



Sermon Title: A Christian Home part 4

Sermon Title: Raising Children

Date: 5/15/ 2022

Psalm 127

Big Idea: Parents, make your life's mission to raise children who love Jesus

Every child will ultimately make his or her own decision to follow Jesus as they grow up. But, there are steps parents can take that will lay the foundation of faith in a child and give them a much better chance for loving Jesus as they grow up.

We will look at 3 keys to raising kids who grow into responsible adults who will effectively serve God, their families, and society.

SHOW YOUR KIDS YOU LOVE THEM

Show your children that you love them. There is nothing more a child needs in this world than to know that he or she is loved. **Mark 10:13-16**

The world will throw a lot of hurt and negativity at your children. The way they can weather those times is to remain rooted in the fact that you love them. When a child knows that he or she is loved, it increases the chances of him or her having less anxiety, higher self-esteem, improved academic performance, better communication skills, and fewer psychological and behavioral problems.

Jesus knew the importance of affirming love to children. We read that He took them in his arms. Parents- regularly hug your children. Next we see that Jesus blessed the children. Jesus spoke well over them. Let your kids hear you speaking well over them. Verbally tell your kids that you love them. Affirm them.

CORRECT THEM WITH LOVE

Proverbs 13:24 NIV

There are many ways to discipline. Whatever the form of discipline looks like when you use it, it's important to remember the method of discipline isn't as important as the intent. Intent is what separates punishment from discipline. Punishment is used to make a child suffer for breaking the rules. Discipline is different. When we discipline our children, it should always be done in

love with the intent of correcting whatever rebellion occurred. To help with discipline, let me offer you 5 points to remember:

1. **Discipline should never be** reactionary or out of anger. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** Remember that your intent is not to crush the child's spirit but rather to correct the action. The target is not your child but what they did.
2. **Discipline needs to be consistent**
3. **Lovingly explain to your child why they are being disciplined.** This helps them to know that the discipline is not random and gives you the opportunity to talk about the situation.
4. **Avoid using belittling words and words like "you always" and "you never."** Hurtful words in the heat of frustration can create a wounding that could last decades or a lifetime in your child.
5. **Discipline should always be done in private, not public.** The intent is not to publicly shame your child.

Remember the role that discipline plays while you intentionally raise godly children **Hebrews 12:11**

TRAIN THEM TO LOVE JESUS

Proverbs 22:6

The bible tells us to intentionally train our kids. Kids today face challenges like no generation before. Their time, energy, and minds are continually being competed for, and they are being pulled in every direction – and most of those directions are away from God. The challenge for us as parents is to align as many of those activities so the majority of the pull is toward Jesus. Spiritual grounding begins in the home. Make God a part of your regular conversations- get a children's bible and read it with them. Teach your children to pray and meal times and at bedtime

Model what being a follower of Jesus looks like and as a result, pass that knowledge onto their children. Your Christian walk is one of the best ways to train your children.

Physically attending Church is also vital for raising children who love Jesus. It is important to remember that worshiping online is not a long-term substitute for those who are able to attend in person church. Long term worshiping online unintentionally training them that church attendance is not a priority. Church attendance is especially important during the early years when it is critically important to lay the foundation of faith.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some of the greatest challenges kids today face that try to draw them away from Jesus? How can we combat those challenges?**
- **How can Christians who are not raising children have a godly influence on children?**
- **If you raised children what is something you would do different if you had the chance to raise children over again? What is something you would do the same?**
- **What forms of discipline were most and least effective on you when you were a child? Why?**
- **How would you explain to someone the difference between punishment and discipline? Does the correction look the same?**