

Stewardship 101

Lesson 3

Children

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: Children are one of the greatest responsibilities that we have been given by God. The institution of the home was established by God for the maintenance and education of children. It requires great effort to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Three primary goals should be to have healthy, happy, and holy children. This must be done despite great opposition to biblical principles by the world and the devil to raising children.

To have healthy children means providing for their physical needs. This requires training them to have a healthy diet, regular exercise, personal hygiene, and consistent sleeping habits. Disregarding these has caused obesity and other major health concerns in the lives of young children. The large amount of time spent watching television and playing video games has made couch potatoes out of young children. Another contributing factor is overworked mothers who scramble to provide for their family. In order to produce healthy kids the role of mother needs to be restored to the biblical model so she can provide a proper home for the children to grow up in.

The second goal is to produce happy children by providing for their emotional needs. This requires nurturing the child with instruction, correction, and discipline; which prevents emotional problems. Properly trained children will be the happiest children around. Proper training requires a consistent and committed effort to train children to be obedient, disciplined, educated, and hard working. Learning simple obedience to authority prevents selfish brats who are miserable and make everyone around them miserable. It is much easier to bend and shape the tree as a sapling and not wait until the will is formed into a solid oak and is completely unmoldable. Sadly, many people have pets that are better behaved than their children. The key to training young children is consistent, loving, and firm instruction and correction. Training that is rash, harsh, and angry will only result in greater emotional damage to the child.

The education of children is another area of great responsibility for parents which cannot be abdicated to the government or the church. Whether parents choose home-school, public school, or Christian school they are still responsible for the child's education. They are to give them direction by helping them identify God's will for their life and equipping and encouraging them to fulfill that purpose to the glory of God. Giving them the tools to learn and develop into productive adults will produce happy and focused instead of frustrated and aimless lives.

The final goal is to produce holy children by providing for their spiritual needs. Certainly, this is the most important aspect of parenting, to instruct them in the Scriptures which are able to make them wise unto salvation. The home environment is to be one where the Scriptures are constantly discussed, illustrated, and explained to the children making them aware of how the Bible applies to all aspects of life. It is essential for families to gather daily for a time of prayer, instruction, singing, memorization, and time for discussing the events of the day. This is teaching children the importance of worshipping God on a daily basis. Spiritually minded children are not nurtured in a day, rather day by day. It is an awesome responsibility to be a good steward of the eternal souls of our children. Merely attending church and going to Sunday School are not adequate preparation for the world they will face.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Parent** -

Nurture –

Admonition n.

Greek: (3809) **paideia** *pahee-di'-ah*

3813. **paidion** *pahee-dee'-on*

(3559) **nouthesia** *noo-thes-ee'-ah*

Hebrew: (3206) **yeled** *yeh'-led*

1121. **ben** *bane*

Quotation:

“There is little hope of children who are educated wickedly. If the dye have been in the wool, it is hard to get it out of the cloth.” Jeremiah Burroughs

“This is the difference between religion and atheism, religion doth not grow without planting, but will die even where it is planted without watering. Atheism, irreligion, and profaneness are weeds that will grow without setting, but they will not die without plucking up.” William Gurnall

“It is common sense to put the seal to the wax while it is soft.” Arthur Jackson

“It is far more noble to be born of those that have been born of God, than to be the grandchildren of the devil.” Ezekiel Hopkins

“What a mercy was it to us to have parents that prayed for us before they had us, as well as in our infancy when we could not pray for ourselves!” John Flavel

“Let them (children) ...go untaught and they will grow so headstrong that they will sooner be broken than bended.” Richard Greenham

“It is easy to observe that none are so gripple and hard fisted as the childless; where those, who, for the maintenance of large families, are inured to frequent disbursements, find such experience of Divine providence in the faithful management of their affairs, as that they lay out with more cheerfulness what they receive.” Joseph Hall

“As for those parents who will not use the rod upon their children, I pray God He useth not their children as a rod for them.” Thomas Fuller

“Some parents, like Eli, bring up their children to bring down their house.” George Swinnoek

“Well doth David call children “arrows”; for if they be well bred, they shoot at their parents’ enemies; and if they be evil bred they shoot at their parents.” Henry Smith

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

London Baptist Confession of 1689

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What was one of the primary reasons for God establishing the home?
2. What are three primary goals of parents for their children?
3. What are some ways that parents can provide for the physical needs of their children?
4. What are some contributing factors to the poor health of children?
5. How can parents provide for the emotional needs of their children?
6. What role should parents play in the education of their children?
7. How should a parent give direction to their children?
8. How can parents provide for the spiritual needs of their children?
9. What are some things that your family could do for a “family altar” time?

10. Why is providing for the spiritual health of our children such an awesome responsibility?

Key Scriptures: (*Look up these verses and fill in the blanks*)

Psalm 78:1-8 The way for God's law and truth was passed was from their _____ telling them. They were responsible not to _____ them from their children but were expected to show to the _____ to come the praises of the Lord. God gave His laws and commanded our _____ to make them _____ to their

_____. This was necessary that they may set their _____ in God and not _____ the works of God but _____ His commandments. This would prevent them from being a _____ and rebellious generation that was not _____ with God.

Psalm 127 Children are an _____ of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His _____. If brought up well they will be _____ to fight against the enemy and _____ is the man that has a _____ full of them.

Psalm 128 The blessing of the Lord upon the man that fears Him is that he will have a wife that is _____ and he will be allowed to see his children's _____ and _____ upon them.

Proverbs 1:8-9 Children are encouraged to _____ the instruction of their _____ and not to forsake the _____ of their mother.

Proverbs 17:6 Grandchildren are the _____ of old men and the glory of children are their _____.

Proverbs 22:6 The Bible offers the promise that if we are faithful to _____ a child in the right way, he will not _____ from it when he is old.

Proverbs 22:15 _____ is bound in the _____ of a child; but the rod of _____ will drive it _____ from him.

Proverbs 23:13 We must not _____ correction from our children. If you beat him with a _____ he will not _____.

Proverbs 29:15 The _____ and _____ give _____ but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to _____.

Colossian 3:20-21 Children are to _____ their parents in _____ things which is well _____ to the Lord. Fathers are to be careful against _____ their children and leading them to discouragement.

II Timothy 3:15 The Scriptures are able to make a child _____ unto

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Deuteronomy 6

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: Proverbs 22:6

Personal Definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Parenting -

Personal Application: Obtain a copy of Spurgeon's catechism and help your children memorize and understand it every day this week.

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*) What role should Sunday School play in the spiritual training for your children?

Extra Credit: Read the book "To train up a child" by Michael Pearl