

The Purple Corner

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month and so we ask, did you know?

- Children are either on the scene or directly involved in over half (50%) of domestic violence situations.
- Behavioral patterns learned by children in violent home situations affect their daily lives, often into adulthood.
- Children who try to prevent a parent from being battered are at a greater risk of being hurt themselves.

When you ask a battered woman why she stays in an abusive situation, one of the answers you will hear is, the children. "I don't want to break up the home and deprive my child(ren) of being with their father." Proverbs 22:6 says we are to train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it. (NIV) This is a great principle to live by if the training that child receives is the proper training. If the child is being taught to respect, honor and obey a godly example then the results will more than likely be godly. However, when the child is learning dishonesty, disrespect and disobedience to the word of God, the results can be disarming and oftentimes disastrous. Children look to us, the parent(s) for guidance and direction, from the examples we show them. They watch what we do, listen to what we say and repeat it. The following familiar poem sums it up.

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, He will learn to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, He learns to have confidence.

If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, He learns to have justice.

If a child lives with security, He learns to have fairness.

If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find LOVE in the world.

The question that we need to answer is , what are we teaching our children? What are they learning from what we say and do? Are we training them up in the way they should go and when they are old will they not turn from it?