

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE ECONOMY AND DISPENSING OF GOD

April 9-10, 2022

Message Four (Especially for parents and serving ones):

Loving One Another and Loving One Another's Children in the Church as God's Sanctuary for the Preparation of the Bride as Seen in I and II Samuel

- I. The precious principles that have been preserved for us, and now have been presented in the books of I and II Samuel for our timely encouragement and assistance, include guidance for parents and families.**
- II. Through the Lord's death on the cross and in His resurrection, we were all ushered into a relationship of intimacy in endearment, not only with Him, but also with one another— 1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 5:30; Rom. 12:5.**
- III. It is as we actively cultivate our love for Him that we sense this relationship of intimacy in endearment, firstly with Him, and consequently with one another— John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7, 21.**
- IV. Firstly, we love Him in our mutual affectionate engagement; then we love Him in the church life with His other lovers; this is to live and love in the church life as the sanctuary of God— Psa. 73:17a and footnote 17-1; Eph. 2:22; 1 Tim. 3:15a.**
 - A. The sanctuary of God refers firstly to our regenerated, mingled spirit, where He resides in intimate endearment.
 - B. It also refers to the church as His Body, where His lovers can develop and prosper in a life of reciprocal intimacy of endearment with Him and with one another.
 - C. To be in God's sanctuary involves not only our living in the church life, but also to our simultaneous intimate and affectionate fellowship with Him in our mingled spirit.
- V. In the enjoyment of such intimate endearment in the church as God's sanctuary we as parents are to find many new children, our children are to find many new parents, and we are to find many new co-parents who love our children— 1 Sam. 2:19; John 19:26-27; Matt. 19:29; *LS 1 Samuel: 13.*
“... Samuel was supported by his mother. In the Lord's recovery today, we also need support, and we thank the Lord for the many mothers in the church life...”**
- VI. Some principles in I and II Samuel that apply to our parenting urge that live in the sanctuary of God where we can love one another and one another's children.**

VII. Loving one another and one another's children as applied to the experience of Hannah:

- A. Just as God's detailed and wise sovereign arrangement in bringing forth Samuel was beyond our comprehension to meet His need at that time, so also we trust that He is similarly involved in the arrangement of our child's agetates and their parents for the meeting of His present need; this realization provides a solid foundation for our loving one another and loving one another's children.
- B. Just as through Hannah the Lord was able to bring forth an intergenerational fulfillment of the Nazarite vow for the meeting of His need at that time, so He certainly now desires to not only repeat and strengthen, but also broaden the same beautiful intergenerational vow fulfillment through our loving one another and loving one another's children— 1 Sam. 1:11.
“And she made a vow and said, O Jehovah of hosts, if You will indeed look upon the affliction of Your female servant and remember me and not forget Your female servant, but give to Your female servant a male child, then I will give him to Jehovah for all the days of his life, and no razor will come upon his head...”

VIII. Loving one another and one another's children as applied to the experience of Eli:

- A. The lamentable behavior of Eli's sons may imply that there was a serious discrepancy between his privileged service in God's sanctuary and his home and family life; we are spontaneously safeguarded from this kind of discrepancy as we love one another and one another's children.
- B. As we love one another and one another's children we will find opportunities for the prayer, wisdom, and support needed for the guidance of our children and needful limit-setting.
- C. In contrast to Eli, any lack of desperation on our part in adjusting our children's serious departures and failures may be remedied by our fellowship with our children's co-parents.

IX. Loving one another and one another's children as applied to the experience of Samuel:

- A. Samuel learned to pray, not only for his own children, but also for His co-parents and their— 1 Sam. 12:23.
- B. The failure of Samuel's sons to follow his excellent parental example highlights the principle that the outcome of our parenthood is ultimately a matter of God's mercy; we are responsible to do all that we can; yet the outcome is up to God.

- C. God's merciful intention toward us related to the course and outcome of our children may take the form of the co-parents in the church life.

X. Loving one another and one another's children as applied to the experience of Saul:

- A. Saul's children observed his example of living for himself and his personal interests, rather than treasuring his privileged opportunity to live for the divine interests, was certainly observed by his sons, all of whom followed him unto his tragic end.
- B. As we love one another and one another's children in the church life, we and our children are protected from the tragedy that befell Jonathan, that is, not continuing in our identification with and our love for the ministry of our age— 1 Sam. 18:1b; 20:41b-42a; 31:2.
- C. As we love our co-parents and our co-children we are protected from the tragedy that befell Michal, that is, of falling into formality, and lacking appreciation of, and even becoming critical of, others' subjective enjoyment of our Lord— 1 Sam. 18:20a, 27b; 19:11b; 2 Sam. 6:16.
- D. As we love one another and one another's children we may invite God's mercy as seen in Mephibosheth— 2 Sam. 9:11.

XI. Loving one another and one another's children as applied to the experience of David— 2 Sam. 11:1-2:

- A. In the church life, through our loving one another and one another's children we are protected from the serious liabilities involved in "being at ease"
- B. This protection comes forth spontaneously from our fighting alongside God's people for His interests.
- C. It is not possible to overemphasize the blessedness of such protection.

XII. As we progressively develop our love for the Lord and for one another in the sanctuary of God our children will thrive through the care of their many parents and along with them become age-turning participants in the preparation of the Bride for His soon return, thus contributing substantially to the fulfillment of the typology of 1 and 2 Samuel.