

CNL Season 2009

4.2 How to Be a Priest of Your Home Pt 2

Transcription

Maria and I have a policy, if we don't know the parents well and if we don't know the children well and if we have not talked to our children, Josiah, Gideon, Rachel or Petra several times before they ever go to this child's house about how in love with Christ that child is and if we don't hear a glowing report that the child is radical for Jesus Christ, as far as spending the night at the house... - Now, as far as my daughter reaching out and witnessing to people and sharing with kids at school and everything, she does that radically, but as far as where they spend the night in an environment that is away from our home up to a certain age, we don't let it happen.

You know why? Because in the age of pornography and the age of all kinds of stuff that is going on that we have, your children are vacuums. They are sponges that will absorb things and Dads, I'm going to tell you the truth, if you say, "I don't know where my children are tonight, but I'm sure they are somewhere fine, my wife dropped them off somewhere or your wife says, I don't know where my children are,"

Let me encourage you in something.. What you are doing is you are allowing chaos to happen in 5 years, 6 years by what you are doing now. Ted Bundy was running around with kids that were just neighborhood kids that used to go into garbage cans and pull pornography out of garbage cans. They used to sit and talk and make up all kinds of stories about it Before you know it, he was a headliner having killed dozens of women.

Why? Are all children going to do that? No, but what it does show is that as a child what impacted his eyes and his mind was critical. Are you impacting the minds and eyes of your children? That is a simple question. How do they pick their idols? Again, I think that

again dads we are responsible to teach our children, how to pick idols. I like to sit down with my children and tell them about missionaries who gave their lives for Christ. I like to share with them about athletes and musicians who are in love with Jesus. You know why? Because I know that they love athletics and I know they love music, but I by to connect them in their minds to athletes and musicians who, love Christ. Why? Because I want their passions to be connected to Christ because I'm going to tell you that if your children's passions are not connected to Christ, they will be connected to the flesh which will bring them down. So, it is Christ or the flesh. You have to make that choice.

Many years ago. This is a true story. In 1862, Captain Robert Elicomb was a captain in the Union army and he was at Harrison's Landing in Virginia. They had just had a huge bloody battle. In this huge bloody battle many men had died and been shot. That night, it was pitch black. He was standing outside his tent and he hears off in the distance, in the pitch black, moans and cries of soldier. After a couple of hours, he can't stand it any longer and he says, "I don't know who that soldier is but we need to go and get him some medical attention."

Some of his men hesitated to go and actually, Captain Elicomb got on his hands and knees and crawled into this pitch black battlefield listening for the sound, avoiding snipers by being on his belly. He found this person that was screaming and crying out there, dragged him back to the camp and much to the chagrin to some of the soldiers who were there is that as he came under the lamplight on this pitch black night, he could see that the soldier wore a Confederate uniform; it was gray, and lie was a Union officer. Within seconds the man had died. Elicomb, went over and he picked up one of the lanterns. He turned to and he placed it over the place of this man and in a startle, taking

his breath back, he recognized the man as his own son. Actually, his only son. True story. He wept. His son had a year and a half. He was a brilliant prodigy, a brilliant musician. He had been sent to the South to be a musician major in the school there and apparently, he had joined the ranks of the Confederate army while down there. His father never knew. He had always had sympathy for the Confederates which is father never knew and here on a battlefield the day that his son had come on that field never knowing that his dad was on that battlefield. His son was killed by possibly his own father on that battlefield that day and he wept and he grieved over him. He asked his commander, his general, if he could give this young man a military burial. The general said, "I am sympathetic because he is your son, but no we can't because he is from the Confederate army but you can have a bugler to go ahead and do the funeral."

So, he went ahead to bury his son. He happened to go through his pockets just to get his personal stuff. So, he opened up one of the pieces of paper in his son's pocket and there were some notes scribbled by this brilliant musician. It was a really soft little melody. A sad little melody with some words underneath it, some powerful words. He took that and he gave it to the bugler, I don't know how to read music but can you read this song for me. The bugler said, "Sure. I'll play that over your son's funeral."

