

Lessons from the Battlefield

Father's Day 2022

June 19, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. We live in unprecedented (unheard of) days
- B. We have gone from “me too” to “pregnant people”
- C. We are killing ourselves off. We are the enemy!
- D. Just a few statements from the B.L.M. website:
 - 1. On the family unit: “We disrupt the western prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and villages that collectively care for one another.”
 - 2. On sexuality: “We are self-reflective and do the work required to dismantle cisgender (*gender which corresponds to God given anatomy*) privilege and uplift black trans folk, especially black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans antagonistic violence.” “We foster a queer affirming network.”

II. Lessons from the Battlefield

- A. Be Consistent
 - 1. “*Father, do not exasperate* (frustrate, provoke, irritate, incite, stimulate) *your children, so they will not lose heart.*” – Colossians 3:21
 - 2. Be consistent in what you praise and what you disapprove of. This tells your child what you value. This is called “uncompromising responsiveness.”
 - 3. Carefully, consistently administer discipline. The one and only goal of discipline is to change behavior.
 - 4. You do not want your child to “lose heart.” – Hebrews 12:5, 6
- B. Be a good provider (I Timothy 5:8) and protector (Nehemiah 4:14)
 - 1. Most men do a good job at this
 - 2. Don’t brag about this; it’s your job by design
 - 3. Protection goes far beyond the physical
- C. Cross them, rebuke them when necessary
 - 1. Eli wanted to be their friend not father. – I Samuel 2:22-25; 3:13

- 2. Proverbs 19:18; 23:13, 14
- 3. God does and knows how to say no.
- D. Kids see better than they hear
 - 1. “Don’t do as I do, do as I say” doesn’t cut it.
 - 2. James 1:22
 - 3. Model the truth – Daniel 6:4; I Timothy 3:2
 - 4. Truth is best taught in the context of a relationship
 - 5. Most truths are caught not taught
- E. Love their mother and your wife
 - 1. Ephesians 5:25
 - 2. This will bring them great joy and security
- F. Forgive them
 - 1. Ephesians 4:31, 32
 - 2. Luke 15:11-24
- G. Invest emotionally in them
 - 1. This is called “unconditional involvement”
 - 2. You open your heart to them. You give them the ability to bring you great joy and pain.
- H. Seven “A’s” to reach your children ~ Josh McDowell
 - 1. Affirmation
 - 2. Acceptance, unconditional
 - 3. Appreciation
 - 4. Availability
 - 5. Affection
 - 6. Approach their world
 - 7. Accountability
- I. A sad conclusion: you cannot make your children love the Lord
 - 1. No one is more responsible for their behavior than them – Romans 14:1-12
 - 2. Remember:
 - a. There are no guarantees
 - b. It’s never too late to apply these teachings
 - c. Some children are born hard to raise. Don’t give up! – Proverbs 22:6