**Loving Our Children**

*“…And to love their children*, not with a natural affection only, but a **spiritual,** a love springing from a **holy sanctified heart** and **regulated** by the Word…” (Matthew Henry comments on Titus 2:4-5)

**Definition of Love:**

**"Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children"**

**(Psalm 90:16).**

**"Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, and our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace"**

**(Psalms 144:12).**

1. “… that intimate and reciprocal relationship formed …by the bonds of love, friendship, trust, just as between parents and children.
2. in the NT, pupils or disciples are called *children* of their teachers, because the latter by their

 instruction **nourish the minds of their pupils and mould their characters.”** ( Strong’s)

**How to Love Our Children**

* **Believe in the Word of God** ( i.e.: in his promises) Prov.12:28; Prov.18:10; Rom 10:8-10; Rom. 15:13**, 2 Cor. 9:8 )**
* **Pray** (Prov. 15:8; 1 Peter 4:7; James 5:13)
* **Exercise Diligence/Steadfastness-Remain Fixed/Established** (Col.1:23,2:5-7; Ps. 90:12; **Ps.112:7-8**; Ps.56:3
* **Acquire Confidence** (Prov.3:5; 22:19; **Rom 8:37-39,** Eph.3:12; Phil. 4:6; Ps:94 :17-19;

 **1 Jn.4:17-18)**

* **Rely on “sweet” counsel** ( Prov.12:25; Prov. 13:20; Prov. 24:6; Prov.27:9; **Ps.55:14;** Prov. 19:20)
* **Stand and hear wisdom** (Prov. 10:8; Prov. 10:8; Prov.16;20-21; Prov. 15:14; Prov. 23:12; Prov.27:12)
* **Trust, Rest and Fret Not** (Ps. 16:8-9; **Ps.37:1-8**; Ps:27:14 **; 2 Peter 5:7; Phil. 4:6)**

**Application:**

1. Think beyond their physical needs and identify their spiritual needs.
2. Set individual spiritual goals , focus and work daily on those goals (e.g. prayer, submission, obedience ,thanksgiving, joy, selflessness)
3. Encourage your husband’s spiritual leadership and think about the special gifts **you** can bring to augment that leadership
4. Know with confidence what a **great, good** work God has given you to do.

**Do not despise the day of small beginnings *(Zechariah 4:10).***

***To declare Your loving kindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night, (Ps. 92:2) NKV***

***May the favorof the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands (Ps. 90:17) NIV***

***Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established (Proverbs 24:3)NKJ***

***Through God we will do valiantly,… (Ps.108:13)NKJ***