So, there he went ahead and he played that over his son's funeral. The captain of the Confederates across the way heard it and the Union soldiers heard it and that melody was so enchanting, so absorbing, yet mystical almost and mysterious the way that it sounded, it stuck with them and over the next 140 years it has been played. It is called Taps". This boy had just scribbled some notes that came to his head which his own father found on the battlefield where he died, possibly at his own father's hands and those scribbled notes

became for us today. I thought that was an interesting thing where “Taps” came from but you know what struck me the most. It broke my heart that his dad, his son, his precious son had to die before his dad knew where he was and what he was doing. A mortal tragedy had to occur before a dad knew what was going on in his boy’s life.

You know what, we live that way as a culture. We wait almost for mortal tragedies to happen in our children’s life and then we ask, “How did this happen?”

I’m going to tell you. There are several reasons. We are not looking at the little things. We are not looking at the little details. We are not being sensitive and aware in the early stages as they develop to the point where we can have a better understanding of where they are going to be. Mom and Dad, you may have become born again believers late in life and you think it is lost now because your child is a late teen. That’s all right. They can still see Christ in you, Begin to look for the small signs and begin to be a witness for Christ in their life. That is something we learn here. We need to be teaching these children the truth. Don’t be too busy for them. We need to feed them Christ and weed them from the world.

The next thing, “B”., stop any trespassing on God’s property. A critical thing to remember is that Gideon, Josiah, Rachel and Petra. You know I talk about them that they are my children. I love my children, but technically, they are not really my children. They are God’s children. They are not the state’s children. They are not Hillary’s Village Children. They are God’s children and I’m going to tell you something. I have been given the privilege to raise children and oversee God’s property and if somebody came to you. If a famous man Or woman came to you and said, “Would you hold on to this child,

and take good care of it. I'm going to go on a long journey. Protect it while I am out of town."

Because it is such a powerfully important person, you put that in the safest place in your house, wouldn't you? Well, let me just tell you something. God has entrusted you with the most valuable things he has ever created. That's children.

Jesus said, "For such is the kingdom of heaven."

Children are one of the most precious things to God and you and I have been entrusted with them that's what our families are called. We should treat them as if anybody who messes with our kids are messing with God's property,

That verse, Numbers 18, talks about how the dead. How everything that is unrighteous should be kept outside the camp.

I remember when Rachel was born and when Petra was born. People said, "When those girls grow up, the boys are going to be chasing them."

It suddenly struck me so we began watching very carefully and training them what to look for in a man. How to look for a godly man. How to look for a man who is in love with Jesus, We said don't pick anybody who has not caught on fire. Don't pick anybody who has not caught on fire, Don't get a lukewarm Christian. Don't get a guy who is just a nominal Christian. Get somebody who is on fire for Jesus, who is focused on Christ, who puts Christ above his flesh. That is the kind of guys that you want to date when you are 37. (laughter). You need to train them up in their thinking. If they watch TV and watch you know, what it is it something 90210, or whatever. If they watch television programs to figure out how to date and find men, don't be surprised when they find the wrong men because the world is going to teach them to find a guy who is simply good looking, who

has simply got it together in the world instead of those who are dominated and directed by Jesus Christ. If he comes up in a van and has on the side of it Mega death and Mom's worst nightmare, that is not the guy who is going to date my daughter. I'm answering the door, but I'm answering it armed, You know what I'm saying (laughter). There has to be a big picture that we have at the beginning as to what we desire for the sake of our child's soul,

Number #2, now the Gershonites had a different job. If you remember that picture that was up on the screen that had the tent. It had the big curtain that was around the courtyard, It had that fence and it had that cloth. They were responsible for the cloth. The veil. They would have come in and they would have taken down this veil. That is what they were responsible for. They did not take the ark. That was not their job. They were responsible for all of the soft stuff, we'll say. All of the intimate stuff. This is the stuff that would divide the intimacy of the Holy place from the Holy of Holies. This was the cloth that would divide the courtyard, they had a courtyard, from the inner holy place. This was the curtain that divided, that was right here, that would divide the intimate place here. That is what the cloth did, it divided the intimate places. So, let me encourage you, if you will fill in #2. The Gershonites, what their job was, nature of intimacy, an intimate nature. These were things of an intimate nature. These were the soft things. Now, gentlemen, a lot of times, we may be so left brained that we say, "I'm just not that sensitive, you know. That's just not the way I was built." I think that we almost take that as a point of pride to say that. "Well, I just never learned to care." Well guess what if you are a believer (shouting) "LEARN". Hear your wife, hear your children. Open the ears. Use the mind because God has created us to be in unity and in tandem with our bride and

