

THREE OBJECTIVES - WHICH IS YOURS?

Goal level one: "The Good Kid" - If you merely want obedient children, you need not be born again, go to church, or even believe in God. Lost people of all stripes in many parts of the world have accomplished it. Just be a conscientious parent with a consistent life and reasonably good disciplinary habits. You can believe groundhogs are gods or Jesus is Satan's brother and still hear, "He's a good kid." They will probably shack up before they marry, drink socially, and party. Their lives will be spent making life as good as possible for themselves. They may win salesman of the year awards, be great athletes, find a cure for warts, or own their own company. You will be proud that they are smart, have good jobs, and make a nice living for their family. Enjoy your children in this life because it is all you have and the future is horrific. You will have utterly failed them but made life better for yourself at home temporarily.

Goal level two: "The Christian Kid" - If you want to raise God-fearing, moral, church attenders, you can prioritize life pretty much like a lost person but with add-ons. Throw in church attendance, Christian school, youth camp, and Bible reading in moderation inasmuch that they do not interfere with the things that really matter to you as demonstrated by what you put first. Your kids will probably accept Christ as Savior during their church attendance and learn the moral code of the Bible. That means they will go to heaven when they die and know right from wrong. They will make good neighbors and honest businesspeople. They will probably memorize scripture and make periodic commitments to Christ that are undermined by the example at home. You probably could not pick them out by their appearance in public or on the beach. They will probably fornicate before they are married but feel guilty about it. They may be in and out of church altogether or end up in a church you cannot bless and one that will not lead your grandchildren into a personally relationship with Christ. You will regret many of the choices they have made but comfort yourself that it could be much worse and even rationalize that they are better in some crucial respects than kids who made better decisions overall. They will know how to talk the talk but never be convinced they should completely walk the walk. They will be selective Bible readers: embracing the parts they already live and rejecting as legalistic or incorrect any part that would require them to change. You will enjoy fellowship with them so long as you agree not to trip the land mine issues on which you disagree. You will be together in heaven but watching them on earth will be disappointing.

Goal level three: "The True Disciple" - If you want to raise up a godly seed that will grow up to be a disciple that puts Jesus first, serving His cause and His kingdom without hesitation or limitation, it will require a biblical priority you may or may not be prepared to set. If goal level three seems impertinent to you, understand that priority is the crux. If you want more for your child, you have to invest more of yourself. Don't expect cream while you live skim milk. And there are also many Bible examples of parents who lived cream but still did not parent well on all of their children. What is the difference between the Christian kid and the true disciple? The parents comprehended Biblical parenting (the way) and paid the price to implement it on a daily level. Parenting was not only "on purpose" but premeditated. Most people only know "reactive parenting"—they wait until their child does something, then they react to it. Premeditated parenting requires a clear view of the objective and a plan to achieve it. All young people are not self-centered and narcissistic. God is calling out true disciples from this generation for the sake of the gospel. Wouldn't you like to raise a child with that level of commitment and maturity for Christ? You can! Isn't that what we are trying to accomplish—to train up the raw material of young men and women so God can direct them to do whatever He wants, wherever He wants, whenever He wants? What is your objective and are you willing to pay the price to achieve it for your Lord and your family?

Priority is everything! Children may be dense as a brick when trying to understand work we want them to do, but they are perceptive and erudite scholars in discerning our parental priorities. Our inconsistencies stand out like a violin in a marching band.

When we stay home from church with a cold on Sunday night but go to work with the same bug Monday morning, they understand money calls the shots in our lives. When we go fishing with the same headache that kept us out of prayer meeting, they get it. When we spend God's time out hunting or traveling when we should be ministering, or turn two weeks of vacation into four Sundays out of ministry, our kids see the disparity between what we say we love and what we show we love. We are all very good at rationalizing whatever we want to do: "I was spending time with the family; I worked that job to give money to missions; the Christian school play is serving the kingdom of God too; my Christian influence in Pop Warner football is more important than my faithfulness to church; I made a prior commitment to friends it would be wrong to break." Our children observe and learn the same skills of making excuses to cover putting other things before the kingdom of God and His righteousness. It all sounds a lot like Luke 14: I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it...I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them...I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. When I have money for dog food or ammunition or greens fees but not for world missions, what is my child supposed to deduce about the important things in life? What really matters in eternity, the \$1,200 the family spent last year on coffee or the bus the church is trying to buy to get kids to Jesus? Perhaps you can do both (and good for you), but if not, the choice reveals the priority. If I only want a child who is a better Christian than I was as a child, that is different from seeking a godly seed that will eclipse me as an adult for the cause of Christ and potentially raise generations that will surpass them.

Jesus underscored the concept that discipleship love was more than strong devotional feelings when his disciples brought food just after he witnessed to and won the Samaritan woman. They knew Jesus hadn't eaten, yet when offered food, He declined saying, I have meat to eat ye know not of. To dispel their puzzlement he added, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me.

WHAT DOES A GODLY SEED LOOK LIKE?

(12 GOALS FOR RAISING GODLY CHILDREN)

1. Children who come to an understanding of the gospel, sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit for sin, and respond in repentance by faith to our Lord Jesus Christ, knowing what faith is and how to call upon Him for salvation at an early age.

- *2Tim. 3:15 - And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

2. Children who love God with all their beings, and who cultivate a personal, daily, and vibrant relationship with Him as their Heavenly Father: a godly heart, a heart after God, a spiritual heart.

- *Deut. 30:6 And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live... (cf. Mk. 12:30)*

3. Children who fear the Lord, understanding that God chastens every son and daughter for disobedience and blesses every son and daughter for obedience; who understand cause and effect, action and reaction, stimulus and response.

- *Pr. 16:6 - ...by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.*
- *Heb. 12:6 - For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...*
- *Pr. 15:3 - The eyes of the Lord are in every place...*

4. Children who grasp their spiritual mission and give themselves entirely to it for life at any cost, seeking first the kingdom of God above career, fame, financial considerations, family, or personal comforts.

- *Mt. 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- *Matt. 10:39 - He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake [and the gospel's - Mk. 8:35] shall find it.*

5. Children who are skillful in the Word, knowing what it says in detail so they can know what to believe and delight in; who understand its principles and how to apply them to the real world; who develop their own biblical convictions and standards from specific Bible verses; who have the ability to defend and contend for the faith (Jude 3).

- *Psa. 1:2 - But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*
- *2Tim. 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

6. Children with a heart for people, a burden for the lost, and a sense of responsibility to fulfill the great commission by taking the gospel to the whole world.

- *Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

7. Children with the character, strength, and courage to attempt and finish the things their good hearts desire and the Lord directs.

- *1 Cor. 16:13 - Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*

8. Children well-trained in relationship building, leadership, and ministry skills; whose talents and spiritual gifts are developed; who know how to feed themselves in the Word, encourage themselves in the Lord, and grow in grace.

- *Lk. 2:52 - And Jesus [at 12 years of age] increased in wisdom (educational) and stature (physical), and in favour with God (spiritual) and man (social). (cf. Eph. 4:12-15)*

9. Boys skilled in the arts of manhood and girls skilled in the arts of womanhood, believing real men and real women are the raw stuff best suited for God to use to fulfill His purposes and the biblically different roles He gave to man and woman.

- *Titus 2:4 - That they may teach the young women to be... 6 Young men likewise exhort to be...*

10. Children who keep their minds and bodies sexually pure, waiting patiently for God's choice of a like-minded, marital partner who will join with them in fervent service for the kingdom of God; who have been protected from molestation and exposure to inappropriate forms of sexuality; who are well-trained by instruction and example how to deeply love their mate while building a stable, peaceful, and productive home.

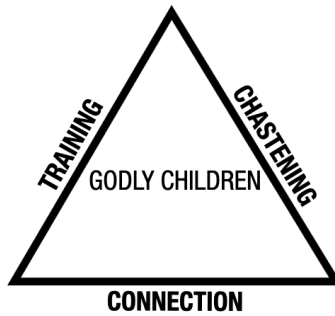
- *1. Cor. 6:19 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

11. Children with life experience who have been places, done things, and met people that enriched their lives and formed a database of harmonious memories as a foundation for the courage to try new things, the wisdom to judge with caution, and the zest to live joyfully in the Lord, content with His place and plan.

