

Raising Godly Children

Psalms 127:3-5 (NLT) *Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.*

I. How does the Lord see children?

Matthew 18:10 (AMP) *Beware that you do not despise or feel scornful toward or think little of one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always are in the presence of and look upon the face of My Father Who is in heaven.*

Mark 10:13-16 (ESV) *And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.*

Psalms 8:2 (NKJV) *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

Children can show forth the glory of God. They are so innocent and pure at heart!

II. The responsibility of Godly parents

****Malachi 4:5-6 (NLT)** *"Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse."*

Your heart must be for your children! When parents do not get it right, their kids will most likely not get it right. Thus, you have effectively changed the culture!!

a. To Care For

1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV) *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

b. Teach them the ways of God

****Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NASB 2020)** *These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.*

Titus 2:6-8 (NASB 2020) *Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; in all things, show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach...*

c. Discipline

Ephesians 6:4 (AMP) *Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.*

Proverbs 19:18 (ESV) *Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.*

Proverbs 19:18 (KJV) *Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*

Proverbs 19:18 (NLT) *Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise, you will ruin their lives.*

Proverbs 13:24 (NASB 2020) *He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

Proverbs 23:13-14 (NASB 2020) *Do not withhold discipline from a child; Though you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.*

Rod: h7626. שֵׁבֶט; i.e. (literally) a stick (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.) or rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club....

*****Proverbs 29:15 (NASB 2020)** *The rod and a rebuke give wisdom. But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

III. Children

Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV) *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

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

Exodus 20:12 (ESV) *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

It's all about obedience! If you do not obey a parent you can see, you will never obey God, whom you cannot see!

Proverbs 1:8-9 (NLT) My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.

Look at the blessing tied to honoring and obeying parents!

IV. The blessing of Godly parents.

Genesis 18:19 (NLT) I have singled him (Abraham) out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised."

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Proverbs 22:6 (NASB 2020) Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he grows older he will not abandon it.

No one parent is perfect! We can do everything right, and our children can still choose the wrong path. We can do all the wrong things, and God can touch our children and call them to Himself, and they accept! Every Good parent wants things better for their children. However, we must understand that for the Christian parent, a wayward child is the exception, not the norm.

As Godly parents, our children will be blessed if we strive to follow Jesus in all we do. This doesn't guarantee their salvation. But it does ensure that if God gets ahold of their heart and draws them to Himself, then they will already have positive examples of what it looks like to follow after Him. They will know how to read their Bibles, pray, and live out their faith because they have seen their parents doing it. Like Isaac, they will be blessed. Not because of anything they have done but because they have been born to godly parents.

Luke 15:17-19 (NLT) "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."'"

Hebrews 12:11 (NASB 2020) For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Proverbs 29:17 (NASB 2020) Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.