

Occupation with Christ

Occupation with Christ. This device is what changes your mind about self and people. You have oriented to your place in the plan of God through your personal sense of destiny. You have adjusted to God by means of personal love for Him. You have adjusted to self through spiritual self-esteem. You have adjusted to others by means of unconditional love. The problem-solving device which stabilizes all these is occupation with Christ.

Occupation with Christ is the professional attitude of the Christian which reduces all challenges from cosmos diabolicus down to their proper level of insignificance. Therefore, you approach every exigency of life as an assignment to be handled as an official representative of Jesus Christ in the Devil's world. Your top priority is to serve Him. This means you concentrate on resolving an issue in the manner approved of by Bible doctrine while ignoring all opposition. Under occupation with Christ, you will not be distracted by your own doubts but orient to your duty under the plan of God as a parent. Outside interference, cultural pressure, demonic influence from a contorted Zeitgeist ... none of these things cause you to stray off course from your appointed mission which is to mold your child's soul into a vessel of honor. When under pressure you keep your eyes focused on Jesus Christ and move forward undaunted, firm in the belief that, if you follow the biblical mandates, God will honor your efforts and your child will be the ultimate winner for your efforts. You remain confident that Jesus Christ will control history on your behalf so you persist in doing your duty.

In the area of interpersonal relationships, personal love for your child is optional, but unconditional love is mandated.

John 15:12 - This is My commandment [imperative mood of positive command], that you love one another as I have loved you.

The extent to which our Lord mandates unconditional love for others is noted in the next verse:

John 15:13 - No man has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

How did Jesus Christ demonstrate His love toward us? He did so unconditionally, sacrificially, and vicariously. His unconditional love is expressed by the fact that He chose to go to the cross and die spiritual death for all mankind although all were in status quo unrighteousness.

Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own unconditional love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died spiritually as a substitute for us.

Parents are therefore to love all mankind unconditionally and, if need be, sacrificially in order to fulfill this mandate. "*All mankind*" includes their children. They are to love them unconditionally and sacrificially.