

## RAISING KIDS FOR FUN & PROFIT

### **Introduction to the series.**

At the beginning of this series, you who are parents must accept the fact that you are not raising children, you already have children! You are raising adults, but you are starting with children.

They all start out as foolish, inadequate human beings who cannot survive without you. Your task is to turn them into autonomous and wise men and women of God.

In the eighteen years or so following bringing them home from the hospital, you must cut the umbilical cord. If you do not cut it, they will rip it apart someday.

Understand that God entrusts children only to amateurs – none of us are experts or professionals in children rearing.

Know your plan; know your children; know your God.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.  
NKJV

We are responsible to train our children, and they will be what we train them to be.

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still  
It bent and yielded to my will.  
  
I came again when days were past,  
The bit of clay was hard at last;  
My early impress still it bore  
And I could change its form no more.

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I took a piece of living clay  
And gently formed it day by day.  
And molded with my power and art  
A young child's soft and yielding heart--

I came again when years were gone:  
It was a man I looked upon;  
He still that early impress wore.  
And I could change him nevermore.

In this series, we will move from their childhood to their adolescence. Raising teenagers is an entirely new experience if all you know up to now is pre-pubescent children.

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### 1. Know your plan.

#### 1.1. What do you want your children to know? Three truths:

##### 1.1.1. The responsibility of the creature to the Creator.

Psalm 100:3:

"Know that the LORD, He is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."

The benefits: (two benefits):

- They will not be fools:

Psalm 14:1:

"The fool has said in his heart,  
'There is no God.'  
They are corrupt,  
They have done abominable works,  
There is none who does good."

- They will be saved from worldly values.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. NKJV

##### 1.1.2. The narrowness of the Way.

Do not let them accept Satan's lie that "all religions are merely different paths to the same destination."

Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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### 1.1.3. The benefits of belonging to Christ.

#### 1.1.3.1. An inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3-5:

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

#### 1.1.3.2. Peace with God.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

#### 1.1.3.3. Eternal life.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Many parents stop at this point of knowledge, and, as a result, raise Bible-wise pagans.

## 1.2. What do you want your children to do? Three commitments:

### 1.2.1. We want our children to receive Christ.

John 1:12, 13:

- 12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name:

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13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

### 1.2.1.1. They must know the method of receiving Christ.

Understanding the gospel is not complicated; receiving Christ is not difficult. But they must know even simple things.

### 1.2.1.2. They must know the reason for receiving Christ.

#### 1.2.2. We want our children to grow in the knowledge of Him.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. NKJV

#### 1.2.3. We want our children to increase in commitment to Christ and His mission as maturity comes.

The church of Jesus Christ is already filled with the uncommitted or half-committed: Jesus said such were unworthy of the Kingdom of God:

Luke 9:62: But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Isn't Christian growth a path of increasing commitment? For many in our culture, it is a path of increasing entertainments.

## 1.3. What do you want your children to be? Three characteristics:

### 1.3.1. Christians.

You must define this over time for your children. A Christian is not simply someone who is religious or who goes to church.

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### 1.3.2. Godly adults.

You are not raising children – you are raising adults; you already have children!

### 1.3.3. People whose lives count for eternity.

We should hope that the existence of our children on earth should be more than just taking up space until the Grim Reaper comes for a visit.

## 1.4. How are you going to teach them?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!  
5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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### 2. Know your children.

#### 2.1. Know your children's personalities.

##### 2.1.1. Analyze their strengths.

God planned our children's characteristics from the womb, and the personality they have is, in part, from God for the sake of the ministry to which He has called them.

Psalm 139:16:

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them.

##### 2.1.2. Analyze their weaknesses.

Apply appropriate scripture when helping them overcome weaknesses, but do not beat them over the head with it.

FOR EXAMPLE: Children's fears of the dark:

Psalm 139:7-10:

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.  
9 If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
10 Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
And Your right hand shall hold me.

FOR EXAMPLE: fear of failure:

Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with you; be not  
dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen

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you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with  
My righteous right hand.'

### 2.2. Know your children's spiritual status.

Consider the child's age of accountability: a time when the child begins making rational decisions to sin against God.

When does the sin nature first appear? Is it the Terrible Twos? As soon as they can stomp their feet and say "no" to mommy and daddy? They were conceived with a sin nature. It starts to show up when they begin interacting with others.

Isaiah 7:14-17:

- 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,  
and shall call His name Immanuel.
- 15 "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.
- 16 "For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.
- 17 "The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house; days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."

Romans 7:9-11:

- 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.
- 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.
- 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

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While you are teaching them about right and wrong and disciplining them for disobedience to authority, be careful not to put a burden of guilt upon someone who is not yet aware of personal sin.

Fill your child's early years with the knowledge that God loves her, that God created her, and that everything that God says is true.

Sunday School is one of your best supportive resources. Get them in to church every Sunday! If you do not, you will wish you had when they become teens.

### **2.3. Know your children's interests.**

Within reason, be interested in the things in which they are interested. By the same token, encourage them to other interests: raise renaissance children, children who understand their world and their place in it.

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### 3. Know your God.

#### 3.1. Know His nature.

Paul, at the end of his life desired that he "might know Him" (Philippians 3:10).

Children, being concrete thinkers, can understand God by being taught about Jesus. It is hard to teach them about One who "dwells in unapproachable light." Try teaching a child about somebody who doesn't have a body! But children have always loved to come to Jesus and He has always welcomed them.

#### 3.2. Know His standards.

3.2.1. He demands perfection.

Matthew 5:48: "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

His standards can only be achieved by and through Christ.

#### 3.3. Know His desires.

3.3.1. For the world.

3.3.2. For individual Christians.

Here you can involve your child's imagination: he can be a world-shaker, just like the Apostle Paul.

The choice of being a world-shaker or a cipher, a zero, as a Christian, or of being a non-believer is founded in large part on what we teach our children about themselves and their God.