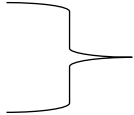


Trials of the Christian Life

The Struggle is Real

Children: Our Heritage from the Lord

HOW THE ENEMY ATTACKS OUR CHILDREN

- This is an unfortunately unique time in history when children are attacked before they are even born. Since Roe v. Wade more than _____ million Americans have been killed before they even had a chance to live.
- Self-worth – The world teaches our kids to base their self-worth on:
 - their possessions (lust of the flesh).
 - their outside appearance (lust of the eyes)
 - their accomplishments (pride of life) 1 John 2:16
- Self-image:
 - The world tells our kids that they're not uniquely made, but that they're simply a result of a random combination of genes that's taken millions of years to create.
 - The world convinces our kids that they are mere animals with physical desires that deserve to be met, and that sexual pleasure is just one of those desires that should be fulfilled without any emotional attachment.
 - The world convinces some that perhaps God made a mistake in giving them the wrong _____, leading to all kinds of deep identity issues about what it means to be male and female.
 - The world uses television and the media to promote certain body shapes as ideal over others. He convinces them that every measure must be taken to achieve these ideal body images, including those that lead to eating disorders and drug abuse.
 - Genesis 1:27; Mark 10:6; Psalm 139:13-14; Eph. 2:10; Rev. 4:11.

OUR DEFENSE: TRAIN UP

- It is first important to remember where our children come from – Psalm 127:3.
 - Heritage - *In Scripture, the saints or people of God are called his heritage, as being claimed by him, and the objects of his special care. Something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor.* - Ex. 6:8; Ps. 119:111; 1 Peter 5:3.
 - As opposed to just wealth, land, possessions, etc., we are to pass down a godly _____ (*something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past*).
 - Heritage is what you receive, legacy is what you _____ – Ps. 78:4, 145:4; Joshua 4:21-22; Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4.
 - Reward – a blessing directly from God! A chance to carry on a godly legacy. (think how important this was/is to the Jew!)
- The Bible uses an interesting simile for children and how parents are to “handle” them: “as arrows” – Psalm 127:4.
 - Bow = God & Word of God.

- Power. Aim – 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:7; Col. 1:11; Eph. 1:19-20, 6:10.
- Mighty man = Father and Mother
 - "Mighty" – NOT a _____. Knows how to properly handle the bow (word of God) – Acts 18:24.
- The arrow (child)
 - Shaft
 - Needs to be straight (to follow a straight path) – Matt. 7:14; Pro. 4:26, 8:20.
 - Must not bend under pressure – Col. 2:6-8.
 - Fletching (vanes)
 - Designed to keep the arrow on target; helps prevent going off course - (_____) - Eph. 4:14; John 14:26.
 - Nock
 - The arrow must be _____ to the string (nock holds in place) – John 15:1-5.
 - Without that connection there is no _____!
- Arrowhead (point)
 - Sharpened – Pro. 27:17.
 - Sticks to the target.
 - Destroys the enemy.

HITTING THE MARK

It takes a lot of practice, training, and _____ to be able to hit a target.

- Though a blessing, children will tend toward evil if left to their own nature – Pro. 22:15, 29:15.
 - Neglecting to discipline your child condemns them to _____ – Pro. 23:13-14.
- Correction demonstrates _____ whereas the lack of it demonstrates hate – Pro. 13:24.
 - It is preventative while steering a child away from greater trouble – Pro. 15:31-32.
- The "target" is fear of the Lord and wisdom – Pro. 4:3-9, 2:1-21.
- **KEY** - The greatest teacher to your children is YOU living by example:
 - Know what you are talking about! Study, memorize, and learn the word of God – 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - Live what you learn! - 2 Cor. 8:11-12; James 1:22; Deut. 6:1-9.

"The classical method of improving the accuracy of the equipment is by 'tuning' the arrow set to the bow and the archer".

THE RESULTS

- Psalm 127:5 - "Speak with enemies at the gate" – well prepared to be in the world (gate). Knows how to stand up to the enemy!
- Pro. 22:6 - A proverb and not a promise BUT God is always _____!