- *1 Tim. 6:17 - ...The living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*
- *1 Jn. 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits...*
- *Phil. 4:11 - ...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

12. Children balanced on the inside, knowing who they are, what their life is about, who they are to please, who they are to disregard, and what they are worth to God and parents; children who have a well-practiced regimen for emotionally processing physical pain, emotional hurt, unfairness, stress, and trauma; children who are equipped to deal with life issues in the Lord and know how to resolve conflict biblically.

- *Eph. 4:26 - Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*



God's Plan for Raising Godly Children - "No Greater Joy"

WHAT DOES A BIBLICAL HOME LOOK LIKE?

"The same Jesus Who turned water into wine can transform your home, your life, your family, and your future. He is still in the miracle-working business, and His business is the business of transformation."

*Pro 22:6 Train up a child in **the way he should go**: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

THE WORLD AND THE WORLDY HOME IS OUT OF CONTEXT: Just as a verse of Scripture has a context that gives to it a specific meaning, so a child has a setting that contributes to him or her so much more than a list of rules to live by or a last name to carry.

A child's family defines "normal" for him. Think about that for a moment. If Mom and Dad reverse their roles, that becomes normal for the child. If parents scream and argue often, the child takes that forward with him into his own family as normal home-life. If lying and manipulation are the patterns of everyday married existence, our children grow up thinking that's how people do it. If dads and moms correct and threaten but never follow up with any consequence for disobedience, guess what the child will reproduce in his future family?

Raising up a godly seed requires a biblical seedbed. In post-Christian America, many have grown up not having ever seen a real biblical home. Perhaps you got saved, went to church, and heard about it, but it has never been lived out before you. Now in Christ, you want to raise godly children but feel inexperienced and unprepared.

"You can't live home-life like the world and produce children like the Lord."

#1. A BIBLICAL HOME IS A BORN-AGAIN HOME

Act 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

#2. A BIBLICAL HOME IS A BIBLE LIVING HOME

Deuteronomy 6:1 *Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

Too often, parents engage in random cherry-picking from many sources and end up with a self-styled methodology that will cost them their kids. Stick to the Bible. Choose to limit yourself to Bible instruction because it has the timeless truth that transcends man's wisdom. People want short, simple, magical answers to complicated questions. They don't exist. Parents are desperate, and the talk-show experts are peddling methods that do not work. Biblical training works!

WE DO WHAT IS RIGHT BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT!

#3 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE MAN PROVIDES

(1 Tim• 5:8) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Biblically, there are no stay-at-home dads to nanny the children while mom brings home the bread—even if her job pays more than his does. The damage caused by the role reversal goes far beyond the benefits of extra income. The Christ-life requires transformation—and that includes your family finances. It might mean you can't have that second car or three TV's or a new swimming pool or eat out often. It might mean you have to sell your house and buy a smaller one. It might mean you have to tear up most of your credit cards, get out of debt, and start living on your real income. It might mean you demote material possessions to a lower priority and elevate God's plan to the top spot.

The man provides for the financial needs of his home, and the family lives within that income. God declares that a man who won't do this has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox [corn-fed beef] and hatred therewith Proverbs 5:17).

The biblical home does not have a lazy dad that won't work (11 Thess• 3:10-12) or one that lives off the government and relatives. He models industry, responsibility, perseverance, and resourcefulness for his children. The family may face hard times together, but dad will be one of the hardest working men those children have ever known. He may push himself in a job he hates, or work the graveyard shift, or hold down three jobs at the same time, but the biblical dad will provide for his family. He sees his sacrifice as well worth it because it is for his dear ones. His wife and children lift him up and appreciate what he does on their behalf. He has the power to bless his family with a home, food, clothing, and gifts bought with the money he earned. They are thankful, and he feels respected.

#4 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE MAN UNDERSTANDS HIS HEADSHIP

GOD HAS MADE THE MAN A HEAD - You are either a good head or a bad head - but you are a head.

Dad, God has given you both the responsibility and the power of headship. **Failing here can be catastrophic. Succeeding here can be potentially the most significant gift your children ever receive short of eternal life.**

God gave dads magical powers, invisible to the naked eye but illusively manifest all our lives. (*Prov. 17:6 the **glory of children** are their **fathers**.)* Like a strong wind blowing the leaves of a tree, dad's unseeable influence moves us from birth to death. In fact, much in our lives is either a response to or reaction against the force he represents to us and our deep need for his love and approval. God sums up those powers in the idea of headship (Eph. 5:23 I. Cor. 11:3) meaning the prominent part (head) most grasped. For children, it is not just authority and power. It is authority they can touch.

God gave man the headship in his home. Sometimes God calls it rule (Gn. 3:16; I. Tim. 3:5). Other times He calls it command. Unquestionably, it is authority. Have you ever wondered why mom could wrestle the baby alligators all day long but dad walks in the door, speaks, and they snap to? Have you ever frustrated over how mom "reminds" young adolescent Junior about taking the trash out until she sounds like a nag but dad says, "Son, take the trash out now please" and it happens? The reason there is such a difference between the way we relate to dad and mom is that God gave dad a headship he did not give to mom. It is a hidden authority. Yes, I know there are effeminate or passive or unavailable fathers as well as dragon- lady, drill-sergeant

mothers but that is a whole different can of worms. Children relate differently to mom's authority and almost always have a different kind of relationship with her. Certainly, children can and should be well-trained to obey mother's instruction respectfully, but they view her authority differently.

Headship is more than a divine right to be the boss. It is a grave responsibility. Father is both an authority and is under authority. He represents God the Father to his children. They can't touch God, but they can touch him. They can't roll in the floor with God, but they can tickle with dad. They can't see God's face in smile or frown, but they can see dad's. They can't hear God's praise or scolding with their ears, but they can hear dad's. In many ways, your children will naturally transfer to God the relationship they have with you in the same way a bride transfers to her husband the relationship she had with her dad.

The more fatherless or disconnected sons we raise in our society, the more men we will have who are honestly saved but struggle with emotional closeness to God. When a father abandons his family, he teaches his children to distrust not only authority but God Himself.

Church bus workers observe this on a first-hand basis every week. So many children have been abandoned by their dads or don't know their dads that Sunday School and Children's Church teachers are forced to work extra hard to explain God the Father in terms to which the kids can relate. It isn't easy. When you tell fatherless children about a heavenly Father who loves them, will provide for them, protect them, never leave them nor forsake them, smile at, treasure, and delight in them—without the context of a human father— You might as well be talking about Santa Claus or the Tooth you Fairy. That kind of God is One they have a hard time touching because they have no masculine figure in their lives that resembles Him.

If headship is not comprehend, his children to respond to strength instead of authority. That means your children will only obey you so long as are more powerful, not because you are dad.

#5. IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE MAN PUTS HIS WIFE BEFORE HIMSELF

Men with unhappy wives raise unhappy children.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

#6. IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE WOMAN IS THE KEEPER AT HOME

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Feminism does not have biblical goals for your kids. It does not seek to produce Christian soldiers and servants for the kingdom of God. If you do it their way, don't be surprised if you end up with their result. Nine hours a day in the best daycare in the world cannot give your child what you can at home. Perhaps you have a low view of yourself and doubt that. Let me assure you that you can make an eternal difference in your children—a much greater one than you can make at the local office. I plead with you, for your children's sake, to quit allowing the world to define-down your value as a wife and mother. Please the Lord. He is the One who matters.

Bring mother home. But when will I ever find the time to do all this training? God calls young women with children to be keepers at home. There is NO time to do what God has called you to do unless you are where God has called you to be.

God teaches us what He wants a young, married woman to be. That is her calling. That is her guiding light. She won't let anyone talk her out of it or redefine the words to mean something other than what they say. No, it doesn't matter if the cost of living is high in your city. She will obey God's word. She will make her nest something special. She will invest her life full-time in her husband and children while she is young. Sure, she will serve in her church, teach her Sunday School class, run her bus route, go soul winning, sing in the choir, and visit the fatherless and widow but be a keeper at home. Her home is her base of operation. She can't be a keeper at home if she works full-time somewhere else. It doesn't say a keeper "of" the home. It says a keeper "at" home. Biblical order calls her to marry, bear children, and guide the house (1 Tim• 5:14)

The Biblical home has a wife that is business-minded but home-centered. She obeys the scripture and makes her family her first ministry. *“Every wise woman buildeth her house... | will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house...”*

It will take sacrifice and a step of faith to bring it to pass, but I call you to Biblical roles. I invite you to a decision that will change your future, your children's future and your grandchildren's after you. In the Biblical home, a young wife and mother is a keeper at home.

