

From the Pastor's Desk - November

2011

Children learn by example. They pick up on what their parents do and what they fail to do. They notice their parent's actions, and as they grow, they learn to order their actions accordingly. This is something that we should all keep in mind. All parents want their children to grow up to be respectable people. That's why at a young age we set out to strengthen and develop their character. We teach them to be respectful and polite to others. We tell them to say "please" when they want something and "thank you" when they receive it.

We also strive to instill within them the same values that we hold. As Christian parents, this should involve instructing them on manners of faith in Jesus Christ. Teaching them our need for Jesus, why we worship him, the importance of reading the Bible, the necessity of prayer, and how to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Children will pick things up at different speeds and different levels. They won't always do things perfectly. However, think of the feeling that arises within us when our children actually do the things that we are trying to teach them, especially when they are done without prompting. It's wonderful to hear them say, "Thank you, Mom" all on their own. It's touching to watch them fold their hands to pray and even lead in prayer. We are filled with joy when these things become a part of their life without continual prompting.

That's the same joy that God feels when His children serve and worship Him without prompting. When our life of faith becomes so natural that it's just a part of who we are. God is overjoyed when we worship, serve, and obey Him not out of duty, but out of love. He wants us to behave this way spontaneously. Let's remember that this month, as we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's a time to thank and praise God, not because we have to, but because we want to.

Let's not do this in private. Let's do it in such a way that our children will see. Let's do it in such a way that all those around us will take notice. The truth is that all people learn by example. What a joy it would be for God if through our spontaneous actions of Thanksgiving others would be drawn to do the same.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott