

Real Solutions, Part 2 - Nehemiah 4

Nehemiah 4:14 "Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

To effectively fight for our families, we must correctly identify the enemy. **Nehemiah 4:1, "But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews."**

Sanballat's name means "sin gives life" - the worldview of a society in rebellion against God. **Sin was the name of the Sumerian moon god - a counterfeit god that was said to give life.**

Like our modern society, Sanballat followed counterfeit "gods" which is why he hated God and the people of God. **There are currently two kingdoms colliding for control of our world, and our children are the spoils of this war.**

Our purpose as parents is to teach our children to live in truth and not by lies! **The truth is more caught than it is taught. It's crucial that parents' lives embody truth and not lies.**

For the same reasons Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to rebuild its broken walls...

We must build walls with gates around our families to raise our children to be godly. Walls are for protection. Gates are for preparation. **Walls keep things on the "outside" from getting in. Gates let things on the "inside" go out.**

Godly parents must build strong walls around their kids in the early years and gradually open the gates in the later years. **The goal is not merely to keep our kids safe but to make our kids strong.**

Real Solutions in the early years...

- 1) Give your child a godly identity. **Your priority is teaching them the gospel, they are a sinner in need of a Savior. and leading them to the new birth - to be born again as a child of God.**
- 2) Train your child in a godly authority. **Your priority is teaching them that God's Word is the final authority in their life that should define both belief, behavior, worldview, and values.**
- 3) Teach your child a godly morality. **Teach them God's plan for human sexuality, gender identity, and morality.**

Real Solutions in the latter years...

- 1) Help your child define their life vision and values. **Values define who they are; vision defines what they do.**
- 2) Mark important moments and mile markers on the way to adulthood. **Mark the moments through ceremony and memories.**
- 3) Give them a clear definition of what it means to be a godly man or woman. **No one can become what they can't define.**

Nehemiah 4:18-20, Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

Let us rally together as a church family to fight for our sons and daughters.