shaped by Christ to do what is right. This allows correction to be more objective than emotional.
8. The direct objective for which everything is done is for the Lord because He is the One with the ultimate authority and power. The parent is, therefore, ultimately accountable to God forever (Matthew 18:5-6; 10 – millstone around your neck).



Worship with US TODAY  
JUNE 5, 2022  
5:00 P.M.

BAYOU CITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
SPRING BRANCH  
1400 BRITTMOORE RD.  
HOUSTON, TX 77043

Acts 2 HOUSTON

That is who You are

REGISTER

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3UTIEUM](https://bit.ly/3UTIEUM)



FAMILY ENCOUNTER  
JUNE 7TH-9TH 6:30 P.M.

CREATED IN CHRIST • DESIGNED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

SPARK STUDIOS

EPHESIANS 2:10

DINNER SERVED AT 5:45 P.M.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

GUEST SPEAKERS: DR. NICOLAS ELLEN & DR. VENESSA ELLEN

REGISTER AT [WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Curtis Wiley & family, Christopher Chapman & family, and Jenny Dangerfield & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, the Tillis family, Rudy Mazin, Janice Collins, Noah Cain, Betty Goode, Willie Phillips, and Charlie Williams.



PROVERBS 22:6  
EPHESIANS 6:4