

CHILDREN AND PARENTING

“Children are a blessing from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.” No truer words have ever been spoken. Children are a blessing and a major reason why God invented marriage. However, in our culture today there seems to be a shift away from this perspective. Increasingly, children are viewed as a necessary hindrance to our own personal goals. As a result, parents influence fewer children and the fruit is evident in today’s news. It is important to understand God’s view of these little ones and the blessing they can be to a marriage.

I. GOD AND CHILDREN

a. God places a _____ on kids.

- i. *“Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.” — Psalm 127:3-5*

“Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.”

— C. Everett Koop, M.D.
Former U.S. surgeon general

- ii. The New Testament lists “bringing up children” as a good deed to help determine whether a widow should be supported by the church.

“No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.” — 1 Timothy 5:9-10

- iii. Jesus valued children in a culture that put little value on them.

“People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have Him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” — Luke 18:15-16

b. One of God’s _____ in marriage is to raise godly children.

“Has not [the Lord] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.” — Malachi 2:15

c. Raising a wise child will result in _____.

- i. Proverbs 10:1 — *“A wise son makes a father glad.”*
- ii. Proverbs 13:1 — *“A wise son accepts his father’s discipline.”*
- iii. Proverbs 29:17 — *“Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also delight your soul.”*

d. Raising a foolish child will result in hardship and sorrow for the child, his/her parents, and those around him/her.

- i. Proverbs 17:21 — *“He who begets a fool does so to his sorrow.”*
- ii. Proverbs 27:3 — *“Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than both.”*

“The Christian life is caught not taught. Find Godly examples of parenting in your church and imitate them.”

— Bill Young

e. _____ your children into heaven.

- i. Psalm 116:2 — *“Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!”*

A PARENTING DISCUSSION

Couples Project

1. Describe your fiancé's attitude toward children (i.e. should you have them, when, etc.). Does it differ from yours?
2. If you have children, will the mother work outside the home? Do you both agree on this?
3. Would you prefer boys or girls? Are you equally excited about either?
4. How many children would you prefer to have? Do you both agree on this?
5. How will you discipline your children?
6. How will you educate your children?