#7 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE WOMAN FOLLOWS HER HUSBAND

A headstrong, domineering wife who runs the family and insists on control is just as unbiblical as a selfish, unloving, demanding husband who uses his wife like a doormat on which to wipe his boots.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

The biblical wife reverences her husband and is in subjection and obedience to him with a meek and quiet spirit (Eph· 5:33 ; Titus I Pet· 3:L4). Proverbs 31 extols a godly wife who is capable and strong, productive and virtuous, business-minded but home- centered. Her family is her first ministry. She lives a rewarding life with the appreciation of her husband, the honor of her children, and the respect of the community. She chose to live in biblical order to please Christ and produce children in order.

The main difference between a secular home and a biblical one is that, in the secular home, the marriage partners use each other to make themselves happy whereas, in a Biblical home, the husband and wife serve each other in a life-long attempt to cause their partner happiness. Both relationships are called "love," but it works out very differently.

#8 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE COUPLE STAYS MARRIED

Divorce separates children from their fathers.

It is hard to quantify the catastrophic consequences of growing up without a dad in a nation where there has been a 600% increase in births outside of wedlock in the past 40 years. The statistics tell this story.

#9 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE CHILDREN ARE OBEDIENT

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

You can spot the biblical family a mile away. The children are in order, happy, peaceful, and relate well to their parents. The children display the countenance of a positive spirit instead of the sneering scowl of someone who hates where they are, who they are with, and what they are doing.

The children connect well with Mom and Dad and enjoy their siblings. They do not walk around plugged into their electronics, to the total ignoring of their family. They do not leave at the earliest possible opportunity. They contribute to the family conversation and act grateful for the time spent together as well as for any money that was expended to make their life more enjoyable. They look mom and dad in the eyes and say, "Thank you."

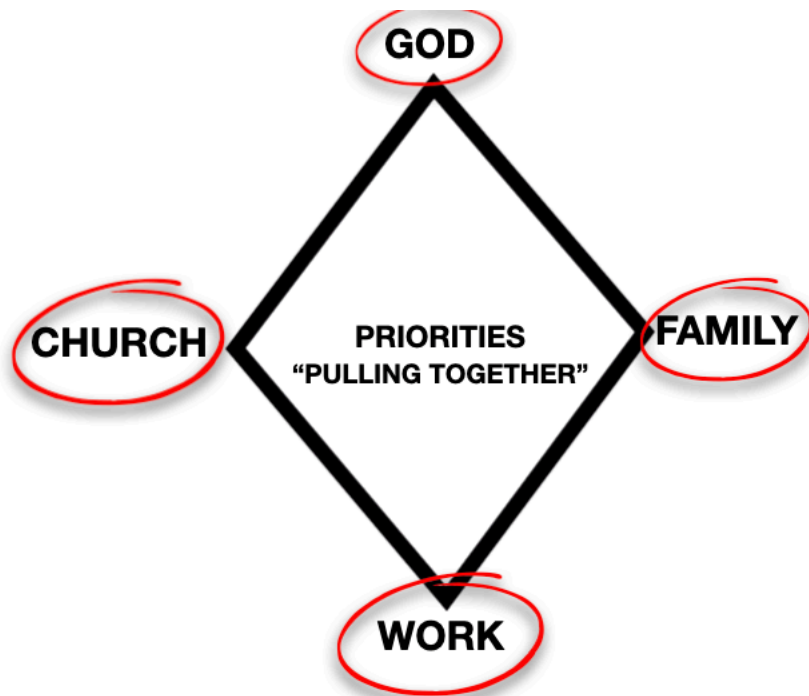
They understand their role among their siblings and feel responsible for filling it. In fact, they take pride in their ability to carry their own weight as they get older instead of being waited on by Mom and Dad like they were 2 years old. When dad says, "It's time

to go," everybody stands up to leave. When mom tells Junior to stop something, Junior looks her in the eyes and says, "Yes ma'am," and stops immediately.

They are not perfect, and it does not go as planned every time, but they are a wonder to behold in a culture of willfulness, rebellion, disrespect, and narcissism. **They are like a shining beacon in a storm of discouragement.**

#10 IN A BIBLICAL HOME THE FAMILY CENTERS AROUND SERVING GOD

As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD (Josh•24:15)



THE BIG SEVEN - GOD GIVEN PARENTING TOOLS

1 Relationship (Connection) - In the vein of, *If ye love me keep my commandments* (Jn. 14:15). The most potent and effective childrearing tool in my house is relationship. More powerful than any corporal discipline or admonition, my children want to please me because we are relationally close, having shared thousands of hours of conversation, prayer, labor, ministry, fun, heartache, and rejoicing. You don't want to disappoint or conflict with someone you love and to whom you feel close.

2 Training - In the vein of, *Train up a child in the way he should go* (Pr. 22:6). The second most powerful tool in my house is training. There simply is no substitute for daily, specific, interactive training of heart, mind, body, and emotion.

3 Word - In the vein of, *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it* (Is. 55:11). God's word obeyed and echoed by dad's word that trains and, if need be, enforces every time has impressive power. We don't live this way because of my opinion versus theirs or my power versus theirs. We live this way because the God we both serve is pleased with it. He says it is best for us and we believe Him. Our whole heart is given to doing His will. My word would have no authority but for His word.

4 Reproof - In the vein of, *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent* (Pr. 15:5), and again, *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame* (Pr. 29:15). God has placed power in a parent's correction and rebuke.

5 Chastening - In the vein of, *Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying* (Pr. 19:18). Every child will need chastening and should receive it. Every one of God's do (Heb. 12:6).

6 Reward - In the vein of, *Verily there is a reward for the righteous...* (Ps. 58:11), and again, *To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward* (Prov. 11:18). God gives three basic types of incentives to do right:

- a. The goal and achievement oriented prize of I Cor. 9:24 and Phil. 3:14.
- b. The pattern and responsibility oriented reward of Ps. 19:11 and I Cor. 3:8.
- c. The incident oriented praise and approval of I Pet. 2:14 and Lk. 16:8.

7 Prayer - In the vein of, *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much* (James 5:16), and *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not* (Jer. 33:3), and *That without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day* (II Tim. 1:3).

Those seven tools are it. These tools are God's divine implements to help us seek a godly seed.

TRAIN UP A CHILD

CHILD TRAINING - THE EARLY BUILDING BLOCKS

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

Proverbs 13:18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

Too often, parents engage in random cherry-picking from many sources and end up with a self-styled methodology that will cost them their kids. Stick to the Bible. Choose to limit yourself to Bible instruction because it has the timeless truth that transcends man's wisdom. People want short, simple, magical answers to complicated questions. They don't exist. Parents are desperate, and the talk-show experts are peddling methods that do not work. Biblical training works!

You say, "We already homeschool or send our kids to Christian school. We spank them, teach them right from wrong, ground them when they need it, yell at them occasionally, place them in a good church, watch over their friend selections, prepare them for college, set up strict rules, and scold them every day." Yet none of that is the kind of training that will equip them for life and true heart spirituality. There is no amount of spanking or education that will turn your child out for God. The Bible says, *Train up a child in the way he should go.*

The way he should go is very important because all children are trained. Some are trained from ignorance and misconception, and others are trained from a Biblical plan. The three-year-old who only obeys after he has been told to do something five times, louder and louder, until his mom's hair catches fire and that big vein pops out in her forehead, has been trained every bit as much as the child who obeys the first time and looks the parent in the eye to say, "Yes ma'am," as he moves to do it. Consistent repetition has trained the first child that mom's words mean absolutely nothing until her head explodes. The child understood the training and lived according to it. The child does not respect her and will not obey her. She can do nothing with him—and he's only three. Consistent repetition has trained the second child that mom's words meant something the very first time she said them—in a pleasant tone of voice and with a reasonable volume level. That child perceived the training and lived according to it. He respects her and cooperates with whatever she needs him to do.

God gave them parents and commanded them to train their children in His word. It's sheer insanity to expect children to make wise decisions on that level. God told parents to train children when they get up in the morning, while they walk through the day, when they sit down to eat, and when they lie down to sleep (Deut. 6:7; 11:19). Train, teach, instruct. **Training is the valuable jewel cast aside for the latest mail order course by the radio psychologist.**

While magic answers don't exist, be encouraged—powerful principles do.

