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## The Five Pillars of Parenthood ~ Part 2

In the last newsletter, I talked about the first pillar that needs to be in place as you train your children to love and serve the Lord. That pillar established that you need to *teach your children to discern good from evil*. If they are able to do that, then they are prepared for the next pillar to be put in place, which is *to make wise decisions*.

Pillar #2 ~ Teach your children to manage their lives wisely. Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." I believe that numbering our days includes numbering our hours and our minutes. I know that it is easy for parents and children to feel like they are living over-scheduled lives. That, I believe, is one of the enemy's greatest areas of victory. If we are so busy with things of eternal insignificance that we don't have time for the things of God, then the enemy has been successful. Most times we are not choosing between good and bad ~ that choice is usually easy. Most often we are choosing between good, better and best ~ which is much harder. Just because it is good, doesn't mean that it is a right choice for you. Just because it is better, still doesn't mean that it is the right choice for you. The question is: "Is it God's choice?"

So how do you know how to manage your life wisely? Think of your life like a clear glass canning jar. You have a cup of marbles, a cup of sand and a cup of water. The order that you put them in the jar will determine if you can get everything into the jar. If you place the sand in first, then the water and then the marbles, the marbles will not all fit. But if you place the marbles in first, then pour the sand in around the marbles and then add the water, they will all fit. Why? You got your priorities right. You did the most important thing first. That is the way it is with life. If you start out your day with the Lord, then ask Him what you should fill your day with, everything that He wants to accomplish will get done. I would encourage you to seek the Lord as you prioritize your and your children's activities. Many things are good and better, but you may be filling your lives and schedules with things that are not God's best.

Children need to understand:

- God owns everything.
- God has entrusted to us our time, talent and treasure to manage for Him.
- God expects a positive return on His investment. (Matthew 25: 14-30)
- God will hold you accountable.
- God wants you to share in His joy.

Truth to take away: If You Are His, Then You Must Give Up All Control.

(Read about Pillar #3 in the February issue of the CHA News.)

*Some thoughts and phrases taken from Pastor Chip Ingram's teaching, "How to Raise Positive Kids in a Negative World."*