

THE MOTHER-FATHER TEAM

1. Both Bring A Child To Maturity

Parents are to be a team, they both give their strengths to raise up and train their offspring to be ‘mature and complete’ and ultimately be parents themselves.

2. Primary Role Of Father Is Protection, Discipline, Training

Father nurtures, but his strengths are more in protection, in discipline, and training, and his role increases as the child matures.

3. Primary Role Of Mother Is Nurturer

Mother is a stronger nurturer; she is the one who sets the first example of Gods Love and dependability in a Childs life.

She can give the basis of security and acceptance that is necessary for the future development of creativity in a persons life, because an insecure person doesn't have the courage to be creative.

CONCLUSION

Spiritual Mothers and Spiritual Fathers are greatly needed in the Church today

For a newborn Christian the need is to be spiritually mothered (by a man or a woman)

If not properly Mothered they won't be able to receive a Spiritual Father as a father, but instead demand that he or she continue to mother

One of the solutions is to provide strong pastoral care (mothering) so that the foundation is laid for healthy development.

SPIRITUAL MOTHERING

1 – Introduction To Spiritual Mothering

Kathy Hibbert – May 21, 2005

INTRODUCTION

1. Spiritual Parenting From Mom's Point Of View

2. What's A Woman To Do?

3. What's The Difference Between Spiritual Fathering And Spiritual Mothering?

4. Fathers Impart Identity, Mothers Impart Creativity

5. Mothers In The Church

Judges 4:4-14

Judges 5:7, NIV – *“Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel.”*

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL MOTHERING FROM THE NATURAL

1. The Natural Is A Picture Of The Spiritual

1 Corinthians 15:46, NIV – *“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”*

2. Mother And Father Have Different Relationships And Roles In Their Children's Lives

Father and mother each has different role to play during each of the phases, stages or steps of a child's development from infancy through to maturity

Father and mother both offer love, provision for my needs, nurture, instruction, discipline, guidance, support, etc. but in different ways.

3. Both Are Giving Comfort Their Own Way

4. Men Do Not Nurture The Same Way As Women (Typically)

We must be careful that we do not emasculate men or cause them to recoil into super macho men, because of the pressure of our expectations.

Are our Social confusions affecting our expectations of Spiritual Fathers? Are we asking them to Mother us? Are we demanding some things from them that they can't, or shouldn't give?

OBSERVATIONS ON MOTHERHOOD

1. Birth

- a) Mother Carries And Brings Forth
- b) Father Protects

2. New Born

- a) Mother Gives Care And Security

Leviticus 12:2-4 – A sheltered time for Mother and infant to devote to each other

Mother takes on the role of “the alpha and omega”, “Rapha” - healer and comforter and “Jireh” - total provider

Security, satisfaction, trust

- b) Father Becomes The Number One “Other”
- c) Bonding With Mother And Father Is Different
- d) Note To Mothers – A Warning

Through mothering, women can develop an overpowering sense of being needed and able, which they can be tempted to hold on to, which leads to becoming controlling, which is the open door for the Jezebel spirit.

3. Infant / Weaning

- a) Weaning Is Moving To A New Level By Taking Away

A secure child, who has room to fail without being shamed will make the necessary shifts quite easily when they have been introduced, prepared and encouraged and are physically ready

- b) Mother Weans

Mother is the one in the early years who knows the child in a way that gives her the most influential role in weaning, by knowing when baby or child is ready to move on.

- c) Father Becomes The Hero / The One To Look Up To
- d) Daddy Becomes The Disciplinarian After Security Is Established

4. Child