THE FOUNDATIONAL EARLY BUILDING BLOCKS OF TRAINING - FOR CHILDREN

These are building block skills from which you will construct other, more complicated understandings. Who cares if they can do calculus if they cannot calmly follow simple instructions or sit quietly at dinner without making you want to leave them at an orphanage with a note pinned to their onesie?

#1. Absolute obedience to a “No” spoken one time in a calm voice.

When your child is about to insert something into the electrical outlet, or place that kitty excrement into his mouth, or step into a busy street, or revels in his button-pushing phase standing next to a dog's elevated tail, can you say "No" one time in a calm voice and be obeyed right away?

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

#2. The ability to sit or stand still and quiet for increasingly longer periods of time.

When trying to have a conversation in the church foyer, or practice music in the choir loft while your child sits alone down below, or extending a phone conversation that runs long, or trying to concentrate on anything other than your child for more than a few seconds.

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

#3. The ability to hold on to your finger indefinitely without pulling, hanging, or letting go.

They grip your finger or hand when asked and don't release until receiving permission. You are setting them up to be guided, not dragged.

Prov. 2:17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

#4. The ability to look you in the eyes and respond to an instruction affirmatively with a pleasant spirit every time.

"Yes sir, Dad."

Eph 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

#5. The reflex to come to you when called the first time every time.

Not when they are feelin' it, or finish playing, or their friend goes home. I heard dad or mom call, and I am moving while calling out, "Coming, dad."

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

"Delayed obedience is disobedience."

#6. The ability to listen to your instructions, repeat them back to you, then follow them to the letter.

"Yes sir. I will pick up my toys, put them all in the toy box, then come tell mother I am ready for my next job."

Mat 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Pro 29:1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

#7. The ability to wait patiently.

Children are NOW people. The concept of LATER is both cloudy and intensely disagreeable to them. "Wait and eat that sucker at home, please." But it's right here. It's in my hand. I almost have the wrapper off. I can smell the raspberry aroma. My tongue can practically taste it. I want it. It wants me. What is the holdup? Why allow me to see it, much less hold it if you are going to deny me its mouth-watering, sweet taste!? It's mine! "Please wait," is an important, simple concept that will benefit your child for a lifetime. Nobody likes to wait. We all want it now. Gratify me presently, without delay, expeditiously even! One day you are going to tell your child to wait for marriage to have sex. Will they have the self-control to do so? The training that enables that does not start at 16. It starts young. It is not enough to have a good heart and intention. Will they have the inner strength to make it real?

Heb. 12:1 ...let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Jas 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

#8. The ability to handle with discipline mild discomforts.

"Complaining because they are hungry, it's too hot, too cold, not their favorite flavor etc..."

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

#9. The ability to memorize scripture.

This is paramount, a must have. Don't miss it!

Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psa 119:9 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

These may sound like small potatoes to an adult, but they are HUGE to a child. Each must be trained and practiced.

THE FOUNDATIONAL EARLY BUILDING BLOCKS OF TRAINING - FOR THE PARENT

#1. Repetition is the key to training

Imagine training a future piano player. Imagine training your dog. It takes repetition over and over.

*Duet. 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them **when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.***

#2. Never chasten before you train.

You must train a child before he needs discipline, not just after a problem arises.

*2Ti 3:15 And that **from a child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

#3. Never argue with your children.

“Do not argue with a toddler. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.”

*Pro 17:14 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore **leave off contention**, before it be meddled with.*

*Pro 18:6 A fool's lips enter into **contention**, and his mouth calleth for strokes.*

#4. Teach them to respond to a normal tone of voice.

Teach them to respond to a normal tone of voice. If anything, lower, don't raise your voice. You may get you their attention with a loud voice, but it costs you their respect. Make your happy comments loud and exciting. Make your corrective ones lower in tone and quieter. Teach them to fear your whisper, not your shout. One benefit of lowering your voice is to promote privacy, so you do not humiliate your child. Train them to your voice, not your anger. Keep disobedience the motivation for chastening, not emotion.

Pro 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Pro 15:1 ...grievous words stir up anger.

Jas 3:8 But the tongue...is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

#5. Never purchase your child's obedience & neither should you nag or count them into it.

Always insist on an eye to eye acknowledgment and a pleasant spirit of response. Practice a correct answer before you require one. Once your child has been trained, never accept less than a right response.

*Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents **in all things**: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

#6. Respect your child and his feelings understanding they are as deeply held as your own.

- a. Look at them when they speak and respond.
- b. Allow them to be individual in amoral areas.
- c. Respect some privacy (nothing locked).
- d. Refrain from actions that embarrass them in public.

*Ephesians 6:4 ...bring them up in the **nurture** and admonition of the Lord.*

#7. "Stop" means "stop" to everyone in your home.

It is another way to show respect. When you tease your children to anger, you can expect them to do the same to those weaker than they.

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

#8. NEVER reward inappropriate behavior

Is crying because they did not get candy fast enough appropriate? Do not reward selfish, have it my way, behavior. Never give a child something they whine or cry for. *(Unless they are to young to know better)*

Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

#9. Do not seek your emotional fulfillment in your child's dependence on you.

Doing so will render you incapable of discipline. Parent your child as is good for them, not as meets your need to feel loved or validated.

A wife's lack of commitment to her husband's discipline renders it ineffective and causes deviousness in the child. While abusive fathers exist from which children need to be protected, mom's over-reaction most commonly occurs because she was abused, not because her children are. Particularly where adolescent males are concerned, an interfering mother steals the strength dad knows men need to face the coarseness of the real world. Even when life is not fair or gentle or affirming, real men must march on with the strength to bear up, not run to mama for consolation, much less intervention.

Strength: "Son, if your dad didn't like the job you did on the yard, you need to do a better job. Dad is only preparing you to face life successfully."

Weakness: "Quit being so hard on him. He's had a lot of homework and hasn't felt 100 percent. Why do you have to make him feel so badly because the stupid yard isn't perfect. I think the job is fine."

*Ephesians 6:4 ...bring them up in the nurture and admonition **of the Lord**.*

#10 Keep your word.

Do not promise things outside of your control.

*Joh 3:33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that **God is true.***

#11 Keep training fun.

Children are not an interruption to your life. After the Lord and your spouse, they are your life. Encourage yourself in the Lord for this good. Have fun! Think creatively.

Pro 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

#12 Attitude is Everything

Train the attitude and you wont have to chasten the action. Every negative action you hate in your child can be traced back to a negative attitude you did not correct.

- *Thoughts form attitudes*
 - *Attitudes form actions*
 - *Actions form habits*
 - *Habits form character*
 - *Character forms your life*

Philippians 2:14 - Do all things without murmurings and disputings.

#13 BRING MOTHER HOME (THIS IS CRUCIAL)

Bring mother home. But when will I ever find the time to do all this training? God calls young women with children to be keepers at home. There is NO time to do what God has called you to do unless you are where God has called you to be.

Sure, you might raise “okay” children doing it your way, but are you willing to gamble with your children? Is that really where you want to be with God? Look around. It is not a pretty picture.

Feminism does not have biblical goals for your kids. It does not seek to produce Christian soldiers and servants for the kingdom of God. If you do it their way, don't be surprised if you end up with their result. Nine hours a day in the best daycare in the world cannot give your child what you can at home. Perhaps you have a low view of yourself and doubt that. Let me assure you that you can make an eternal difference in your children—a much greater one than you can make at the local office. I plead with you, for your children's sake, to quit allowing the world to define-down your value as a wife and mother. Please the Lord. He is the One who matters.

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

#14 YOUR HEAD IS VITAL (THIS IS CRUCIAL)

Dad, God has given you both the responsibility and the power of headship. Failing here can be catastrophic. Succeeding here can be potentially the most significant gift your children ever receive short of eternal life.

God gave dads magical powers, invisible to the naked eye but illusively manifest all our lives. (*Prov. 17:6 the **glory of children** are their **fathers**.*) Like a strong wind blowing the leaves of a tree, dad's unseeable influence moves us from birth to death. In fact, much in our lives is either a response to or reaction against the force he represents to us and our deep need for his love and approval. God sums up those powers in the idea of headship (Eph. 5:23 I. Cor. 11:3) meaning the prominent part (head) most grasped. For children, it is not just authority and power. It is authority they can touch.

