



Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 8
August 16, 2015

Pastor Phelps
I Tim. 3:14-15

COMMITMENT #8 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

The American family faces an ever-growing crisis. It has been divided by divorce, multiplied by remarriage, and subtracted by _____. Bill Bennett's Index of Leading Cultural Indicators notes:

- Divorce is up _____ % over the past 40 years.
- Over _____ % of America's children are growing up in single-parent homes.
- Nearly _____ million cases of child abuse are reported annually.
- Suicide is the ____ leading cause of death among American teens.

Americans live in a land filled with working moms, single parents, gay marriage, domestic abuse, and parental neglect. 21st Century Christians find themselves crying out, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Ps. 11:3) Churches must be involved in rebuilding the foundations!

The third paragraph of the Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church says, "We . . . engage to maintain family and private devotions; (and) to train our children in the fear and the admonition of the Lord." Colonial Hills Baptist Church is to be a church where Christian education is taken seriously.

In his book, *Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship*, Jerry Marcillino says, "When the home gets right, the result is that the church comes alive!" Families of faith are foundational to the church. So, let's take time to consider what it means for us to "Train our children in the fear and the admonition of the Lord."

The Bible teaches us that there are 2 irreplaceable ingredients in the process of "Christian Education."

A GODLY HOME

In order to provide foundational stability in His newly created society, God blessed humanity with the gift of the family (Gen. 2:18f). A Godly family begins with a vow (Mal. 2:14) and is built upon a commitment to, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt. 6:33).

GUARD YOUR _____ (II Tim. 3:14-15). "Children learn something every day – from other children, from teachers, from the mass media.

Christian parents must ask themselves "What did _____ teach our children today?" (Matt Lowery, *The Baptist Bulletin*, Oct. 2004). Will God be able to say of you what He said of Abraham (Gen. 18:19)?

GUARD THEIR _____ (Eph. 6:4). There are many ways that parents can "provoke their children to wrath." Consider these:

1. A lack of matrimonial _____ (Gen. 2:24; Heb. 12:15).
2. Modeling a spirit of _____ (Prov. 22:24-25).
3. _____ (Phil. 4:9; Prov. 23:26).
4. Never admitting when they are _____ (Matt. 18:15).
5. Constantly finding _____ (Prov. 19:11).
6. Unfavorably or favorably _____ (II Cor. 10:12).
7. Not _____ (James 1:19).
8. Never _____ (I Cor. 4:1-5; Prov. 25:11).
9. Unkept _____ (Ps. 15:4; Prov. 13:12).

The two irreducible necessities in the Godly home are _____ (I Cor. 13:8) and _____ (Mk. 2:14). Disciples learn from what they see far more than from what they hear!

A GOD-HONORING CHURCH

The New Testament Church is not an "optional" element in the life of the Christian (Heb. 10:25; I Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18). A God-honoring church is an essential ingredient in the religious education of children.

THE _____ OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Eph. 6:4). The Bible places the primary responsibility for the religious education of children on the _____ and allows others to assist. Along with the home, the church is given a divine mandate to be involved in the edification of the body (Eph. 4:11-12).

1. This participation may begin in the _____ (Neh. 8:1-2; Ruth 4:13-16; Matt. 1:19-25).
2. This participation may continue in the _____ of faith (I Sam. 1:24-28; Luke 2:41-46).

THE _____ OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Luke 2:52). Though "religious education" may be included in an _____ education, it should not be replaced by it! Because the Bible does not mandate _____ education, it does not set forth any required model for its undertaking.

True "Christian Education," will always require a Christian _____ and a Christian student because without the presence of the Holy Spirit there can be no "Christian Education" (I Cor. 2:14).