with our children. That is why he created the family- There is the soft, the intimate side. This has to do with, as you see back here, time alone with God. That is an intimate thing. Actually, the more time that you spend in time with God in prayer humbly, the more intimate you are able to be with your family because the more humble you are before God, the more you learn to hear God. The more you learn to hear God, a miracle happens, the more you learn to hear others- It is critical. It is critical for dads.

They did all of these beautiful, lovely, embroidered curtains and things. So, what is this issue for me. It is an issue of reviewing the order of things. Our priorities in life, Is it a priority for us to be sensitive and listen to our families If it is not, it needs to be. There is a balance in life, folks. These curtains were balanced on these beams in an exact way.

They were balanced They were not collapsing and everything else. They were balanced. Gentlemen, let me encourage you in something. You may have come from the world of I'll whip that kid into order. That is what my dad used to call the seat of education as he applied the belt of knowledge and it is one of those things where that's the only thing and that will get them straightened up. Well the Bible says in the book of Timothy, "Be careful not to bring your children to wrath." It warns you, discipline or punishment without love creates chaos for the child and resentment.

Over here, the parent that raises the child saying, "We'll just kind of let them do whatever they want to do because we really love them."

That's dangerous, too. You would not give a 2-year-old a loaded gun would you? No. So what God's word talks about is a balance There is a balance in this area. There was a balance in the way that it was designed. There was a balance in the objects so that they looked like a cross. There was a balance in the way that this entire tabernacle was

designed. Dads, 'we need to be balanced in the way we raise children- I hate to spank my children. I mean, I'm going to tell you, I had to spank them recently, I will not tell you what for, but it was direct disobedience to something I had, given them direction in. Okay, it had to do with staying up late at night and watching TV past the time they were supposed to be up. I had to spank my children, Now, I only have to do this once every 6 months or a year now- 'mean, it is really getting far apart. It is one of those things that afterward; I could not sleep until 4am in the morning. I wept and I grieved over having to spank them. I hated to actually have to see them in pain. Yet, at the same time, by the way if you are my child and you are sitting here today, that does not mean that dad won't do it still. I hated to see them in pain. It grieves me, Yet, at the same time, in life and even with God, He chastens those who He loves. The Bible says, God chastens those who He loves. He will give them a spanking, He gives you and I spankings because you and I both know that sometimes that is the only way that He can get our attention. Some of us are so stubborn that it takes a 2 x 4 between the ears like a stubborn mule, but God will get our attention, it grieves me, but I'll tell you, the next morning, they are totally different.

After I spank them, I don't just say, "Now, get out of here you heathen."

No, what you do is you then need to sit with them and you share with them how much you love them. You say, "I know that this makes no sense to you, but I love you. This discipline is out of love,"

If you explode in and go in the room saying, "Yeehah" swinging that belt in anger and say, "I'm going to teach you and they are scattering for the hills and you are chasing them, that is not biblical disciplining either. If you do it out of anger, it is sin gentlemen.

If you do it out of love, it is biblical. Step back long enough to not let your anger spank them, Step back long enough to go before God and say, "Father this grieves my heart." Otherwise, what you are doing is what we used to do in school. A kid pushed us so we punched them out, We were angry so we beat him up or it's the love of God like they have never seen, but it is not love is it. No, When you do it, it is discipline them in those critical moments that you know it is time to turn back from the idols of this world and get you back on track with Christ. You sit with them and you share that with them. I weep harder than my children sometimes after I spank them as I sit them on my lap as I talk with them. You know why? Because it does grieve me. I want to tell you that it grieves the Father to have to spank you. He would rather have you live obediently and righteously. You know why? Because obedience and righteousness does not bring AIDS. Obedience and righteousness does not bring death. Obedience and righteousness does not bring division. Obedience and righteousness brings a healthy body. It grieves God to have to do that but God will do that because whom He loves, He chastens.