God gave man the headship in his home. Sometimes God calls it rule (Gn. 3:16; I. Tim. 3:5). Other times He calls it command. Unquestionably, it is authority. Have you ever wondered why mom could wrestle the baby alligators all day long but dad walks in the door, speaks, and they snap to? Have you ever frustrated over how mom "reminds" young adolescent Junior about taking the trash out until she sounds like a nag but dad says, "Son, take the trash out now please" and it happens? The reason there is such a difference between the way we relate to dad and mom is that God gave dad a headship he did not give to mom. It is a hidden authority. Yes, I know there are effeminate or passive or unavailable fathers as well as dragon-lady, drill-sergeant mothers but that is a whole different can of worms. Children relate differently to mom's authority and almost always have a different kind of relationship with her. Certainly, children can and should be well-trained to obey mother's instruction respectfully, but they view her authority differently.

Headship is more than a divine right to be the boss. It is a grave responsibility. Father is both an authority and is under authority. He represents God the Father to his children. They can't touch God, but they can touch him. They can't roll in the floor with God, but they can tickle with dad. They can't see God's face in smile or frown, but they can see dad's. They can't hear God's praise or scolding with their ears, but they can hear dad's. In many ways, your children will naturally transfer to God the relationship they have with you in the same way a bride transfers to her husband the relationship she had with her dad.

The more fatherless or disconnected sons we raise in our society, the more men we will have who are honestly saved but struggle with emotional closeness to God. When a father abandons his family, he teaches his children to distrust not only authority but God Himself.

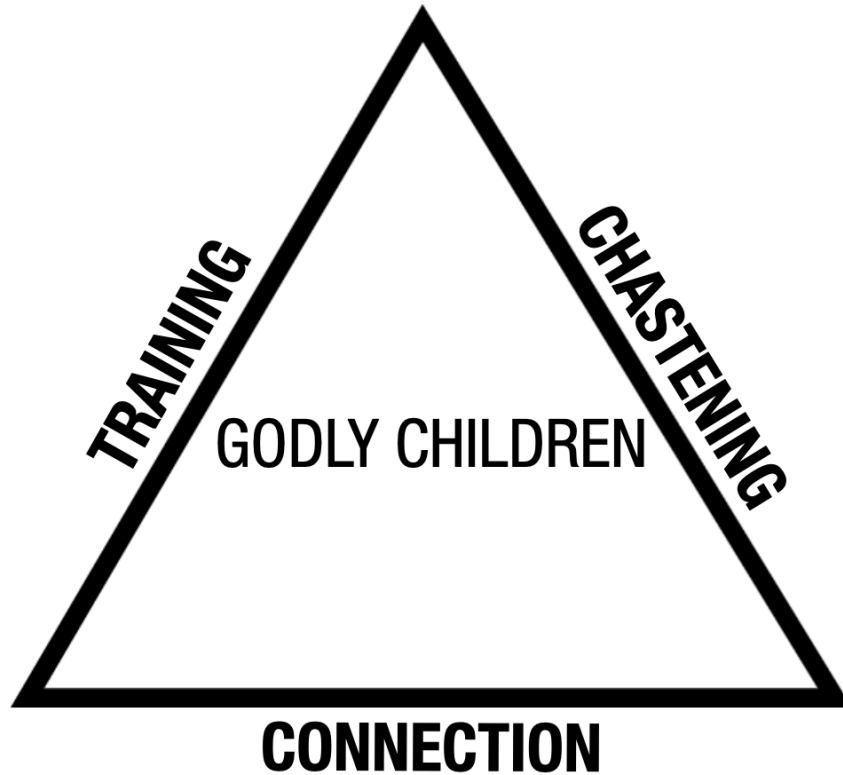
Church bus workers observe this on a first-hand basis every week. So many children have been abandoned by their dads or don't know their dads that Sunday School and Children's Church teachers are forced to work extra hard to explain God the Father in terms to which the kids can relate. It isn't easy. When you tell fatherless children about a heavenly Father who loves them, will provide for them, protect them, never leave them nor forsake them, smile at, treasure, and delight in them—without the context of a human father— You might as well be talking about Santa Claus or the Tooth you Fairy. That kind of God is One they have a hard time touching because they have no masculine figure in their lives that resembles Him.

If headship is not comprehend, his children to respond to strength instead of authority. That means your children will only obey you so long as are more powerful, not because you are dad.

*Parts of this lesson has been compiled and adapted from "Seeking a Godly Seed" by Clint Caviness

TRAINING IN THE BIBLE

The graphic below shows the three Biblical parenting foundations.



TRAINING:

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

CHASTENING:

Pro 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Pro 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

CONNECTION:

Pro 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

This handout will focus on “Training Found In The Bible”

Deuteronomy 6:1 *Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.***

WE SEE THREE THINGS CONCERNING TRAINING IN THESE SCRIPTURES:

1. THE COMMAND FOR TRAINED CHILDREN

Proverbs 22:6 **Train up a child in the way he should go:** This is a command given to parents.

Consider the Psalmist, *That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace (PS' 144:12).*

Is your son grown up in his youth? Is your daughter a polished cornerstone?

Our sons should be mature, responsible, fruitful, and productive while they are still youths, not become the aimless and dark, twenty-something, jobless stereotypes we see riding tiny bicycles and loitering in the adoration of junior highers.

Our daughters should be as cornerstones: polished, refined, and strong. While their leadership should be cultivated, a cornerstone has a supportive essence in its very nature, and her abilities to play supporting roles should be encouraged and developed.

God has given us a command to obey. Fulfilling this command will be most rewarding.

2. THE VISION FOR TRAINING CHILDREN

God's word highlights a fair number of children that are an amazing balance of spirituality, knowledge, wisdom, courage, and conviction. It is possible to raise our children this way too.

We have made two big mistakes. We have quit aiming high, being satisfied if our children simply stay in church and don't have any corruption eruptions that are publicly embarrassing. We have tried to produce by scolding and monetary incentive what can only be ingrained by training and guidance.

*Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because **they saw he was a proper child**; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*

There are no born losers, just born choosers. Parents must have a biblical vision for training their children. It can be done. It must be done!

— *Eccl. 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge then must **he put to more strength**: but wisdom is profitable to direct. **We should have a desire to raise trained, sharp children for the glory of God!***

Raising sharp kids is not only great for the kids and the parents, but it also gives a powerful witness to an unsaved world that has utterly lost its compass.

Bible examples of trained kids:

Consider David. He was a skillful musician and a cunning player hired by a king for his musical abilities. He was also an accomplished fighter, a man of war who became the king's armor bearer. He was strong in spirit and a mighty valiant man. He was prudent in matters and behaved himself more wisely than all the king's servants (1 18:5'14'30). He was sharp looking, a comely person, ruddy and fair. He had a spiritual heart, and the Lord was with him. How old was he with all of these virtues? The Bible does not give us an age number, but it does call him a "lad" and a "stripling (1 sam. 17:56). That places him before the age of 20. In other words, he was a youth, and most of these things were said about him before he fought Goliath, a battle in which he showed more courage than any man in Israel's armed forces including the king, who was head and shoulders taller than any other man in the nation. Goliath was insulted (disdained him) that Israel would send out a child to fight him. David did not go out to battle cocky or overconfident in his prowess with a sling but in the name and power of his God. Everyone knew God could deliver, but only David knew God would deliver. Now that's a sharp kid!

Consider Daniel and the three Hebrew children (Dan 1-3). They were skillful in wisdom and would be counted officially among the wise men of the greatest empire on earth, which imported wise men from all over the globe. These boys were swimming in a BIG pond with huge competition and still made the grade. They weren't valedictorians of a class of one. The Bible says they were cunning in knowledge, understood science, and had linguistic skills. They had the presence and ability to stand in the king's palace. These boys knew God and what they believed, had strong biblical convictions (Dan 1:8) had gifts from God (Dan 1:17b), walked with God and still kept a humble heart 2:30). After the king communed with them, he declared them 10 times better (Dan 1:20) in matters of wisdom and understanding than all the magicians and astrologers in his realm. These kids had been traumatized by the loss of their families, the forced deportation from their homeland, and the required adjustment to an entirely new culture and language in a short amount of time. Still their light shined brightly. Those are some sharp kids.

Consider Joseph (Gn 37-39), a 17-year-old who is called a "prosperous man" in scripture. He was a spiritual man, and the Lord was with him. He was a goodly person, meaning pleasant to look on or handsome. The Lord made all that he did to prosper. He was able to manage, bear authority, and administrate a large household and all its servants. He did so with such skill that his master trusted him with all his possessions without accountability. Joseph had a moral purity and spiritual conviction that empowered him to resist the daily seductions of a woman always around him and bearing authority over him. Was Joseph a stranger to tragedy who got all the breaks? He was betrayed by his older brothers, threatened with death, sold into slavery, deported to a foreign country, bought on the auction block, and owned in a military household. He lost everything in an afternoon and would not see a relative for 13 years. Yet what a sharp kid!

