

# Covenant Consciousness Raising II

I am indebted to Robert Rayburn for most of the below.

- I. Children are included by God in the Covenant of Grace
  - a. God promises to be the God of believers and their children. That promise is the Gospel.
  - b. *To Be Our God* is the Bible's way to comprehend the whole of salvation in the fewest words. It is covenantal shorthand.

It includes:

- i. *His righteousness – Psalm 103:17*
- ii. *His Holy Spirit – Isaiah 59:21*
- iii. *His forgiveness – Acts 2:38-39*
- iv. *His salvation – Acts 16:31*

All of the above are promised to children as well as to believers. God is a God to us and to our children. "I will be your God and you will be my people" is the core, central promise of the covenant that God makes with us.

- II. It is God's will and declared purpose that His saving grace runs in the line of families.

Gen 17:7-9, Exodus 20:6, Deut 4:37 & 40, Psalm 100:5, 102:28, 103:17-18, Isaiah 44:3, 54:13, 59:21, 65:23, Jer 32:38-39, 35:19, 37:25, Zech 10:6-7, Acts 2:38-39, 16:14-15 & 31

- III. The Biblical model is for covenant children to grow up in faith from infancy.

The Bible presents no expectation that children will grow up, undergo adolescent unbelief and rebellion, and then have a conversion experience.

Indeed there is only ONE example of this in the whole Bible, Saul in Acts 9!

Rather, what is normal is faith stretching back to infancy (or even to the womb!)

Psalm 22:9-10, 71:5-6, 1 Kings 18:12, Luke 1:15, 2 Tim 3:15 - Hence the importance of parental nurture.

- IV. The children of believers are members of the Church.

They are present at covenant renewals – Deut 29:9 & 15, Joel 2:16

They are addressed as members of the Church – Eph 1:1 see Eph 6:1 & 3

They are called holy – 1 Cor 7:14

The Kingdom of God belongs to them – Matt 18:13 & 15

God speaks of them as His children – Ezek 16:20-21, Mal 2:15 see Isaiah 29:23

V. Parents are charged by God to nurture their children in Christian faith & love.

Gen 18:19, Exod 10:1-2, 12:24-27, 13:8 & 14-16, 31:12-13, Deut 4:9, 6:4-9 Psalm 44:1, 78:1-8, Isaiah 38:19, 2 Tim 3:14-15 The entire book of Proverbs

The Christian home is to be a school for faith and life as well as a Temple where the acknowledgement and worship of God is to adorn and confirm it.

VI. Faithful nurture of covenant youth is the divine instrumentality of their awakening to spiritual life. It is the means God uses to bring His promise to fulfillment.

Gen 18:19, 22:16-18, 26:3-5, Deut 28:1-4

The faith and salvation of covenant children is (humanly speaking) dependent upon the faithfulness of the nurture given. I.E. God uses means and parents are ordinarily those means.

Ps 78:1-8, Gen 18:19, Deut 4:40, 5:29, Ps 102:28, 103:17-18, 112:1-2, Isaiah 59:20-21, Prov 2:1 – 7:27, 14:26, 19:18, 22:6 & 15, 23:14

We can see this in the negative also. I.E. unfaithful, unbelieving nurture and / or negligence result in condemnation.

Ex 20:5, Jer 2:9, 32:18, 36:31, Lam 2:11, Hosea 4:6, Luke 11:50 – See E.G.

Eli with Hophni & Phinehas in 1 Sam 2:17, 2:29, 3:13

David's adultery and its effects with Amnon & Tamar

David's being inattentive, ineffective, and incompetent as a parent and the effect on his children Absalom and Adonijah 1 Kings 1:6