So, today, let me just encourage you, do it in love and when your children see in your eyes you love them, that this is a tough moment for you. Do you grieve Over their sin because you want them to follow the Son of God because that is the only hope for a happy life? I tell you, my children hug me afterward. They love me afterward and the next morning, they have been altered and we have a brand new paradigm shift in the home but it has to be balanced. Not out of anger. Don't just whip them because you are not going to whip them into line. You are going to whip them into anger. Over here, don't just let them do what they want to do. Have a balance of love as well as freedom in the discipline. I think it is critical.

So, how do we do this as well. In our practice, let's just do A, B, C quickly.

A. We need to cover our homes with prayer.

B. We need to surround it with worship. Have worship in your home. Even dad if you lose your job, come home, have your children surround you, hold hands, and say, "Father, I'm not sure why I lost my job, but I'm going to celebrate that I have a God who is in charge and in control of this family and you will not abandon us. Children, let's celebrate God right now." Do you think if you came home instead of ticked off and you know, "Dad lost his job" and the kids are scattering for the hills because Dad always gets mad when things happen to him, he takes it out on the family. I'm going to guarantee you that if those children see you change, Dad, where you come home and instead of taking out your frustrations on your children and on your wife, what you do is go before God. You pour it out before God. You join hands and you say, "Let's be a team and pray this through" I will guarantee you that you will have children who will raise children that are godly unto the Lord. You know why? Because they have seen a man of God who has a heart of worship and not a heart of vengeance. I cannot encourage enough on that issue, gentlemen. It is tough because that means some self-control but that is what it is about. There were mornings that the priest did not want to come to work. I have no doubt. There were mornings the priest did not want to confront an ungodly king to get his head cut off. That happened. When an ungodly king would come to power and the priest would, have to go to him and say, "Let me explain something to you sir. No idols are allowed in here." In 150 BC., the Syrians wanted to put pork and have all kinds of animal sacrifices to their other gods in the temple. The priests died who dared to challenge it. Yeah, it is

uncomfortable sometimes to be the leader of the home, but it is awesome also when you see your home flourishing.

C. Praise. We need to have praise throughout our day. Let's be positive with our children. Sarcasm and negativism is not a good way to deal with your children- Don't be sarcastic with your children. Don't be negative with your children. Don't attack your children. Don't tell them why they can't succeed in things. In fact, I want you to fill in a new blood type that all of us need to have. This is our new blood type. Put the letter "B" in there. This is our new blood type. Let's say it together, "B positive". (laughing) I thought that was clever. Anyway, we need to be positive, to be encouraging. Jesus was encouraging. He said, "Come all ye who are heavy laden. I will give you rest. Come on, I'm going to encourage you."

Not, "Oh you dummies who wear yourself out, get out of here.

No, He said, "Come ye who are heavy laden. I will give you rest. I will embrace you- I will love you-"

You know when your child wants to do something and you say. "You'll probably fail at that."

Don't do that. Encourage them, encourage them, encourage them- Stand with them.

Then, when they fall, somebody is next to them to catch them. Instead of somebody in the distance saying, "Told you so, dummy."

I'm going to tell you that child's paradigm of the world and, their speech patterns are going to come out of you dad. They will come out of you and the mom. I'm going to share with you a true story about a little girl in class. She had a cleft palate, several physical abnormalities and difficulties. Children made fun of her. Every year, the

teachers would do hearing tests. So, they would bring the children into the class one at a time and the teacher would stand 10 feet away and say something like, "The sun is in the sky." The children would repeat it back to show that they could hear at the level that was appropriate for school. As they did this one at a time, this little girl with the cleft palate had a very precious teacher this year. A teacher who learned to love and embrace her and care for her knowing that she had these challenges and other children mocked her constantly. When that little girl got in the room, the teacher knew that she had to elevate her voice a little because the child could not hear well and the other children used to say things to her, making fun of her so that she would not hear what they said. When she elevated her voice, she said, "I wish you were my little girl" instead of just "The sun is up in the East" or just "Gazelle run quickly". The words she said to that little were, "I wish you were my little girl" and that child heard it loud and clear- She began to weep and sob and she wrote a note to Dear Abby years later that it altered her life at that point because one person said, "I wish you were mine".