Consider Timothy (1 Tim 1-2), a man full of faith with a knowledge of scripture from a child. He was saved early, schooled at the knee of his mother and grandmother, and became the Apostle Paul's right hand man in adult life. He had family problems. His mom, a Jewess, married an unsaved Greek man—a taboo. Timothy was born to and raised by an unsaved dad. Yet what a sharp kid!

Contrast the little children of Beth-el (1 Kings 2:23) to Timothy. The former came out of the city to shout jeers at the man of God ("Go up thou bald head") whereas Timothy became the man of God.

Or, think about Jether (Jud' 8:20) the insecure and fearful son of Gideon who feared because he was a youth, compared to David who challenged Goliath youth or not.

Think about the adulteress man-eater (Prov. 2:16-19) that forsook the guide of her youth, abandoning her father's guidance and authority to become the serial fornicator we know as the strange woman.

Or consider the young man sleeping with the strange woman (Prov. 7:27), a young man void of understanding—definitely not a Joseph or a Daniel.

These sharp kids did not have perfect families or ideal childhoods. They had more to overcome than most today who make their past an excuse for being and doing nothing.

Mozart played both piano and violin at age five, toured for three and a half years playing in the courts of royalty beginning at age six, wrote his first full symphony at age eight and his first opera at age 14. During junior high, he visited Rome where he twice heard a complex a cappella composition for two choirs performed in the Sistine Chapel near Easter. He left there and accurately transcribed the entire piece from memory and was decorated by the Pope for his genius. His dad was his music teacher at home.

The Frenchman, Blaise Paschal, invented the mechanical calculator as a teenager. He also wrote on projective geometry and probability theory as well as refuting Aristotle's assertion that nature abhors a vacuum. Pascal's theorem, Hexagrammum Mysticum Theorem, was contributed at age 16. His dad was his teacher.

Dr. WA. Criswell was saved at 10, surrendered to preach at 12, and pastored his first church at 17. It is remarkable that a teenager with no seminary training would know enough Bible to preach as often as that post requires and have the personal presence and leadership to stand before them as their shepherd.

Your child is not dumb! You MUST see their potential in Christ!

David went on to be king and the man after God's own heart. Daniel ruled in high government office under two empires and at least three kings. Pharaoh renamed Joseph Zaphnathpaaneah, roughly translated as "savior of the world" and he lived as the nearest Old Testament type of Jesus Christ.

3. THE ABILITY TO TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN

God does not call the EQUIPPED - HE EQUIPS THE CALLED. Every parent has a unique God-given calling for their children.

A. TRAIN USING HOME LIFE

Deuteronomy 6:7 *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

#2. TRAIN USING CHURCH LIFE

Imagine a 4 year-old-son who sat with his dad on the second row in church. He stood when his dad stood, sat when his dad sat, sang when his dad sang, crossed his legs when his dad crossed, bowed his head when his dad bowed, put an offering in the

plate when his dad gave, opened his own bible when his dad opened his. He never turned around to look behind him. His eyes were on the preacher and his father. Dad took his son's little hand in his big one and helped move his finger along the Bible text as the preacher read it out loud. While the dad took the preacher's outline notes, the boy quietly drew a picture of Jonah and the whale, the subject of the sermon. When the invitation began, dad left his little son at the pew and went to the altar. The boy followed and knelt beside his dad up under his arm. When church was over, and dad had choir practice, the boy sat on the front row still and quiet for 45 minutes coloring pictures until Dad came down and permitted him to walk around. The boy was not irritable or complaining about how many of the other children got to play in the dark parking lot. In fact, the boy learned the song the choir was practicing without even trying and sang it as he left the auditorium to go out onto the porch.

The contrast could not be more stark. A 6-year-old son who laid across his mother's lap the entire service from open to close. Though he ran in before church and ran out afterward, his feet never touched the floor during the service. He played in his mother's hair—twisting, rolling, and tangling it, took her jewelry on and off, irritated his younger siblings on each side, yawned loudly many times, laid on his back with his hands in the air pointing to things on the ceiling, buzzed and hummed loudly, occasionally made faces at us, and kept asking when church would be over.

During this display, his mother never corrected him. She looked more like she had surrendered to the inevitable than that she thought her words might do any good. That is not a child problem. That is a parenting problem.

A 6-year-old boy entirely capable of being a sharp kid had never been coached. He distracted the service, irritated his mother, and dishonored the man of God. A 4-year-old boy had been prepared and practiced and was the spitting image of a little Christian man. It was plain he loved his dad and enjoyed church. He did not distract the service but did evoke some smiles from adults who watched his uncommon behavior. Imagine where a continuance of these patterns will lead both boys. Imagine both sons at 15. There will be a stark contrast then too.

#3. TRAIN USING YOUR LIFE.

Deuteronomy 6:6 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*
7 *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Invest yourself in your kids. Consider what our kids could be if we invested in them what is in us. I'm not talking about pressuring them to excel at things to make us look good or turning our home into a sweatshop that prematurely ages a child with adult responsibilities.

What if those of us who know music systematically trained our children in music from a young age? What if the auto mechanics among us apprenticed their children by shared

projects where many hours of hands-on training and explanation accompanied a happy bonding with Dad? What if the Sunday School teacher, the choir member, the bus captain, the Soulwinner, trained their children the skills they have learned over the years.

You are knowledgeable about something and maybe many things. You have skills. Your area may be computers or sales or management or service. You may be an accountant or a soldier or a pastor or a nurse. Perhaps you are a policeman or a truck driver or a cook or a secretary. Maybe you are a house painter or a professor or work in a bank or fly airplanes. Possibly you build houses or lay asphalt or pour concrete or work with livestock or farm crops or write books or hunt or fish or play violin or bi-lingual or sew or sing or know literature or teach English. You may be good at public speaking and the study it takes to do it well. You may be a prayer warrior or soul winner or deacon or youth worker. Maybe you can manage a business or understand investment or are great at cutting hair. The list is endless.

Your children will pick up some of your skills almost by accident from exposure alone, but what could your kids be if you really worked with them early?

