

Raising Spiritual Children

Introductory Remarks

1. Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a blessing, not a curse!
“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.” (Psa 127:3 NKJV)
2. **It does take sacrifice & commitment to raise children in obedience to the Lord!**
“In pain you shall bring forth children” (Gen 3:16)
3. We must learn to trust God & His Word
It is VERY sad that many Christian parents rely more on pop-psychology and human-invented methods, than on God & His Word!
4. **What is the primary goal of raising children? Material or spiritual?**
What saith the Lord? “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Eph 6:4
What are YOUR primary goals for your children: material or spiritual?

Biblical Foundations for Parenting

I. What should be our greatest joy for our children?

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk in truth.**” (3 Jn 1:4)

II. Impart God’s Word (i.e. spiritual truth) to our children

“Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And **teach them to your children** and your grandchildren... and that they may teach their children.” (Deut 4:9-10)
(Eph 6:4) (Deu 6:5-7) (Deut 11:18-20)

Imparting God’s Word to our children will produce ...

A. First, children who obey us

(Eph 6:1) “Obey your parents.” (Col 3:20)

This is a necessary step toward them learning the next step ...

B. Second, children who obey the Lord

“Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is right.” (Eph 6:1) (Col 3:20)

“That the generation to come might know them ... that they may arise and declare them to their children, **That they may set their hope in God**, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments.” (Psa 78:6-7)

III. Obstacles to Raising Spiritual children

- A. You as a parent are sinful and imperfect!
- B. Every one of your children is **sinful and imperfect!**
- C. Spiritual Warfare
- D. Our lack of dependence upon & trust in the Lord.
- E. “Do as I say, not as I do!”
- F. **Provoking to wrath**

Solid Home Foundations

I. The supremacy of the Scriptures

2 Tim 3:16-17

- family devotions:
- Biblical standards:
- Scripture memory:
- Acknowledging the Lord in ALL things ... every day ... Prov 3:5-6

II. Spiritual, Praying Parents

II. A stable, godly marriage

- A. Establish a solid Christian marriage
- B. Protect your marriage relationship
- C. Build & grow in maturity

III. Obedience to Biblical Roles

Eph 5:21-33 Col 3:18-19 Titus 2:4-5 1 Pet 3:1-7

IV. Firm but gentle discipline

- A. Heb 12:7 - 11 (*From Prov 3:11-12*)
- B. “Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Pro 22:6

VI. Open Communication

Telling, Teaching & Training

- A. **Telling:** what you should do
- B. **Teaching:** why you should do it
- C. **Training:** how you should do it