Dads, let me tell you something about fatherhood. This is a fact that even liberals will tell you that have done any kind of research with children. The value that a child gets is in a majority of the cases based upon the approval that they seek so diligently from their fathers, You can give a value to your child. You can give a joy to your child in living by your willingness to say, "I'm glad you're my little boy." "I'm glad you're my little girl," They sit them on their lap and instead say, "Why can't you be like Bobby Joe down the street. Man, he is on. the first string. You loser." I have heard people say things like that to their children.

Sit them on your knee and say, “You know what, I can’t imagine a child in this world that I would rather have as my son than you.”

“What about Bobby Joe instead?”

“You have got to be kidding me, man, the kid runs too fast, I could never catch him to whip him.” (laughter)

No. “You are far better.”

Whatever it is. You know why because in the Garden of Eden God came down to the level of man and walked and talked with man and said, “I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you. I’m glad you’re here.”

When man sinned, God came back down to earth and died and died and died and still said, “I still love you. I still love you. I still approve. I want you. I want you. I care. I want you. I’m so glad you’re my boy. I’m so glad you’re my girl.” That’s why children need it. You know why because they are created to need that from a father because you and I were built to need it from the father. So, why not give to our children what God meant for us to have as well. If you did not have that in your childhood. Don’t say, “Well, I wasn’t raised that way. So-,”

No, don’t pass it on. Break the chain of the curse. Bring blessing upon your children. It is a choice that we make.

The last are the Kohathites. The Kohathites, These are those who had to come in and get the elements of the tabernacle where the priest was. This deals with the discipline, the order, and the character. If you will put the word “character” of the office.

You and I, ladies and gentlemen, have to understand that God has called men in the home and if you are a single mom with children, the overseer of the home is to have

character in a world where there is not much character. One of the characteristics of the priest is a mediator- Would you say the word “mediator” with me? (all together)

“Mediator”. That means one who stands in the middle.

When your children are fighting, dads, don’t close the door and say, “I hope they settle it without killing themselves.”

Don’t run out of the room. Come and lovingly call them together. Don’t scream them down- Lovingly call them together. It may take 5 minutes by the time they finally wander and stand facing each other and walk through the situation, act as a mediator. You know why. Because Christ is a mediator- Because God wants us to be mediators like the priests. Embrace conflict in your home and deal with it. Don’t run from it- Once again, embrace conflict in your home because at that moment in time, what you are really hearing are the inside thoughts. Gentlemen, hear this concept. When you hear children arguing about things.

“Well you don’t... -

“He always treats you better.

What you are actually hearing are the inside thoughts that they may not tell you straight out, but if you hear them saying it to each other, at that moment in time, God has allowed them like books to be opened for you to read so bring them and listen to them, In conflict, you not only bring peace and resolution but you get to know your family better. You not only bring peace and resolution; you get to know your children and your wife and everybody else better. Those moments when the daughter is turning 13, 14, 15. She is getting as tall as mom- She is getting than taller than mom- She begins to feel empowered. She starts to take mom on. They may have one of those female arguments