CHARACTER TRAINING CHART

<p>TRUTHFULNESS vs. Deception</p> <p>Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts</p> <p>Ephesians 4:25</p>	<p>ALERTNESS vs. Unawareness</p> <p>Being aware of that which is taking place around me so I can have the right response to it</p> <p>Mark 14:38</p>	<p>SELF-CONTROL vs. Self-indulgence</p> <p>Instant obedience to the initial promptings of God's Spirit</p> <p>Galatians 5:24–25</p>	<p>WISDOM vs. Natural Inclinations</p> <p>Seeing and responding to life's situations from God's frame of reference</p> <p>Proverbs 9:10</p>	<p>RESOURCEFULNESS vs. Wastefulness</p> <p>Wise use of that which others would normally overlook or discard</p> <p>Luke 16:10</p>	<p>ORDERLINESS vs. Disorganization</p> <p>Preparing myself and my surroundings so I will achieve the greatest efficiency</p> <p>I Corinthians 14:40</p>	<p>ATTENTIVENESS vs. Unconcern</p> <p>Showing the worth of a person by giving undivided attention to his words and emotions</p> <p>Hebrews 2:1</p>
<p>OBEDIENCE vs. Willfulness</p> <p>Freedom to be creative under the protection of divinely appointed authority</p> <p>II Corinthians 10:5</p>	<p>HOSPITALITY vs. Loneliness</p> <p>Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, and spiritual refreshment with those whom God brings into my life</p> <p>Hebrews 13:2</p>	<p>REVERENCE vs. Disrespect</p> <p>Awareness of how God is working through the people and events in my life to produce the character of Christ in me</p> <p>Proverbs 23:17–18</p>	<p>DISCERNMENT vs. Judgment</p> <p>The God-given ability to understand why things happen</p> <p>I Samuel 16:7</p>	<p>THRIFTINESS vs. Extravagance</p> <p>Not letting myself or others spend that which is not necessary</p> <p>Luke 16:11</p>	<p>INITIATIVE vs. Unresponsiveness</p> <p>Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it</p> <p>Romans 12:21</p>	<p>SENSITIVITY vs. Callousness</p> <p>Exercising my senses so I can perceive the true spirit and emotions of those around me</p> <p>Romans 12:15</p>
<p>SINCERITY vs. Hypocrisy</p> <p>Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives</p> <p>I Peter 1:22</p>	<p>GENEROSITY vs. Stinginess</p> <p>Realizing that all I have belongs to God and using it for His purposes</p> <p>II Corinthians 9:6</p>	<p>DILIGENCE vs. Slothfulness</p> <p>Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it</p> <p>Colossians 3:23</p>	<p>FAITH vs. Presumption</p> <p>Visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it</p> <p>Hebrews 11:1</p>	<p>CONTENTMENT vs. Covetousness</p> <p>Realizing that God has provided everything I need for my present happiness</p> <p>I Timothy 6:8</p>	<p>RESPONSIBILITY vs. Unreliability</p> <p>Knowing and doing what both God and others are expecting from me</p> <p>Romans 14:12</p>	<p>JUSTICE vs. Fairness</p> <p>Personal responsibility to God's unchanging laws</p> <p>Micah 6:8</p>
<p>VIRTUE vs. Impurity</p> <p>The moral excellence and purity of spirit that radiate from my life as I obey God's Word</p> <p>II Peter 1:3</p>	<p>JOYFULNESS vs. Self-pity</p> <p>The spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with the Lord</p> <p>Psalms 16:11</p>	<p>THOROUGHNESS vs. Incompleteness</p> <p>Knowing what factors will diminish the effectiveness of my work or words if neglected</p> <p>Proverbs 18:15</p>	<p>DISCRETION vs. Simplemindedness</p> <p>The ability to avoid words, actions, and attitudes which could result in undesirable consequences</p> <p>Proverbs 22:3</p>	<p>PUNCTUALITY vs. Tardiness</p> <p>Showing high esteem for other people and their time</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 3:1</p>	<p>HUMILITY vs. Pride</p> <p>Recognizing that it is actually God and others who are responsible for the achievements in my life</p> <p>James 4:6</p>	<p>COMPASSION vs. Indifference</p> <p>Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others</p> <p>I John 3:17</p>
<p>BOLDNESS vs. Fearfulness</p> <p>Confidence that what I have to say or do is true and right and just in the sight of God</p> <p>Acts 4:29</p>	<p>FLEXIBILITY vs. Resistance</p> <p>Not setting my affections on ideas or plans which could be changed by God or others</p> <p>Colossians 3:2</p>	<p>DEPENDABILITY vs. Inconsistency</p> <p>Fulfilling what I consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice</p> <p>Psalms 15:4</p>	<p>LOVE vs. Selfishness</p> <p>Giving to others' basic needs without having as my motive personal reward</p> <p>I Corinthians 13:3</p>	<p>TOLERANCE vs. Prejudice</p> <p>Acceptance of others as unique expressions of specific character qualities in varying degrees of maturity</p> <p>Philippians 2:2</p>	<p>DECISIVENESS vs. Double-mindedness</p> <p>The ability to finalize difficult decisions based on the will and ways of God</p> <p>James 1:5</p>	<p>GENTLENESS vs. Harshness</p> <p>Showing personal care and concern in meeting the need of others</p> <p>I Thessalonians 2:7</p>
<p>FORGIVENESS vs. Rejection</p> <p>Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and allowing God to love them through me</p> <p>Ephesians 4:32</p>	<p>AVAILABILITY vs. Self-centeredness</p> <p>Making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I am serving</p> <p>Philippians 2:20–21</p>	<p>SECURITY vs. Anxiety</p> <p>Structuring my life around that which is eternal and cannot be destroyed or taken away</p> <p>John 6:27</p>	<p>CREATIVITY vs. Underachievement</p> <p>Approaching a need, a task, an idea from a new perspective</p> <p>Romans 12:2</p>	<p>CAUTIOUSNESS vs. Rashness</p> <p>Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions</p> <p>Proverbs 19:2</p>	<p>DETERMINATION vs. Faintheartedness</p> <p>Purposing to accomplish God's goals in God's time—regardless of the opposition</p> <p>II Timothy 4:7–8</p>	<p>DEFERENCE vs. Rudeness</p> <p>Limiting my freedom in order not to offend the tastes of those whom God has called me to serve</p> <p>Romans 14:21</p>
<p>PERSUASIVENESS vs. Contentiousness</p> <p>Guiding vital truths around another's mental roadblocks</p> <p>II Timothy 2:24</p>	<p>ENDURANCE vs. Giving up</p> <p>The inward strength to withstand stress to accomplish God's best</p> <p>Galatians 6:9</p>	<p>PATIENCE vs. Restlessness</p> <p>Accepting a difficult situation from God without giving Him a deadline to remove it</p> <p>Romans 5:3–4</p>	<p>ENTHUSIASM vs. Apathy</p> <p>Expressing with my soul the joy of my spirit</p> <p>I Thessalonians 5:16,19</p>	<p>GRATEFULNESS vs. Unthankfulness</p> <p>Making known to God and others in what ways they have benefited my life</p> <p>I Corinthians 4:7</p>	<p>LOYALTY vs. Unfaithfulness</p> <p>Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to God and to those whom He has called me to serve</p> <p>John 15:13</p>	<p>MEEKNESS vs. Anger</p> <p>Yielding my personal rights and expectations to God</p> <p>Psalms 62:5</p>

BIBLE CHARACTER TRAINING GUIDE

Focus on one character trait per week. Illustrate it from the day's events. Illustrations are windows that let in the light. Share stories that demonstrate your success or, many times, your regrettable failure to live the focus trait at some time in the past. It should take five to seven minutes each night unless you get

into a great story. Occasionally, make the character trait verse part of your weekly scripture memorization. At one trait per week, this list will take about a year to cover.

- **Appreciative** - *1 Thess. 5:18 - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will Of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- **Attentive** - *Job 37:2 - Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.*
- **Available** - *1 Sam. 3:9 - ...speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. Committed - Prov. 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*
- **Compassionate** - *1 Pet. 3:8a - Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another.*
- **Concerned** - *Gal. 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*
- **Confident** - *Phil. 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*
- **Considerate** - *1 Pet. 3:8b - Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*
- **Consistent** - *1 Cor. 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...*
- **Content** - *Heb. 13:5 - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
- **Cooperative** - *Ps. 133:1 - Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*
- **Courageous** - *Josh. 1:9b - Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*
- **Creative** - *Num. 35:35 - Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer...*
- **Decisive** - *Josh. 24:15b - ...Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*
- **Dependable** - *1 Tim. 6:20 - O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust...*
- **Determined** - *1 Cor. 2:2 - For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*
- **Diligent** - *Pro. 21:5 - The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.*
- **Discerning** - *1 Kgs 3:9 - Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad:*
- **Efficient** - *Eph. 5:16 - Redeeming the time, because the days evil.*
- **Fair** - *Matt. 7:12 - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is law and the prophets.*

- **Faithful** - Rev. 2:10 - *...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will thee a crown of life.*
- **Fearless** - Ps. 27:1 - *The LORD is my light and my salvation; shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of shall I be afraid?*
- **Flexible** - Phil. 4:11 - *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*
- **Forgiving** - Col. 3:13 - *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*
- **Friendly** - Pro. 18:24 *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*
- **Generous** - II Cor. 9:6 - *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*
- **Gentle** - Titus 3:2 - *To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.*
- **Honest** - I Thess. 4:12 - *That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*
- **Humble** - Pro. 29:23 - *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*
- **Joyful** - Ps. 95:2 - *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*
- **Kind** - Eph 4:32 - *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Pro 19:22 The desire of a man is his kindness:*
- **Loyal** - Jn. 15:13 - *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
- **Meek** - Is. 29:19 - *The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD.*
- **Merciful** - Luke 6:36 - *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*
- **Observant** - Pro. 23:26 - *My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*
- **Optimistic** - Rom. 8:25 - *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*
- **Patient** - Heb. 12:1 - *...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...*
- **Peaceful** - col. 3:15 - *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

- **Persevering** - Gal. - *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*
- **Persuasive** - 11 cor. 5:11 - *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*
- **Punctual** - Eccl. 3:1 - *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*
- **Purposeful** - Rom. 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- **Resourceful** - I Thess. 4:11 - *And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;*
- **Respectful** - I Pet. 2: 17 - *Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*
- **Responsible** - Rom. 14:12 - *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
- **Secure** - Job 11:18 - *And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety.*
- **Self-controlled** - 1 cor. 9:25 - *And every man that for the mastery is temperate in all things...*
- **Sincere** - Eph. 6:24 - *24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*
- **Submissive** - James - *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
- **Tactful** - Col. 4:6 - *Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*
- **Thorough** - II Tim. 3:17 - *That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*
- **Thrifty** - Prov. 10:4 - *He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.*
- **Truthful** - Eph. 4:25 - *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour...*
- **Virtuous** - II Peter 1:5 - *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

SEEKING A GODLY SEED

CHARACTER TRAINING

1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.***

CHARACTER IS ALWAYS DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT.

