

**RECLAIMING AND PRESERVING
GOD'S HERITAGE IN OUR
OFFSPRING**

REMEMBER THE THREATS AND DANGERS THE NEXT GENERATION FACE

- **SECULAR HUMANISM AND ITS ASSAULT ON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM & MORALITY**
- **THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT AND ITS PERVASSIVE IMPACT**
- **THE INVASION OF THE MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY**
- **THE INFLUENCE OF THE PEER-CULTURE**

WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONS AND DEFENCE LINES TO SECURE THE NEXT GENERATION AGAINST THESE FORCES?

**“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when
he is old he will not depart from it”.**

[Proverbs 22:6 - NASB]

To make your brand successful, you have to make sure it's
ingrained in children by the time they are eight years old. Any
brand that you want to sell to adults 15 years from now must be
instilled in children growing up right now. The bottom line:
**BRANDING A PRODUCT IN THE MIND OF A CHILD EQUALS
GAINING A CONSUMER FOR LIFE**”.

[Fortune 500 Marketers Conference]

WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY?

- **FAMILY/PARENT?**
- **CHURCH, PASTOR, SUNDEY SCHOOL
TEACHER?**
- **SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS,
TEACHERS?**
- **THE PEER-GROUP**

GOD'S MANDATE IN THIS REGARD

- **GENESIS 18:17-19**
- **JOSHUA 24:15**

TRANS-GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP MANDATE:

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-12; 20-25; 29:29

PSALMS 78:1-7

ACTS 2:39

II TIMOTHY 1:5,13-14; 2:2

NO ABDICATION, NO OUTSOURCING

- Parents should NOT abdicate or outsource their children's spiritual formation
- Parents are the chief source of spiritual development for their children
- If parents want their children to have a vibrant faith, they must accept full responsibility for discipling their children

WHEN AND WHERE IT BEGINS AND WHEN AND WHERE IT WILL END*

“Habits related to the practice of one’s faith develop when one is young and change surprisingly little over time” and “the older a child gets, the more distracted and vulnerable he or she becomes to non-family influencesyoung people make their choices early and become set in their ways once their worldview is established. (E.g. The Recabites – Jeremiah 35:1-11, 18-19)

Not only do we need to reach children and youth with the Gospel at the right age, but we also need to ensure there are avenues available to them for discipleship.

[*Rob Hoskins serves as the President of OneHope and Chairman of the Board at Oral Roberts University (ORU).]

THE FAMILY – THE FOUNDATION AND THE LAST LINE OF DEFENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Three main influencers in growing a child's faith are **Family, Faith community (church) and the Bible (religious texts)**.

**BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ENTITY IN A CHILD'S LIFE IS A
PARENT.**

The Church (a Faith Community) has about **forty (40) hours** on Sunday mornings in a given year to directly influence a child.

But **A Parent** — biological or spiritual — averages closer to **3,000 hours in the same year.**

We must be sure to resource and equip ourselves as adults to be able to spiritually disciple the children in our care.

PARENTS AS THE MOST IMPACTFUL DISCIPLESHIP MODEL FOR THEIR CHILD

- **The child (up to ages 8 - 9) admires, even worships parents for the capability of what they can do and the power of approval that they possess. The child wants to relate on parental terms, enjoy parental companionship, and imitates the parents wherever possible**
- **The child tends to idealize the parents, the adolescent tends to criticize the parents, and the young adult tends to rationalize the parenting received.**

PARENTS AS THE MOST IMPACTFUL DISCIPLESHIP MODEL FOR THEIR CHILDREN

- Children observe their parents more closely, appraise their parents more carefully, and know their parents better than parents do the child**
- A child identifies with parents because they provide the primary models to follow after and to live up to.**

DOMAINS OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE THAT IMPACT CHILDREN POSITIVELY

- **Our Example**: The most overlooked area of influence we have with others, especially our children, is the example we set. by developing a healthy lifestyle (spiritual, emotional, and physical) a parent can be a positive model for children. Modeling faith is more vital the older your children get. Then they know you are living out a true faith instead of putting on a show for them.

DOMAINS OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE THAT IMPACT CHILDREN POSITIVELY

- **Our Story**: No one can deny you your story. We all have experiences in life in which decisions were made, outcomes were experienced, and lessons were learned. Our stories are some of the most influential tools we have. This is how a parent of teenage or adult children should tell our stories—tell the facts, tell our choices, tell the outcome, and empower our children to make their own conclusions. [Exodus 12: 24-27, Psalms 78:1-7]

DOMAINS OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE THAT IMPACT CHILDREN POSITIVELY*

Our Encouragement: No matter the age of a child, they never grow weary of hearing these words from their parent:

“” . I love you. You are capable. You can do this. I believe in you. I’m here for you

Parents are far too concerned with communicating their opinion with their children and not nearly concerned enough with communicating their love and encouragement to their children. Our focus should always be on the latter. (*Kevin A. Thompson]

THE GREATEST NEED OF THE NEXT GENERATION*

The trifecta of influences (*Family, Church, and the Bible*) is **WHAT THE NEXT GENERATION NEEDS AND CRAVES IN ORDER TO GROW UP SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT AND PREPARED FOR THE STORMS LIFE HOLDS FOR THEM. Let's invest the thought, intention, and resources needed into discipling our children so they can grow and flourish in their faith.**

***Rob Hoskins** serves as the President of **OneHope** and Chairman of the Board at Oral Roberts University (ORU). A second-generation missionary, he is passionate about sharing God's word. **SOURCE:** GACX LIBRARY, AUGUST 2016