



PARENTS' CORNER

inspiration for parents of elementary-age children

"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."

Revelation 2:2-5 ESV



Introduction

Are you a parent who is tired from trying to protect and provide for your child in a perilous world? If so, today's message from Revelations 2 may be hard for you to hear. You may be asking, "How can I possibly love God more, on top of all that I need to do for my child(ren)?" Thankfully, making Him our greatest priority help us to reshape our other priorities so that they can all fit into the life He calls us to live. But first, we must believe that our greatest love is God, not our child(ren). And God is the ultimate director of our child(ren)'s life, not us.

Questions

Here are three questions you can ask yourself or discuss with your spouse to assess your priorities:

1. How am I spending my time? How much of my time is spent on researching, planning, caring for, or organizing things for my child? Am I a helicopter parent, seeking to control too much of my child's life, or a tiger mom, trying to ensure that my child will have all the tools needed to achieve some degree of success?
2. What am I doing it for? In all that I am doing for my child(ren), am I doing out of fear or faith? Is it in response to societal or familial pressures or expectations, or due to convictions, inspired by time spent in God's word and in prayer?
3. What am I praying for? When my child suffers, do I ask God to grow my child's faith through the process, or am I mostly petitioning for God to bring my child out of the suffering? Do I only pray for protection for my child, or do I also pray that he or she will take up his or her cross and be willing to suffer for the sake of righteousness?

Activities

Try these three activities this week:

1. **Observe:** Talk to your child's summer camp instructor, Sunday school teacher, or other adult caretaker to ask how your child is doing. Or, spend time observing how your child interacts with another child. Consider how God is working in your child's life.
2. **Pray:** Give thanks to God for how God is working in your child's life. Ask God for wisdom to know how to affirm and encourage His work in your child's life.
3. **Speak truth in love:** Identify behavior in your child's life that is a source of friction between the two of you. Address it by speaking truth in love. If possible, share testimonies to help your child see that the same God who has helped mommy or daddy to wrestle with bad habits or behaviors can help them as well.