

THE HOME

The Children

Introduction:

1. In our previous lessons on the home we have talked about:
 - A. The importance of the home
 - B. Some causes for Marriage failure
 - C. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage
 - D. The Husband's role in the home
 - E. The Wife's role in the home

2. Tonight we will conclude our study as we talk about our role as parents in bringing up our children within the home.

Children Are a Blessing from God:

1. We are told that they are a gift.

Ps 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

2. Children result from the union of a husband and wife.

A. Adam and Eve

Gen 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

B. Noah and his family

Gen 9:7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it."

C. Paul's admonition

1 Tim 5:14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

3. Again, God doesn't expect the impossible in this area, nor has He indicated how many.

Motherhood Should Be Honored:

- 1. A woman who lacks appreciation for her station in life as God has given her, should listen to this article:**

"She was just an ordinary woman without much leisure. She did not know the difference between an Ionic and a Doric in architecture. She was not upon China painting and the Roman emperors. She made no fashionable calls, attended no progressive card parties, and did not vote. But she brought up three children to tell the truth, to love God, to love their brothers, and to do honest labor and not be ashamed of it. When she died the papers did not notice it, but the Recording Angel said, as he reached for a fresh pen and turned over to a clean page: "A Queen is coming! Get her throne ready.""

- 2. A mother will be honored and blessed by her children when she spends the necessary time to ensure that they are raised righteously.**

Prov 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

- 3. Before His death, Jesus made sure His mother was taken care of in life.**

John 19:25-27 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Fatherhood Is Also Honorable:

- 1. Credit is often given to the mother for the raising of the children -and this is right, but the righteous father deserves his credit for ensuring that his children were instructed in righteousness.**

A. Notice the following story:

In Alabama, many years ago, there was a funeral for an old man. He lived as a poor farmer. He hitched up the team & took the family to services every Sunday. He never owned his own farm, not even the house he lived in; he left nothing of the world's goods. He left six stalwart sons to bear his name and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. What greater work for the Lord or humanity could he have done if he had been able to defeat an army, build a city, or lead a nation?

B. The only thing we can take with us when we die, is what we leave behind!

1) That is our children and others that we have influenced, either for the good or for the bad!

1 Tim 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

2. Our children "are" and "become" what we teach them to be.

A. Let's notice two cases:

Case #1

Many years ago, a man named Edwards lived in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His son came to America & settled near Hartford, Conn., whose son became a lawyer, whose son became a preacher, whose son became president of Princeton University. In a study of 1,394 decedents, 295 were college graduates, 65 college professors, 13 college presidents, 186 preachers, 60 physicians, 30 public officials, one vice-president of the U.S., 16 railroad & Steamship company presidents --- and not one of them was ever convicted of a crime!

Case #2

Max Jukes, who was born in 1720, had two sons who married sisters. One of the girls, Margaret, was called the "mother of criminals". Names of 1,200 descendants were found, of which only 709 could be traced through six generations. There were 310 professional paupers, 380 lived on public support, 440 died of diseases brought on by sin; 140 were convicted of crimes, 7 were murderers who spent a total of 140 years in penitentiaries, and 60 were thieves. Every grade of idleness, viciousness, pauperism, and criminality was found among them and it cost the state of New York \$1,308,000.00 to prosecute the descendants of this man.

WHAT WILL YOUR CHILDREN BE? WHAT YOU RAISE THEM TO BE!

(With some exceptions)

Therefore, the Great

Responsibility of Parents:

- 1. Fathers have a greater responsibility because they are the head of the wife and have been given the command by God to discipline and instruct in the Lord.**

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- 2. Fathers also have a responsibility to ensure that the family is provided for.**

1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- A. We know from Mark 16:16 that one that does not believe is condemned - that is the fate of the man who does not provide!**

- 3. Mothers are instructed to "keep" or "guide the house".**

1 Tim 5:14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

- 4. Together, parents need to understand that we are the boss of the house - not the children.**

- A. We have not read anywhere that children are to rule over their parents!**

- 1) Yet in some households this would seem to be an unwritten law.**

- B. Children do not have the right to defy their parents. The Bible should be the parents textbook, law, and guide for discipline.**

- 1) Notice the following passages from Proverbs:**

Prov 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Prov 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

Prov 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Prov 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

Prov 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Prov 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.

C. Each time a child gets his way in defiance of parental authority, he will encroach more and more on that authority!

D. Hold fast in exerting the power of leadership. Remember, we have the responsibility to lead them in God's ways!

1) Say NO to: drugs, alcohol, fornication, abortion, pornography, profanity, temper tantrums, gambling, immodest dress, dancing, disrespectful language and conduct.

2) Parents – not the children, should decide on appropriate TV programs, movies, curfew, and outside activities.

3) There should be **no negotiations where principles of right and wrong are involved!**

5. **We parents need to "show" leadership to our children, not just "talk" leadership. The children know the difference!**
- A. **Being available, spending time, being interested**
 - B. **Prepare their lessons (school, and Bible class)**
 - C. **We as parents show our children how to act in all situations and that includes the worship services.**
 - 1) **Our leadership is essential in this area.**

CARE OF CHILDREN IN SERVICES

Brother J.P. Gibson, an elder in a church, and a well-known pediatrician, once gave the following advice on how to attend to children who become restless or unruly during the worship services:

"The worshiper should not be disturbed by children who misbehave. Children should be encouraged to be present at all services from the age of two weeks upwards, yet they should be taught to be quiet. Even infants of a few months can be taught this lesson. It is preferable that children be seated with their parents where a watchful eye can be kept over them.

*Children who cry should be taken out of the assembly and, if necessary, given a little dose of "birth tea", and then promptly returned to the assembly. When misbehaving is rewarded with discipline, he gets what he needs. When it is rewarded with liberty, the child gets what he wants. It is remarkable how a few doses of "birch tea" **consistently given** will bring out good behavior in a child."*

Look where we have evolved from - Razor strap to the belt to the modern age switch, where everything is controlled by a switch, except the children!

Following such instruction would help us to have more orderly worship periods and would help us all to bring up our children in a better manner.

- 1. I wish to add one other point here. If any of your children are having a bad day (upset, crying, etc.), then sit in the back of the auditorium so that they will not disrupt the service and you will be able to take them out quicker.**
 - A. I heard it said once that good intentions and crying babies have one thing in common – both should be carried out.**
 - B. Remember, as a parent with young children you are constantly juggling between teaching them to behave in services while at the same time making sure that they are not disrupting the service. Use good judgment on knowing when to take them out.**

Conclusion

- 1. Parents have been entrusted with responsibility to raise their children in accordance with God's direction.**
- 2. Therefore, do not let society dictate what you should or should not be doing in the rearing of your children – God is the one that we should receive our guidance from.**
- 3. Our responsibility is great and each of us must carry it out in accordance with God's commandments!**

Thank you for your kind attention and good comments regarding this series of lessons on the home.

Remember, these lessons were intended for each one of us – to ensure that we are living our lives and guiding the lives of others in a way that will be acceptable to God.

A. Jesus said:

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

