

Sunday, May 25, 2025: Matthew 19:13–15

Parenting

Matthew 19:13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." **15** When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Introduction:

Some additional Scriptures to reference as a foundation for what the Bible says about parenting.

1. To children:

Colossians 3:20 Children, *obey your parents in everything*, for this pleases the Lord.

Ephesians 6: 1 Children, *obey your parents* in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— **3** "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Key word – HONOR. 'High respect and esteem'

A promise is given: so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

Exodus 20: 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. **9** They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

2. To Parents:

As parents, we can help our children to fulfill their command, or we can make it difficult. Paul gives parents instructions:

Colossians 3:21 *Fathers*, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Ephesians 6: 4 *Fathers*, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Embitter: We can ruin our relationship with our children.

Exasperation: We can have such lofty expectations of them that they just cannot meet them.

Proverbs 22: 6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Deuteronomy 11: 18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **19** *Teach them* to your children, *talking about them* when you sit at **home** and when you walk **along the road**, when you **lie down** and when you **get up**. **20** *Write them* on the doorframes of your **houses** and on your **gates**, **21** so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Christianity is a lifestyle. We need to live out our parenting while living out our faith. Do as I say, not as I do, does not work. James says, show me your faith by what you say, and I will show you mine by what I do.'

Parents need to have their kids in a place where they will learn about the things of God and around others who will build them up in the faith. Pray for them. You are 'Christ's Ambassador,' represent Him well.

Exodus 20: 4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, ***punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.***

There are multi-generational implications of your relationship with God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What type of parenting did you grow up under? Were your parents Christian? Looking back, were you aware of their faith? Did they live out their faith as they parented you? What is one thing that your parents did that you carried over, one thing you left behind (not a parent? What would you do if you were)

2. Where should we look for parenting advice? Where do you look, or see others looking? Which of you give the most instruction to your child(ren)? Share the best parenting advice you ever received. Now share the worst piece of advice someone gave you.

3. What parenting issues have driven you to the Bible for God's advice? Does faith play an active role in your parenting? If so, give an example. Do you have a favorite proverb that directs your parenting? What spiritual quality do you most want your kids to see in you?

4. What is your definition of unconditional love? How have you balanced expressing disappointment in their behavior with unconditional love for them as your children? How do you encourage your child and still discipline them? What is your end goal, your purpose as a parent? Do you know it? How does it correspond to God's desires?