



*Kathy Tweeten, Head Administrator*

## The Five Pillars of Parenthood ~ Part 4

The fourth pillar may be the hardest of all the pillars. But remember, it is built on the foundation of the first three pillars. Your children are ready for this lesson when they understand how to discern evil from good, when they know how to manage their lives wisely and when they know how to work as unto the Lord. This lesson is best exemplified in the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). Joseph was separated from his family, wrongly accused and even though he continued to do right, he suffered unjustly. Joseph could easily have become bitter through his circumstances, but instead he chose to become better. A part of parenting includes helping your children grow through suffering.

**Pillar #4 ~ Teach your children to suffer well.** I know as parents we feel it is our job to protect our children from suffering. We do all that we can to keep them safe and secure. But the Word tells us that it “rains on the just and the unjust,” and it is important for us to teach our children how to handle life when it is hard or seems unfair. We need to enlarge their viewpoint.

Children need to understand:

Life is hard, but God is good!

Life is unjust, but God is sovereign.

The truth is, we don't know all the facts. We only see our small portion of the situation ~ and we don't know what God is trying to accomplish in our lives and the lives of our friends and family. What seems unfair might very well be just what is needed. While Corrie Ten Boom was in a concentration camp, she and her sister were assigned to the barracks that had the worst lice problem of all the barracks. Corrie held nightly Bible studies in that barracks and later found out that the reason that she was able to do so, and why she was never caught by the guards, was because of the lice. The lice were so bad that even the guards refused to enter the barracks. What the enemy meant for evil, God used for good.

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” ~ 1 Peter 2:21-23

**Truth to take away: Suffering Is A Part of Life.**

(Read about Pillar #5 in the August 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."*