

# Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”  
John 4:24



## What Echoes Are We Creating?

By Mike Riley

The story is told of a boy who once lived with a badly disfigured face. As a result, there came many unkind remarks. One day the boy said to his mother, “Mom, I hate people.” Realizing he had become despondent, she took him to a canyon and told him to shout, “I hate you!”

The echo came back, “I hate you!” Then she told him to call out, “I love you!” The echo came back, “I love you!”

His mother then explained that usually we receive from people what we first send out (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

This is also true in our relationship with God.

Psalm 18 tells us that God shows Himself merciful to the merciful, and to those who are devious, He shows Himself shrewd in order to foil man’s evil designs.

If God seems distant to us at times, perhaps we have distanced ourselves from Him. If God seems uncaring, maybe it is us who have become hard-hearted towards Him.

God is merciful to those who are merciful (James 2:13) — to those who reach out to others in time of need and help them (Luke 10:29-37; cf. 1 John 3:15-18).

Brethren and friends, if we will but echo to God when He calls (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14), God’s echo will come back to us (1 Thessalonians 1:1-8). The question is, “What echoes are we creating?”

### SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E  
Edify, Exhort,  
Evangelize  
4 Square  
8:30 AM

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews  
9:30 AM

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service  
10:30 AM

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Romans  
7:00 PM



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[nscocmeridian.com](http://nscocmeridian.com)

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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ  
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Meridian, MS 39301

Place Stamp Here

## The Training Of Our Children

By Mike Riley

The proper spiritual training of our children is a God-assigned, individual responsibility assigned primarily to fathers that cannot be abdicated to anyone else. Fatherhood inherently imposes obligations to train children — whatever is entailed in Ephesians 6:4, cannot be shifted to someone else. Sure, the mother has her part but a father’s responsibility cannot be relinquished to her. Neither can parental responsibilities be turned over to day-care centers or substitute parents.

### Proper Timing

Timing is critical in the training process. There are two different Greek words translated by our English word “time.” The Greek word chronos means a space of time that is measured, whether short or long. But the word kairos means a fixed time of limited duration and is sometimes translated by “opportunity” or “due time” (Gal. 6:10; Romans 5:6).

When Paul says that we are to redeem the time, he means that we are to use the opportune time when we have it (Ephesians 5:15-16). Opportunities for training are during the youth of our children — those times neglected will never return and, once wasted, can never be repaired nor recovered. As the old timers used to say, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.”

### Training Rules

The following five rules are necessary in properly training children:

- 1) patience
- 2) persistence in teaching
- 3) repetition of desired behavior
- 4) reinforcement of good behavior by rewards
- 5) removal of bad behavior by punishment

In examining human behavior, we need to understand that with a child we are not programming behavior as we would program a computer — we are training a young mind that reasons and has a will.

### Responsibility Of Fathers

Paul expresses the responsibility of Fathers in training in Ephesians 6:4. First, he says, “Provoke not your children to wrath.” That can be done by unreasonable demands, harsh treatment, and too severe punishment — as with an animal, so with a child. If we are mean to an animal, we will produce either an animal that is mean or one whose spirit is broken.

Then he says, “bring them up” or “nurture them” which involves tender, constant care. They are to be nurtured “in the discipline” which comes from the Greek word paideia — originally the word meant “educating” but later it took on the idea of “correcting” since correcting wrong behavior is an essential part of educating. Discipline is essential to training a child. Note Hebrews 12:5-11 – fathers chasten their sons because they love them and look to a final end. Certainly, “no chastening seemeth for the present to be joyous, but grievous.”

Then, he adds to the training process “admonition” which is the essential building block of good self-esteem and healthy attitudes. “Admonition” means “to exhort” or “encourage.” As fathers, we cannot train our children just by punishing them for wrongdoing. Every child needs a lot of “building up.” Children left to themselves — both from the standpoint of the physical absence of father and/or the neglect of training — are a shame to their mother (Proverbs 29:15).

As fathers, how much time are we spending with our children? How well are we doing as a father? A rule, but not one without exceptions, is that an adult is the proof of the training he or she received as a child — “Train up a child” (Proverbs 22:6). So, if we as fathers look at our children’s character and behavior, that says a lot about how well we are doing our work. Do our children show respect to God and their elders? Are they obedient? Are they unselfish? Are they thoughtful, considerate and kind? Do they behave themselves in purity? If not, we need to straighten out some things.

### Elders’ Children

Particularly, an elder’s children say a lot about his qualification, because they are the proof of his family rule (1 Timothy 3:4-5). That is true of every home. But it means in reference to men who aspire to oversight that they must rule their houses well, having their children in subjection, in order to be competent to do that work.

### Conclusion:

As fathers, can God say about us what he said about Abraham?

“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.” (Genesis 18:19).

Let’s think about it!

## Announcements

- Holiday Meal at Diamond Jim’s Meridian Dec. 20 @ 6pm
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## Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
- Clark family (Chris Clark passed away, friend of Rowell’s)
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## Communion Preparation

- November - Callens
- December - Rowell
- 2023 Sign up sheet is in foyer

## November Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Laila McKenzie - 5th
- Cindy Littrell - 14th
- Marilyn Potts - 15th
- Ryan Joiner - 26th
- Margie Wooldridge - 30th

## Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



## Sermon Notes

## Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery  
 Scripture Reading - Isaiah 2:1 - 4  
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell  
 Head of Lord’s Table - Rick Carlberg  
 Assist on Lord’s Table - David Cradic  
 Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:36 - 41  
 Closing Prayer - James Johnson

- Comcast Cable 6**
- Comcast Cable 431**
- Comcast Cable 1011**
- DirecTV 11**
- DirecTV 396**
- Dish Network 11**
- Over-the-air 11.3**