

San Juan Church of Christ

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What does God's Word Say About...

Raising Godly Children

It has become obvious in the last several months through criminal acts committed by the young, that parents have lost control of training their children in the wise council of God's word. This has caused much anguish to parents when they find their children have stepped outside of family values, and outside of civil laws. Some even go so far as to riot and even murder. One of the wisest men who ever lived, and wrote the book of Proverbs, said, "A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her [mother] who bore him," (Prov. 17:25).

The advice given in this article in raising Godly children has no guarantee of success in every case. Children are free moral agents with the ability to choose between good and evil. The Bible, however, teaches vital principles that parents can use to prevent many of the heartaches that children cause when they choose the wrong behavior.

Americans have hectic schedules causing mothers and fathers to spend very little time with their children. For instance, the number of teens who have regular family meals with their parents has declined substantially over the past years. Godly parents who spend quality time with their children will influence them positively. When God taught Israel how to create a strong family life, He commanded Moses, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up," (Deut. 6:5-7).

This scripture encourages us to discuss with our children God's will "when you lie down". This refers to a daily bedtime routine in kissing your children good-night, reading from the Bible, and teaching them how to pray to God. "When you rise up" is beginning the day with God by giving thanks at the breakfast table, and giving your child a Bible verse for the day such as "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," (Prov. 9:10). The family meal time in the evening is a good time to be together "when you sit in your house." We can teach our children how to pray thanking God for meeting our spiritual and physical needs. This affirms that God is most important in our lives and central to our family's purpose. The wise Proverb says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it," (Prov. 22:6). The father, as the spiritual leader, can read from the book of Proverbs after the family meal. The Proverbs will teach your children, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching," (Prov. 1:7-8). Raising Godly children takes time each day as we "walk by the way."

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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