

## Engage 2015 Conference – Christchurch – 14-15 August 2015

### SESSION #2 - "The Best Education"

#### *Our example as parents who love Christ*

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*Strive to be a living epistle of Christ, one that your family can plainly read. Be an example of reverence for the Word of God, reverence in prayer, reverence for means of grace, reverence for the Lord's day. Be an example in words, in temper, in diligence, in temperance, in faith, in charity, in kindness, in humility. Do not think your children will practice what they do not see you do. You are their model picture – and they will copy what you are. Your reasoning and your lecturing, your wise commands and your good advice – all this they may not understand, but they can understand your life! (J.C. Ryle)*

*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)*

- **The best education parents can give to their children is a living example of a genuine love for & devotion to Christ.**
- **The way that our faith is lived out will have a very real effect on the lives of our children – whether that is for the better or for the worse.**

*You want to mess up the minds of your children? Here's how – guaranteed! Rear them in a legalistic, tight context of external religion, where performance and appearance is more important than reality. Fake your faith. Sneak around and pretend your spirituality, and you will train your children to do the same. Embrace a long list of do's and don'ts publicly but hypocritically practice them privately... yet never own up to the fact that its hypocrisy. Act one way but live another. And you can count on it – emotional and spiritual damage will occur. Charles (Chuck) Swindoll*

- **If our relationship with Christ is not authentic and contagious then we cannot expect our children to follow.**
- **Our children are carefully watching us so they will learn more about our faith in Christ by the way we live, rather than by the words we speak.**
- **Our children will not come to a genuine faith by us simply flicking a switch, but they will be more likely to follow Christ as we follow Christ.**

*"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

- **We ourselves must first be active disciples of Christ before we can effectively disciple our children to become the same.**
- **When our faith is being authentically lived out in our own lives, we don't need to invent a discipleship programme for our children, we simply bring them along for the ride.**
- **Home education becomes the context through which we can journey alongside our children, giving them much opportunity to learn & observe what it means to follow Christ through our example.**
- **We educate our children in the way that we respond to the situations that God allows in our lives throughout the day.**
- **God doesn't expect 100% perfection from us, but He does desire a heart of humility & repentance.**
- **Our example as parents is incredibly important, but our greatest example is not enough to guarantee that our children will follow – we must depend fully upon God's work through Christ in drawing our children to Himself.**

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*  
**(Proverbs 22:6)**

*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..."* **(John 6:44)**