You pick them carefully, which one you get involved in (laughter). Experience (kind of singing the word) (laughter) but be a mediator. Be one who loves the two of them. Put your arms around them, Try to bring peace to that situation. You will, be seen as a peacemaker and your sons will grow up to be peacemakers. Just last year, Rachel went up to New York They had picked about 30 kids out of hundreds of kids to be in what they call a theater boot camp. Now, what that is, they take these kids that are gifted and have won awards and, everything else and they put them into this boot camp and this director who is a Broadway director. He has won Tony's and Emmy's and all kinds of stuff. He is a brilliant director, but he is one of the most impersonal people I have ever met in my life. He came up to me afterwards and his great compliment was, "You know your daughter as an inspiration. Whatever" and he walks away. That was for him a big moment. You know? So, he is one of these really flat people. He would not let the kids drink Coke or Pepsi, eat candy or anything else. They had to eat basically gruel. They had to get up at 5 o'clock. They had to go and run and workout for about an hour and a half and they were disciplined to do this and they had to eat this breakfast which was 111cc porridge, a disgusting gruel and then they had to go and workout. They did acting exercises all day long. He was tough and he drilled them until 10 o'clock at night exhausted, They were not allowed even the smallest piece of candy. They were allowed none of these things at the camp because he wanted them to clean out their systems and get their minds cleared, He was really into this natural food, Of course, these kids had all come from homes where they ate junk food and everything else.

About the second night, the girls were lying in the one little dorm area where Rachel was and they were all like, “Man, I hate this guy. Don’t you hate this director?” They were all about to take their leader and their authority-

Rachel said, “Wait a minute. First of all, you guys all chose to come here. Second of all, he is going to make us better and third of all, it is only for 10 days.” Then, she began to explain to them the benefit of being there. By the end of the 10 days, when they had to do the performance, guess who was the sharpest on the stage. It was the team that had learned the discipline and the order and to be thankful because of the mediator in their midst. Rachel was a little mediator to the girls. She got them inspired. By the end of the 8th or 9th day, they were like, “Yeah, I’m losing weight.” “Now, I’m feeling good. Let’s go do it.” Others were like, “We have to eat,” It is one of those things.

Let me encourage you because the power of the mediator in the home. Be a mediator because it is powerful what you can do to influence and change the attitudes and paradigms of your children, your wife, and your family.

So, gentlemen, let’s hear this. Let’s hear the call to our immediate family. “Yes, God has called men to biblical manhood.”

You have seen all of the pictures of Mary holding ‘the baby Jesus. They are beautiful paintings and beautiful carvings, but guess who He appeared to when He said, “Don’t be afraid to take this girl.” He appeared to Joseph. Joseph was the head of the home. Virgin. Mary was supernaturally touched, but it was Joseph who was the head of that home folks. Matthew 2:13, would you read these words with me, “Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt-”

God appeared through an angel to Joseph. You know why? Because as the overseer of the home who is responsible for his family, God appeared to that man and said, "I need your family to move." So, he communicates with this man. You know why? Because Joseph was not a dictator. Joseph was a servant. Joseph was an overseer, but he was never cruel. Joseph listened. He was a good listener, so God talked to him more often. Me y'all with me? To be those who oversee our families, folks, we have to be those who listen, but at the same time, the Scriptures clearly show that God had appeared. We need to be very, very careful that we understand that.

The next point is this. You need to know what is going on in your family's life.

"B". The church family. You need to be involved in a church family because in the body of Christ you learn to serve and you can be around other men who serve well, other men who know how to serve or have been serving for years. I'm going to tell you. On any day, rather than take a four-year course in college, I would rather hang around a person who is successful because I watch his daily life and within a few months probably learn how he succeeded in business. I guarantee it. Would you rather take a course in computer business for four years or would you rather spend a month with Bill Gates- Whether you like him or not, I would rather spend a month with that guy to figure out how he thinks because he is successful. We need to understand, folks, as I said in the first point, join with other godly men. Be involved in ministry. By serving, you become more excellent in what you do.

The third point and the last point is this, We need to be hearing the call gentlemen. We are responsible for future generations. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old, they will not depart from it."

That's for the future. You know why? Would you like for your children to grow up in a world of total chaos that hates Christians, that hates God, that's anarchist? Would you like to grow up in a world like the French Revolution, like the Soviet Union is today, a country that has no God or would you like for them to grow up in a world where they can actually let the children run in the front yard and be safe. Where they can raise their children and preach Jesus to them and they don't have to be executed for it. It comes down to us as men and what we pass on to the next generation and to the future generations because that makes all the difference in the world. Three decades ago, America was known as a Christian nation. Today, it is known as a secular nation. Three decades. That is incredible. You know what, you can bring Christ back to the nation starting with your family and that family can change the nation and that family and nation can change the world.