

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN (Ephesians 6:4)

I. We must teach them to remember God in their youth.

- A. You might say this is a poor way to start out the sermon because this is so obvious.
 - 1. The problem is we let a multitude of things cloud their vision.
 - 2. Even at young ages many things can get in their way of remembering God.
- B. Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1.
 - 1. The Preacher said long ago that young people can get caught up in youthful activities.
 - 2. God will judge them for that if they remain caught up in them.
 - 3. However, if God is remembered in youth there is a much greater opportunity for Him to remain in their lives as they age.
- C. God wants children to be happy and enjoy life as He does all ages (John 10:10).
- D. However, there must be a good foundation of knowledge of God laid during childhood or there will not be any foundation on which to build one's faith.
- E. It is up to the parent to be involved in the teaching of the children.
 - 1. One and a half hours a week in Bible class won't cut it.
 - 2. It's simply not enough time to lay a good foundation.
- F. We need to take opportunities in conversations, seeing something while driving or any time to make mention of God and His word and existence.
- G. Some have called these opportunities "teachable moments."

II. We must teach them the way and show them the way.

- A. Several years ago, Flavil Yeakley, a member of the Lord's church, found that 80% of children who had both parents actively involved in church activities remained faithful.
 - 1. It is not enough to simply bring our children to services and tell them they need to be faithful.
 - 2. Parents need to teach by word and by example.
- B. Young people can smell hypocrisy a mile away.
 - 1. If you tell them not to say a certain word but you say it, the next thing out of their mouths is, "Well, you say it."
 - 2. They don't let hypocrisy go unchecked.
- C. We are to be examples to the world and especially to our children (Matthew 5:13-16).
- D. Long ago, Isaiah asked Hezekiah, "What have they seen in thine house" (2 Kings 20:15).
 - 1. What are our children seeing?
 - 2. If it is not faithful living, don't expect it from them when they leave that home.

III. We must teach them to honor God above all.

- A. Luke 12:51-53.

1. The gospel is a divisive force at times.
 2. It is such because not all are willing to obey it.
 3. It does divide families.
- B. Despite this fact, God is to be put above all (Matthew 6:33).
- C. The greatest command, according to Jesus is to love God with all that we have (Mark 12:30).
- D. God comes first (Matthew 10:37).
- E. He comes before any other activities in which we can engage.
1. It is amazing how many ball fields are full on a Sunday morning.
 2. It is amazing how many lakes are full on a Sunday morning.
 3. Many that call themselves Christians have other things that come before God.
- F. There are important things out there, but none are as important as God and being a Christian.
- G. God is to be honored above and before all else.

IV. We must teach them about morality.

- A. Our world is being overcome with sex.
- B. Our nation accepts immorality and does not understand why someone would abstain from such.
1. The TV shows are full of people engaging in fornication and adultery.
 2. The songs on the radio promote such.
- C. If we don't take the time to teach our children about this biblical subject, they will learn an unacceptable view of it from the world.
- D. We need to teach our children what the Bible teaches about it.
1. Hebrews 13:4.
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.
- E. We need to teach them the physical and psychological dangers of fornication.
- F. If they don't learn it from us, they will learn it from somewhere.

V. We need to teach them about substance abuse.

- A. 67% of Americans drink alcohol at least occasionally according to research.
- B. 45% of Americans have at least tried illegal drugs according to research.
- C. 20% of 8th graders have reported trying marijuana.
- D. We must teach our children that their bodies are important (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- E. There is no room for the Christian to condone any type of use of drugs or alcohol.
1. 1 Peter 4:3 - the word "banquetings" refers to social drinking parties.
 2. Galatians 5:20 - the Greek word translated "witchcraft" comes from the word from which we get our English word "pharmacy."
- F. These things are condemned in scripture and we need to teach our children their evils and results of such use.

VI. We need to teach them that they are of great value.

- A. They, like us, are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
- B. They have an eternal soul just as we do.
- C. We need to let them know how valuable they are to the Lord.
- D. We need to let them know how valuable they are to us.

The main points are from an unknown source.