



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme | Jubilee – Year of Forgiveness
 Topic | Nurturing Mothers: Becoming Nurturing People
 Speaker | Ps Chua Seng Lee
 Date | 9th and 10th May 2015

Message Summary

Developing a nurturing nature to be effective spiritual/biological parents

Sermon key text: 2 Tim 3:13-17

The background to this message is Mother’s Day and this sermon expounds on what we can learn from the nurturing nature of mothers. Nurturing is not just for biological mothers. God has called all of us to be spiritual parents and disciple makers; both men and women need to know how to nurture physical/spiritual children. Being a parent today is not easy as we confront the deterioration of moral values but 3 aspects of nurturing is laid out for us in Paul’s relationship with and instructions to Timothy.

How should we nurture our children?

1. An Authenticity of Faith

V14: “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it”

Godly influence is passed down through generations. Timothy’s grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice both had a sincere faith. Timothy learned from their faith and it was a real, living faith (2 Tim 1:5). Sincere faith starts with us. Through authenticity and consistency, there is a significant spiritual impact on our children, both physical and spiritual. We need to live our faith in various ways – read the bible, grow in prayer, and serve others.

Children have different needs and require different approaches at various times of their lives. Parents should be sensitive to these age-related stages:

Age	Need	Approaches
0 - 9 yrs	Watch and learn	Show and tell
10 - 14 yrs	Reason	Show and explain
15 - 18 yrs	Purpose	Live and guide
> 19 yrs	Authenticity	Vulnerability and passion

2. An Affection for Scripture (v15)

V15: “And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

It was Jewish custom that Scripture was taught as a lifestyle. Life and the knowledge of the Word of God were intertwined. This was how Timothy learnt Scripture. Indeed, even today, the best way for parents to teach the Bible is to teach it and live it out within the family. The word of God must be taught as part of family routine, to help children cultivate a love of His word.

Also, there are instances when parents “do the right thing” and their children still fall away from God. The problem lies with the child being unable to see God clearly. John Piper suggests some handles for parents to love their child – this applies to both physical and spiritual children.

12 Ways to Love Your Wayward Child



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1. Point them to Christ
2. Pray
3. Acknowledge something is wrong
4. Don't expect them to be Christ-like
5. Welcome them home
6. Plead with them more than you rebuke
7. Connect them to believers who have better access to them
8. Respect their friends
9. Email them
10. Take them to lunch
11. Take an interest in their pursuits
12. Point them to Christ

3. An Aspiration to Serve

V17: "So that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

We are saved in order to serve. We serve as an expression of our worship to God. Learning the word of God is not an end in itself. Rather, we learn so that we can become effective priests and kings, serving God in His Kingdom.

One way to serve is through prayer because God uses the prayers of His people to accomplish His purposes. A clear example is how Susanna Wesley's prayers and godly nurturing of her children resulted in the Methodist movement through John and Charles Wesley.

Conclusion

As spiritual and/or biological parents, we need to know how to nurture our children. We nurture them through an authentic faith, living out the Word of God daily and serving through prayer. Parenthood is a long and hard journey, and we need our family of faith to help us along.

Questions

1) Share about someone who has nurtured you. What did you learn from that person and his/her life? (Spiritual parents included)

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) What are the challenges of nurturing a spiritual/ biological child?



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(Fill In Answer Here)

3) In what ways can you further develop your nurturing nature? Share something that you will work on which the cell can keep you accountable for.

(Fill In Answer Here)