

4 Cs of Parenting In This Season

Christmas jingles are filling up the air, and its glitters shimmer on the high streets and from the windows in neighbourhoods. No need for a town crier to announce the season. The spirit of children rising with great anticipation for the festivities that awaits them at the end of the school term. Whilst many parents are like the launch pad of Apollo Rockets – Full of tension, tremor and tremendous heat under the weight of the burden of fear of the festive stampedes and bills.

“Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Rediscovering the 4 Cs of parenting in this season will enhance our ability to cast off the cloak of fear and embrace the full tidings of great joy from the Father of our Lord Jesus!

1. Choices

Be determined to make and stick to godly choices that truly celebrate God’s gift of His Son Jesus, and that fills your home with hope and joy. Choose to be different! You are not a rat, so quit the rat race! Choose to give Jesus a gift this Christmas. It’s His birthday after all. Isn’t it? Choose to share the good tidings of great joy (the gospel message) with others! Celebrate with an act of kindness to those who cannot pay you back. Choose not to allow under-the-Christmas-tree gift items to determine the level of joy and harmony in your home. Remember that post-Christmas responsibilities cannot be excused away by the festivities. In other words, cut your coat according to your cloth.

2. Consequences

The best way to help our children understand how choices influence outcomes is by allowing them to experience the consequences of their choices. The choice to share the “Good tidings of great joy” keeps the good tidings aglow in the heart of the sharer!

Acts of kindness to someone who cannot pay you back guarantees you rich returns on your investment because “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.” (Proverbs 19:17) Philippians 4:1 and 1Thessalonians 2:19-20 talks about the “Crown of Joy” that is given to soul winners. Also seeing the transformation that the gospel brings to someone you witness to, strengthens and enlivens the hope of salvation in you, and emboldens you for greater exploits!!!

3. Consistency

The age-old principle of “Mean what you say and say what you mean” helps our children to gain a healthy sense of how to relate with other people, and it helps generate a positive standard for them in a world that is in constant flux. It also takes away the surprises of discipline when your children know that you always mean what you say and say what you mean. Do not be a situational disciple. Do not compromise your values of prudence in the name of Christmas. Remember it is Christ-mas and not you-mas. Maintain an unflinching focus on the reason for the season. Unity among parents on this matter is of immense value.

4. Care

Your love and care for your family need to be totally visible and communicable. As you create lasting memories for your family this season, let it be that the love of God warms their heart through their sense of your love for them. This season often portends conflicts. Let your actions be seasoned with salt. As you show your love and care for your family, also remember those who cannot celebrate this Christmas because of the ravages of war, disease, death, family rifts and complete lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ that we celebrate.

Happy Christmas to you and yours!

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