

HOW TO TAKE THE CRAZY OUT OF MY CRAZY KIDS

Parents rejoice when their children turn out well; wise children become proud parents. **Proverbs 23:24 (MSG)**

The principle of return - I will reap what I sow.

Keys to taking the crazy out of our crazy kids...

1. Understand the destination.

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild... **Pr. 29:18 (NLT)** Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. **Ps. 127:3 (NLT)** God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does He want from marriage? **CHILDREN OF GOD**, that's what... **Malachi 2:15 (MSG)**

Five characteristics of a Child of God:

- They know the one true <u>God</u> and His reason for life. Colossians 1:16-17, Matthew 7:24-25
- They know, and are secure in, their true identity. Ephesians 1:4-5, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:4-6
- They are people of great <u>character</u>. They reflect their Creator. Romans 12:1, Matthew 7:20, Proverbs 17:9
- They understand and perform the <u>skills</u> of life. (Competency of life) Proverbs 22:6

• They know their <u>ultimate purpose</u>. They live for something greater than themselves. Colossians 1:16

To use my life to love God and bring Him Glory. Matt. 22:37

Jesus said..."'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)

To use my life for the world's good and for His Glory. Eph. 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the **good things He planned** for us long ago. **Ephesians 2:10** (NLT)

To use my life to <u>help people</u> find their way to God and His family. Matthew 22:38-39

Jesus said... "a second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:38-39 (NLT)

2. Lead the way.

Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6 (CEB)**

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and He will establish your plans. **Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)**

Three roles I must fill:

We are to <u>TEACH</u> them the truth. (Years 0 - 7)

We are to TRAIN them on how to PERFORM it. (Years 8 – 18)

We are to <u>COACH</u> them as they live it out (Years 18 – up)

If My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLV)**

Going deeper on my own. Get a piece of paper. Outline your hand like you used to do when you were in elementary school. In the palm write "Child of God". Above each finger write each one of the 5 characteristics of a child of God. Place your name below the handprint. Now ask "What area of my life do I need to grow in?" Do it again and place the name of your child (or a child you have influence over) below. Then ask, "What am I doing to help this child become a child of God?" Write down below their name the role you are in, a teacher, a trainer or a coach. Place it somewhere that you can readily see it and be constantly reminded of the privileged place you are in. Write me at *Jay@centerpointchurch.com* and tell me your story.