



THE TOUGH ROLE OF PARENTING

Matthew 18:1-6, 19:13-15

- **What are some of the unique challenges faced by parents and children in our day?**
- **It's tough being a parent and a child in our day and time.**
- *“One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could lay His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.’ And He placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before He left.” (Matthew 19:13-15)*
- **Sometimes in our desire to raise good children, we bestow upon them unwise possessions, protection and praise.**
- **Good and godly kids are the result of good parents and others working together for the good of their children and the glory of the Lord.**
- *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)*
- **What steps can I take to become a much help and influence to the children and teens around me in my life?**

Raising Good And Godly Kids Involves:

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN WITH LOVE

- *“About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?’ Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then He said, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. . . . Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on My behalf is welcoming Me.” (Matthew 18:1-3; 5)*
- **“Welcoming” our children means expressing our love for them in a variety of ways.**
- **We express love to our Children when we are *Accepting Of Them*.**
 - **Accepting our children is helping them to know they are meaningful and valuable to us.**
 - **Many children have parents who are emotionally distanced from them.**
- **We express love to our Children when we are *Affectionate With Them*.**
 - **The #1 thing our children desire from us is open love and affection.**

- *“Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them.”*
(Genesis 48:10)
- **We express love to our Children when we are *Affirming Of Them.***
 - **Children need positive feedback and constant encouragement from their parents.**
 - *“Parents, don’t be hard on your children. If you are, they may give up.”*
(Colossians 3:21 CEV)
- **We express love to our Children when we are *Appreciative Of Them.***
 - **Affirmation is praising our children for who they are, and appreciation is praising our children for what they have done – and children need both.**
 - **Many children act like they’re “no good” because they feel like they’re “no good.”**
 - Jesus - *“Beware that you don’t despise a single one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of My Heavenly Father.”* (Matthew 18:10-11)
- ***What changes do I need to make to become more loving to the children, teens and adults in my life?”***

Raising Good And Godly Kids Involves:

PROVIDING OUR CHILDREN WITH LEADERSHIP

- Jesus - *“Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on My behalf is welcoming Me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in Me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”* (Matthew 18:5-6)
- **We lead our Children by *Teaching Them Our Faith.***
 - *“Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.”* (Proverbs 22:6)
 - **We teach our Children our faith by Educating them about God’s Word.**
 - The Lord - *“You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am give you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey.”*
(Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
 - **We teach our Children our faith by being Examples of God’s way to them.**
 - Jesus – *“Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.”* (Matthew 5:16)
 - **Children observe when we read our Bible, worship the Lord, pray, ask for forgiveness, make Church attendance a priority, serve and help others, etc., and what we do or don’t do affects their faith in the Lord.**
- **We lead our Children by *Training Them Firmly.***
 - *“Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.”* (Proverbs 13:24)
 - **Discipline for children is necessary and good when extended with the right motive, and is needed to bring children to maturity.**
 - *“To discipline a child produces wisdom . . . Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.”* (Proverbs 29:15, 17)

- **The types of discipline should vary with each child and each situation, and discipline should always be carried out in love, not in anger or frustration.**
- *“Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”* (James 1:20)
- *“Love never fails.”* (1 Corinthians 13:8 NKJV)
- **Correcting children is a way and form of discipleship, and should help children grow closer to the Lord and His purposes for our lives.**
- God to Samuel – *“I have warned Eli that judgment is coming for his family, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn’t disciplined them.”* (1 Samuel 3:13)
- **If we really love our children and want the best for them, we will train and discipline them firmly but lovingly.**
- **We lead our Children by *Protecting Their Hearts*.**
 - **We protect our Children by guarding their friendships.**
 - *“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”* (Proverbs 12:26 NKJV)
 - *“Bad company corrupts good character.”* (1 Corinthians 15:33)
 - *“I am a friend to anyone who fears You (O God) - anyone who obeys Your commandments.”* (Psalm 119:63)
 - **We protect our Children’s hearts by guarding their use of technology, and guiding them to media that glorifies Jesus and affirms Christian values.**
- ***What changes do I need to make to better lead the Children God has placed in my life?***

Raising Good And Godly Kids Involves:

CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO THE LORD

- ***“One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could lay His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.’ And He placed His hands on their heads and blessed them before He left.”*** (Matthew 19:13-15)
- **Connecting our Children to Jesus requires *Bringing Them To Church*.**
 - *“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do.”* (Hebrews 10:25)
 - ***What are some of the benefits of bringing our children and grandchildren to Church services with us?***
 - **We need to not only bring Children to Church, but we need to involve them in ministry in the Church so they can see God working in people’s lives.**
- **Connecting our Children to Jesus requires *Bringing Them To Christ*.**
 - *“Everyone in his household was baptized . . . and his household rejoiced because they all believed in God.”* (Acts 16:33-34)
 - **Jesus can transform people’s lives, circumstances and relationships, so we need to do everything we can to connect the people that we love to Him.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to better connect my Children to the Church and to the Lord Jesus?”***

- *“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.”* (Psalm 127:3)
- *“How happy are those who fear the Lord – all who follow His ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How happy you will be! How rich your life! Your wife will be like a fruitful vine, flourishing within your home. And look at all those children! There they sit around your table as vigorous and healthy as young olive trees. That is the Lord’s reward for those who fear Him.”* (Psalm 128:1-4)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and what are some steps that I can take to apply this lesson to my life?***