

Bringing Up Children in the Lord

A Series on Parenting
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Morgantown, KY

Lesson 1: The Gift of Children

Lesson 2: The Home in Which Children are Raised

Lesson 3: Parents as Role Models

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“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4)

LESSON 1

The Gift of Children

Key Text:

“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...” (Psalm 127:3-5).

Point #1: Children are a Gift from God

- Children are to be seen as a blessing (Ps. 127:3-5; 1 Chr. 26:4-5)
- Children are an example of God’s enduring providence (Gen. 4:1; 1 Tim. 2:15)
- At the same time, realize that not all will be blessed with children (Gen. 30:1-2)

Point #2: Many in the World Have a Contrary View

- Children are seen as a burden rather than a blessing (2 Kings 6:28-29)
- The consequences of evolutionary thought – if man is not made in God’s image (Gen. 1:26-27), then he is no different than animals (Eccl. 3:19-21)
- The plague of abortion – kills one made in God’s image (Jer. 1:4-5; Ps. 139:13-16)

Point #3: How to Treat Children as a Gift

- Be thankful to God for them (1 Sam. 2:1-2, 5)
- Value them – they are precious (Hos. 9:16)
- Deal with them appropriately (Heb. 12:10; Eph. 6:4)

Summary:

Our view of children must be shaped by the Bible, not by society. Children are a gift from God. While there are responsibilities that come with parenting, children should not be seen as a burden, but as a blessing.

LESSON 2

The Home in Which Children are Raised

Key Text:

“God created man in His own image...male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply...” (Genesis 1:27-28).

Point #1: God’s Plan for Marriage

- One man and one woman for life (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6)
- Different roles for husbands and wives (Eph. 5:22-24) – yet they work together in raising children (Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:10)
- The Lord’s intention is for children to be born to married couples (Heb. 13:4)

Point #2: The World’s Different Plans

- Perverting marriage – same-sex marriage, polygamy, divorce, living together unmarried (Mt. 19:3-9; Heb. 13:4)
- No difference in roles for men and women
- Fornication which results in out-of-wedlock births

Point #3: The Parent/Child Relationship

- The parents’ job is not to be a child’s friend (Heb. 12:9)
- The parents are also not to be a child’s enemy (Eph. 6:4)
- Parents are to simply be parents

Summary:

God created the home in the beginning. By His design, the home is where children are to be raised. While there may be circumstances that arise – either through loss or sin – that result in other arrangements (single-parents, other family members as caregivers, etc.), we must not lose sight of God’s plan and seek to follow it in bringing up children.

LESSON 3

Parents as Role Models

Key Text:

“A righteous man who walks in his integrity—how blessed are his sons after him” (Proverbs 20:7).

Point #1: Role Models within the Home/Family

- Example of authority/submission (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:21-24)
- Example of sacrifice (1 Jn. 3:16; Eph. 5:25-29)
- Example of hard work (Col. 3:23; 1 Tim. 5:8, 13-14)

Point #2: Role Models within Society

- Example of being a good neighbor (Gal. 6:10; Lk. 10:27-37)
- Example of being a good citizen (1 Pet. 2:13-16; Acts 5:29)
- Example of being different than the world (Mt. 5:14-16)

Point #3: Role Models within the Church

- Example in making time to assemble (Heb. 10:25)
- Example of being an active member (Eph. 4:16)
- Example of adhering to the truth (2 Tim. 1:13)

Summary:

Parents teach children by example. While giving the proper instruction is certainly important (as we will notice in the next lesson), parents must demonstrate godliness in their own lives. If parents fail to do this, the children will come to see them as hypocrites, which will make the instruction seem to be irrelevant. We must let our light shine to all (Mt. 5:16), but especially to our children.

LESSON 4

Training Children

Key Text:

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

Point #1: Primary Responsibility of the Parents

- Parents are responsible for training children (Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15)
- Others can help, but this should be secondary (2 Tim. 1:5)
- This responsibility must be taken seriously

Point #2: Training through Instruction

- The primary source of instruction must be the word of God (2 Tim. 3:15)
- This instruction must be regular and consistent (Deut. 6:6-9) – not limited to Bible classes at the local church
- It must prepare them for those who would promote error and wickedness (Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Pet. 3:3; Pr. 1:10)

Point #3: Training through Discipline

- Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child (Pr. 22:15)
- Discipline must be carried out in love, not in anger/hatred (Pr. 13:24; 19:18; Heb. 12:10-11)
- The goal is to direct the child in the way of truth (Pr. 23:13-14)

Summary:

The training of children is done in two ways – by instruction (teaching them what is right) and by discipline (punishing them for doing what is wrong). Parents are responsible for training their children; therefore, they must take that work seriously. Failing to train children in the right way will bring shame to the parents (Pr. 29:15).

LESSON 5

Raising Children in a Wicked World

Key Text:

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

Point #1: Wickedness in the World is Nothing New

- There are many problems in our society – but there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9)
- Some examples of wicked societies in the Bible (Gen. 6:5; 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- The problem is sin – it is timeless (Rom. 3:23)

Point #2: Keep Priorities in Order

- Teach children to put spiritual things first (Mt. 6:33)
- Work is good – but the goal must be right (Pr. 3:9; Lk. 8:14)
- Relationships are good – but loyalty to Christ must come first (Mt. 10:34-37)

Point #3: Guard Children from Evil Influences

- This is not to say that children should be “sheltered”
- But parents do need to be careful (1 Cor. 15:33)
- Children can be easily influenced to follow the wrong path (Eph. 4:14; 1 Cor. 14:20)

Summary:

Is it possible to raise godly children in a wicked world? Yes! It has been done before, it can be done today. However, this does not mean it will be easy. Parents must be diligent and trust in God’s plan, no matter how wicked the world becomes.

LESSON 6

Raising Children to be Christians

Key Text:

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth” (3 John 4).

Point #1: Faith That is Passed Down

- One generation must teach the next (Deut. 6:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:5)
- The parents’ goal is to lead their children to Christ (2 Tim. 3:15)
- However, there is no guarantee they will be faithful (Ezek. 18:9-10)

Point #2: How Parents Can Pass Down Their Faith

- Teach them the truth (Jn. 17:17; Rom. 10:17)
- Display a genuine faith (2 Tim. 1:5)
- Let them see the joy of liberty in Christ (Rom. 14:17)

Point #3: The Age of Accountability

- The age in which one is ready to obey the gospel will be different for each one
- They must know the truth for themselves (Acts 8:35-38)
- They must appreciate the nature of the commitment (Lk. 14:25-33)

Summary:

As parents strive to *“bring...up [children] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Eph. 6:4), the ultimate goal is to lead them *to the Lord*. Parents may hope that their children enjoy good health and prosperity in this life; but in the end, what most is that their *“soul prospers”* as they walk *“in the truth”* (3 John 2-4).

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