



Growing Godliness

in our children

Growing Godliness in our Children

- * Raising godly children begins with modeling godliness.
- * Imitation of godliness is a fundamental concept in the gospel.
- * Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:16

“Parents greatly affect their children’s behavior. Children are like sponges--they model everything a parent does and incorporate what they see into their own lives. It is important that parents set the right examples for their children. Negative examples can be detrimental to a child’s development and can lead to bad behavior.

“Antisocial children learn their behavior from their parents’ examples, according to research done by the University of Chicago published in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology. Social skills can be interpreted as everything from the basic polite ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ to speaking in front of crowds. Children model their parents and learn from them.”

-Rose Erickson, “Parents Effect on Child Behavior”, LiveStrong.com

Growing Godliness in our Children

- * Raising godly children begins with modeling godliness.
- * Godliness is grown in our children through association with the word of God.
- * This was Solomon's wish for his progeny (Prov. 2.1-13).
- * God's requirement of OT parents (Deuteronomy 6.6ff).
- * Are we equipping our kids? (2 Timothy 3.16-17)

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- * Raising godly children begins with modeling godliness.
- * Godliness is grown in our children through association with the word of God.
- * Discipline is required from godly parents.
 - * Discipline proves legitimacy (Hebrews 12.8-11).
 - * To produce respect.
 - * With best intentions.
 - * Moving toward peaceful righteousness.

“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”

“Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.”

“He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”

Proverbs 22.15; 23.13-14; 13.24

Never in anger — James 1.20

Appropriate for the occasion

Consistent

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- * Raising godly children begins with modeling godliness.
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- * Discipline is required from godly parents.
- * Godly children are not provoked by their parents.
 - * Instead, raise them up in the Lord — Ephesians 6:4
 - * Parents must learn their children.
 - * Rewards are just as appropriate as punishment (Rom. 13:3).

“It is one of the tragic facts of religious history that Martin Luther’s father was so stern to him that, all his life, Luther found it difficult to pray: ‘Our Father. The word father in his mind represented nothing but severity. The duty of the parent is discipline, but it is also encouragement. Luther himself said: ‘Spare the rod and spoil the child. It is true. But beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he does well.”

-William Barclay, The New Daily Study Bible: The Letters to Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, 3rd ed., p1 90

We will never grow godly children if we fail to impart the knowledge, example, and love of God.

If my child becomes a Christian, it will be because of my example or in spite of my example.

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father...’” (Matthew 6.9)