

DEDICATION DAY OF CHILDREN IN HOUSES OF LIGHT: BRAVE PARENTS

Houses of Light Church • March 27-28, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **We are presenting these children first before the Lord to dedicate them to Him because we understand that these children that God allowed them to be conceived and they were born, put them under us but they belong to Him and our goal is that God's purpose is fulfilled in them.**

Mal. 2:15 "Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring [consecrated to Him]. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth."

- B. **We are also presenting these children before the Church and as a community we receive them and embraced them.** Here are two sides that we must consider:

1. **On the one hand the family of the Church supporting, praying and loving these children providing the resources we have to be a generation for God, who know Him, love Him and serve Him.**
2. **By parents connecting their children with the Church,** which is to attend services; Friendship Groups and events for children in such a way that this link is established that allows us to impart what God has to support parent-raising. There are leaders who will be supporting parents during different stages, especially those that can be difficult as adolescence and youth.

Mat. 19:14 "Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.."

II. BRAVE PARENTS ARE NEEDED

- A. Our sons and daughters are so precious that they can steal our hearts and that is dangerous. Since they are babies they melts us with their tenderness and innocence; They are so helpless and beautiful that **our natural tendency is to fall in love with them but it is important to keep the sanity to really be the parents they need.**
- B. During the week I read an Angela Marulanda article, author of the book *Growing with our Children* and I want to share with the Church some points that she mentions. We all know that to be good parents, love, patience, equanimity, understanding, discipline, flexibility is needed. **But perhaps what we need most to form children to become mature Christian adults, is to be brave parents, who have the strength to do what best suits the children, as hard as it seems.**
- C. **The commitment to be parents places us daily in situations that require courage to not take the easy rout and deprive the children of the limits they need to not only know the principles that we inculcate them, but have the strength to put them into practice.**
- D. **For example, you need courage not to receive the little one in our bed when at midnight he/she beg us to let him/her sleep with us; so that when they call crying that we take the book that they forgot we don't do it. So as not to give them anything else than they need or deserve much that they beg that they**

want more; so as not to help them do the homework they did not fulfill on time even if they fail that Subject; In order not to allow them to participate in that ride or party where there will be no adult supervision even if it is "the only one who will not be able to go"; **Not to pay the fine by avoiding them that arrest when it is important that they learn that their mistakes have drastic consequences.**

- E. **What children need are not condescending parents who live dedicated to giving them everything. But brave parents, capable of reflecting and being strong to commit to doing what is necessary to train them as correct people by difficult or painful that can be. None of this speaks about being cruel but to follow the guidance of the Bible and the Holy Spirit rather than the ideas we have inherited or the culture of our time.**
- F. **Many of the problems of children are the result of confusing the being brave parents, with being complacent parents. The tolerant parents work very hard to offer everything to their children; But what our children need are brave parents who work hard on themselves to give them the best of themselves; The complacent parents are measured by how much they spend on their children, while brave parents are measured by what their family earns with their example; The tolerant parents do their best to solve all the problems to their children while brave parents let them face them, allowing them to learn from them.**
- G. **Soft parents try to avoid suffering from children, while brave parents seek to give them the tools to develop character. The condescending parents are measured by the economic benefits that their professional success offers to their family, while brave parents what they consider is what price they are paying in prayer and fasting for their children so that they are successful before God.**
- H. **But for what is needed more bravery is to not invent all kinds of justifications that allow us to tell the children "yes" when we know that we must tell them "No." so as not to believe our own lies and convince ourselves that we do everything we do for his sake, when we really do it for ours. It is urgent that the power we have as parents about our children do not use it to remedy the things in which we fail to prolong them on behalf of a miss-understood "goodness".**
Pr. 13:24 "Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them."
- I. **We must be courageous to conquer the fears of things that can happen to them and insecurity because of errors that as parents do not want to commit, because otherwise they will accumulate within us causing passivity and overprotection.**

III. HOW CAN WE BE THIS CLASS OF BRAVE PARENTS?

- A. **To love your children well, you must first love God with all your being.** It is the love that comes from God, to which we respond by putting Him in the first place, the one that allows us to do what is necessary for the good of our children and not what our feelings of guilt, fear or what our children demand.

1 Sam. 2:29 *"So why do you scorn my sacrifices and offerings? Why do you give your sons more honor [preference] than you give me..."*

- B. Our children are not luxury items that we exhibit on social networks; They are eternal beings that need to be loved, corrected and educated. As parents not only live to please them but to form them in such a way that they are that generation for God.

Pr. 29:15 y 17 *"To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined [spoiled] child... 17 Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad."*

- C. Something that God loved of Abraham and rewarded him for that was his commitment and determination to instruct his children in the Way of the Lord.

Gen. 18:19 *"[The Lord said about Abraham:] I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised."*

IV. BRAVE THIS WEEK

- A. We just want to encourage you that you are also brave this week to share your testimony and bring that guest that God has put in your heart. Pray for him or her and overcome the obstacles that may be interposed as shame or excessive occupation. This is our time to be brave for God.

2 Tim. 4:5 *"But you should keep a clear mind in every situation... Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you."*

Jos. 1:9 *"[The Lord told Joshua] This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to this teaching, what is the purpose of presenting our children to God and the Church?
2. In what aspects of your parenting, or of your life do you need to be more brave? What do you think it helps you to be braver?
3. Will you be brave this week to bring a guest to any of the services? Share your plan with the Friendship Group and pray for those people.