If we don't train character and spirituality, we won't raise competent Christian leaders, just independently-minded and highly-accomplished rebels. Character training brings order and instruction. A lack of character training leaves disorder as well as wild, self-centered, and thoughtless behavior.

#1. DISCIPLINE DOES NOT EQUAL CHARACTER

- You can be disciplined and still not have character.
- Discipline is the mastery of the will over the body.
- Character is the mastery of the will over the flesh.

A good soldier may exemplify the stalwart, fearless, and intrepid warrior in battle. He may be "yes sir, no sir, and by the book sir." He may fall out on time, push his body through the rigors of extreme fitness, and conduct himself in the business of day to day warfare with supreme efficiency. **The same soldier may fornicate with many women around the globe, father children out of wedlock and abandon their mothers, ignore his drinking problem, and still be a disciplined soldier. He has loads of discipline but little character.**

#2. KNOWLEDGE DOES NOT EQUAL CHARACTER

I. Corinthians 1:8 *Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.*

So your disciplined knowledge may be a mile deep, but it's only an inch wide, without character.

Einstein Jr. is applauded for his knowledge but throws his life away because he has no character. Like a talented hard working athlete always bragging about his points scored, or the beautiful girl always taking pictures of herself and posting them to social media, or the funny kid that continually humiliates other kids with his jokes. The brain trust might win every scripture memory contest but fail to lead 10 peers to pick up a water hose if his house was on fire. They must be trained to live life!

#3. CHARACTER EQUALS EXCELLENCE

- CHARACTER says - Have I done my very best?
- CHARACTER SAYS - What would be clearly away from and to the right of the line?

- CHARACTER SAYS - What would have the most encouraging, inspiring, or serving effect on those around me?
- CHARACTER SAYS - What would simply please God and make Him smile far beyond anything He might require?
- CHARACTER asks, "How can I be an example of believers?"
- CHARACTER asks, How can my light shine the brightest (Mt- 5:16)?

***Jesus made this point in the sermon on the mount: excellence equals extra.**

- EXCELLENT grace: if he slaps you on one cheek, turn the other. This is Character.
- EXCELLENT generosity: if he takes your coat, give your cloak also. This is Character.
- EXCELLENT work: if he compels you to go one mile, offer two. This is Character.
- EXCELLENT love: if your enemy curses you, bless him. If he hates you, do good to him. If he uses you, pray for him. This is Character.

And why do we do this? To earn heaven, polish our halo, win points with God, or attract the praise of men? No. We do this because we have an "excellent" Father and He is merciful and kind to people who are His enemies as well. In doing this, we behave like Him. Children are very capable of grasping this concept and living it out in a family. They just have to be trained.

EXCELLENCE - CHARACTER IN THE BIBLE:

Do you remember that sharp kid, Daniel? He had an **excellent spirit** (Dan• 5:12; 6:3).

Remember that virtuous woman in Proverbs 31? **She excelled them all.**

Think of that kid you know who is always doing right? He is more excellent than his neighbor (Pr• 12:26). We are told to approve things that are excellent (Phil 1:10). Abel offered God a more excellent sacrifice than his brother (Heb• 11:4). God shows us a more excellent way called "charity" (1Cor. 12:31) Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all *things, hopeth all things, endureth all things*

WHY EXCELLENT CHARACTER?

Excellence allow me to communicate God more effectively.

Do you think the cause of Christ is helped or hindered when Christian children are unruly, disobedient, and irritating? Do you think the message of the gospel is communicated more effectively in song when a scowling, self-centered, vainglorious teenager sings it or a bright countenanced, pure, servant-hearted teenager sings it? Do you think the Bible message on purity is better received by the congregation when the teen girls on the platform are in a skin-tight mini-dress and goes down to sit with a rough looking guy on the back row or when she is modestly covered and goes down to sit close to the front to work with those who come forward in the invitation?

4. CHARACTER IS MISSION

For what are we preparing them? We are not raising kids to be rich and famous but to be effective for the cause of Christ...to temper knowledge with wisdom, beauty with humility and servant-ship.

Children with Character are children who grasp their spiritual mission. They give themselves entirely to it for life at any cost, seeking first the kingdom of God above career, fame, financial considerations, family, or personal comforts.

- *Mt. 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- *Matt. 10:39 - He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake [and the gospel's - Mk. 8:35] shall find it.*

- Character is the decision to do right even when you don't feel like it. Character is your ability to tell yourself, "No."

What is the point of raising a brilliant child that is morally compromised and entirely selfish? We squander potential and unleash upon the world a prima donna that wreaks havoc, dishonors God, and ultimately hates himself.

5. CHARACTER OVER TALENT

It would be a tragic mistake to over-value the development of a child's gifts and talents to the ignoring of his character. While the concept is all over scripture, Simply put, it is integrity and virtue—the decision to do right even when you don't feel like it. Character is your ability to tell yourself, "No."

Character illustrated:

- It is better to sing plainly with a humble, broken heart than to sing beautifully while lifted up in pride.
- It is better to speak the truth without applause than to receive standing ovations tickling men's ears.
- It is better to make less money working honorably with God's priorities first than to work in questionable occupations or skipping godly priorities or compromising your testimony to make a fatter paycheck.
- It is better to lose a game playing fairly than to win it by cheating.
- It is better to eat beans working hard than to eat filet mignon on money you won dishonorably.
- It is better to make D's in school from your memory than to make the honor roll from a cheat sheet.
- It is better to be disciplined than talented, on time than more rested or better dressed, and beautiful inside than more stylish outside.
- It is better to be pure than popular and to patiently seek God's will than to bounce from plaything to plaything.
- It is better to be right than cool.
- It is better to walk alone than to have the wrong friends.
- It is better to stick it out where God put you than to quit and get relief.
- It is better to stay with a bad marriage, trying to make it work, than to divorce in hopes of a better situation for yourself while damaging your kids and disobeying God.
- It is better for a woman to be virtuous than beautiful.
- It is better to be a godly father than a wealthy businessman.
- It is better for children to be righteous and know God's word well than immoral and highly educated in the media, movies, sports and music of our culture.

- It is better to have a high school diploma with godliness than a Ph.D. with atheism.
- While we strive to do an excellent job in all areas, the heart should always take precedence over the mind.
- A bad attitude leads to bad character.
- It is better to be faithful than flashy and to spend 10 minutes with God every day than one hour once a week.
- It is better to teach children obedience than to make stimulating their creativity the highest priority.
- It is better to tell your children "NO" and regret it than to say "Yes" and regret it.
- It is better to shame yourself by confessing your faults than to hide your sins living a lie.
- It is better to serve others than to rule over them.
- It is better to be available in the moment of need than to withhold so as to be better prepared at a later time.
- It is better to try, depending on God for strength, than to refuse until you are self confident.
- It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.
- If we don't train character and spirituality, we won't raise competent Christian leaders, just independently-minded and highly-accomplished rebels.

CHARACTER TRAINING HOW TO “BE REAL & BE RIGHT”

“One of the most significant things you can do as a parent is to be authentic. Children are destroyed by hypocrisy. Character is authenticity.”

"Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression. Charactered parents leave the right imprints upon their children."

CHARACTER IS ALWAYS DOING WHAT IS RIGHT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God **with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.** 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

How to parent with character:

#1. KNOW THE TRUTH

*Duet 6:4 **Hear,** O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge...*

#2. BELIEVE THE TRUTH

*5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God **with all thine heart,** and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:***

#3. LIVE THE TRUTH

*7 shalt talk of them **when thou sittest in thine house,** and **when thou walkest by the way,** and **when thou liest down,** and **when thou risest up.***

#4. GIVE THE TRUTH

*7 And thou shalt **teach them diligently unto thy children.***
“The only thing we can pass to the next generation, is TRUTH.”

#5. GUARD THE TRUTH

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

“Standards protect truth”