

Raising Hearts that are Willing to Yield

Today's family unit is different than it used to be. Many children may grow up knowing who God or "a god" is, but far fewer are taught to have a respect and awe for the God, Most High. The concept of yielding yourself to God seems to lessen with every generation. While the world sees this change as something that is just part of the current, evolving culture, God shows us something different. He has shown us through His eternal word that He has a plan for families and for how parents can help their children learn to yield their hearts to God. His plan ensures that each generation is taught to love, serve, and honor their Father and Creator. He shows us the blessings that come from that service. How can we impress upon our children and grandchildren, these things that will lead them to life and godliness? And, beyond just showing them those things, how can we *train* them to make those holy precepts an integral part of their lives?

I. God's plan for parents is to teach their children to *know* and *obey* Him

- a. This was the plan in the time of the Patriarchs (Gen. 18-:17-19)
- b. This was God's plan for His people as a nation of Israel (Deut. 4:5-10)
- c. Wisdom literature in the Bible reminds us what God wants each generation to do
 - i. Psalm 78:1-8 – A Contemplation of Asaph
 - ii. A passage showing us many reasons why we should teach our children to know the Lord
- d. In the last age (New Testament) God reveals a continuing theme of teaching our children to submit to Him (Eph. 6:4, 2 Tim. 3:14-16)

II. Why we must commit to raising our children in the Lord (Psalm 78:6-8)

- a. That they may declare Him to their children (Ps. 78:6)
 - i. God's intention is for each generation pass on His wonder and Truth to the next (Deut. 6:1-12)
 - ii. Think of the practical ways we can do that as parents (2 Tim. 3:15, Ps. 119:11, Ps. 55:1)
- b. That they may set their hope in God (Ps. 78:7)
 - i. Putting confidence in His power (Ps. 146:1-10, Heb. 10:23)
 - ii. Parents lives being an example of their hope in God (Prov. 14:26, Heb 6:13-19)
- c. So they will not forget His wonderful works (Ps. 78:7)
 - i. God's wonder and power are beyond compare. Praise helps us remember that fact (Job 36:24, Ex. 15:1-2, Psalm 148)
 - ii. We can help our children remember God by openly praising Him ourselves
- d. To keep His commandments and avoid unfaithfulness (Ps. 78:7-8)
 - i. Obedience to God should be taught as paramount (Ecc. 12:13-14, Prov. 22:6)
 - ii. Realize that stubbornness and rebellion go hand in hand with unfaithfulness (Rom 1:28)
 - iii. Setting our kids mind on God points them away from this dangerous path (1 Chron. 22:19, Co. 3:1-3)

As we try to raise our children with hearts that are ready to yield to God, let us remember His plan and be active in using the wisdom He has given us. As parents who are leading our families, keeping God's will before our children every day will help us guide them to remain steadfast in the faith.