

## Raising Children God's Way

### Introduction

- Raising your covenant children for God;
- Raising them goes through different phases;
- Raising them today may be different from the time we grew up;
- Raising them through every stage of opportunity;
- Raising them includes the important aspect of modelling to them.

### Goals and Objectives

- We help them see the purpose and meaning of their life in relationship with God;
- We show them by projecting, modelling, and sharing our relationship with God;
- We shepherd our child's heart by showing them the way, the wisdom of a Christian lifestyle and how to internalize this;
- We realize that a child's misbehaviour and rebellion is a relational problem;
- We treat them as Father's children for a life of service, in Christ, with a heart for God;
- We need to articulate the riches of their place and promises in the covenant.

### Challenges and Difficulties

- As parents we seek to build a relationship with them;
- Loyalty to peers can bring a child into direct conflict with parents;
- Identifying the reasons for difficult behaviour is a challenge;
- Sharing with them a Christian lifestyle requires authenticity, balance in discipline, and time for conversation and communication;
- Parents' love, wisdom, understanding, patience, and endurance are *unconditional*, regardless of their behaviour;
- Parents need to walk alongside their children in this age of opportunity, technology, and responsibility, and show that life is *one*.

### Errors and Causes for Rebellion

- Beware of negative and low expectations;
- Beware of interpreting every behaviour problem as rebellion;
- As sinners, they need to be helped and protected against themselves;
- Beware of expecting them to go through the motions as we are;
- Beware of raising your children in a "cocoon;"
- Instilling in them a true sense of holiness, royalty, purity, is a life-long challenge;
- Our children need to learn discretion, discernment, responsible choices through our training, preparations, and communications;
- Parents should not take matters personal too quickly, or deal with them in a simplistic fashion or for selfish purposes and pursuits.

### Conclusions