

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

It is the solemn obligation of parents to give their children the instruction and correction that belong to a Christian upbringing. Parents should be examples of Christian life and conduct, caring more for their children's salvation and hearts than for their jobs, professions, ministry in the church, or social standing. *(Psalm 127:3)*

1. According to Paul's word in Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21, as well as God's instruction in many Old Testament passages *(Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 6:7, Psalm 78:5, Proverbs 4:1-4 and 6:20)*, it is the responsibility of parents to give their children the upbringing that prepares them for lives pleasing to God. It is the family, not the church or church school that is primarily responsible for the Biblical and spiritual training of the children. Church and church school can only assist and affirm parental training.
2. The very core of Christian nurture is this: The heart of the father must be turned to the heart of the child in order to bring the heart of the child to the heart of the Savior *(Luke 1:17)*.
3. In bringing up their children, parents should show no favoritism, encourage, as well as correct, punish only defiance or intentional wrongdoing, and dedicate their lives in love to their children with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience *(Colossians 3:12-14, 21)*.
4. Here are fifteen steps that parents should take to lead their children to lives of godliness in Christ:
 - a. Dedicate your children to God at the beginning of their lives *(1 Samuel 1:28, Luke 2:22)*
 - b. Teach your children to fear the Lord and turn away from sin, to love righteousness and to hate evil. Instill in them an awareness of God's attitude and judgment toward sin *(Hebrews 1:9)*
 - c. Teach your children to obey you by loving use of Biblical discipline *(Deuteronomy 8:5, Proverbs 3:11-12, 13:24, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17, Hebrews 12:7)*
 - d. Protect your children from ungodly influences by being aware of Satan's attempts to destroy them spiritually through attraction to the world or through immoral companions *(Proverbs 13:20, 28:7, 1 John 2:5-17, Psalm 91)*
 - e. Make your children aware that God is always observing and evaluating what they do, think, and say *(Psalm 139:1-12)*
 - f. Do all you can to help your children come early in life to personal faith, repentance, and water baptism in Christ *(Matthew 19:14, John 3:16)*
 - g. Establish your children in a spiritual church where God's Word is proclaimed, his righteous standards honored, and the Holy Spirit manifested. Teach them the motto: "I am a friend to all who fear you" *(Psalm 119:63, Acts 12:5)*
 - h. Encourage your children to remain separated from the world and to witness and work for God *(2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1, James 4:4)*. Teach them that they are strangers and aliens on this earth *(Hebrews 11:13-16)*, that their real home and citizenship is in heaven with Christ *(Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:1-3)*
 - i. Instruct your children in the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit *(Acts 1:4-5:8, 2:4, 39)*
 - j. Teach your children that God loves them and has a specific purpose for their lives *(Luke 1:13-17, Romans 8:30, 1 Peter 1:3-9, Jeremiah 29:11-14)*
 - k. Instruct your children daily in God's Word, both in conversation and family devotions *(Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:5-7, 1 Timothy 4:6, 2 Timothy 3:15)*
 - l. Through example and exhortation, encourage your children to live lives devoted to prayer *(Acts 6:4, Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16)*
 - m. Prepare your children to suffer and endure persecution because of righteousness *(Matthew 5:10-12)*. They must know that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." *(2 Timothy 3:12)*
 - n. Lift your children up to God by constant and earnest intercession *(Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16-18)*
 - o. Be an example, and live a consistent Christian Life before them in your actions, words, and deeds. *(James 5:16)* WWJD

*"Fathers, do not embitter
your children, or they will
become discouraged."
Colossians 3:21*