

Parental Responsibilities: Instruction (Pt. 1)

Biblical Parenting Class - Week #4

"You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:14-16

"There are few things as important as the task that God has assigned you and me to be a part of — be God's chosen instrument for the forming of a soul of a precious image bearer of God. That is an awesome task." — Paul David Tripp, *Getting to the Heart of Parenting*

I. Understand the _____ for Instructing your Children

- Proverbs 1:1–4
- Children are _____ and need _____.

II. Embrace your _____ for Instructing your Children

- Proverbs 1:8-9
- Ephesians 6:4
- Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- Psalm 78:5

III. Remember your _____ in Instructing your Children

- That they would _____ (the Scripture and the Gospel)
- That they would be _____ of what they have learned
- That they would _____ in what they have learned

John Piper said, "What we want from the next generation is not just heads full of right facts about the works of God; we want heads full of right facts and hearts that burn with the fire of love for the God of those facts; hearts that will sell everything to follow Jesus into the hardest places of the world."

IV. Recognize your _____ IS Instructing your Children

"To give children good instruction, and a bad example, is but beckoning to them with the head to show them the way to heaven, while we take them by the hand and lead them in the way to hell."

-Archbishop Tillotson (quoted by J.C. Ryle in *The Duties of Parents*)

- Your _____ speaks volumes to your children

"To successfully learn spiritual convictions from others and to hold them as your own, it is necessary not only to hear them clearly taught, but to see them consistently lived."

-John MacArthur, *2 Timothy MacArthur NT Commentary*

- 1 Timothy 4:16
- Deuteronomy 6:1-9

"Parents, as you would wish your instructions and admonitions to your family to be successful – enforce them by the power of holy example. It is not enough for you to be generally pious – but you should be wholly pious; not only to be real disciples – but eminent ones; not only sincere Christians; but consistent ones. Your standard of true religion should be very high. To some parents I would give this advice, "Say less about religion to your children – or else manifest more of its influence. Leave off family prayer – or else leave off family sins." – John Angell James, *The Christian Father's Present to His Children*

- Your _____ is contagious for your children
 - What you worship (Exodus 20:1-6)
 - How you worship (Deuteronomy 31:11–12)

"Parents have the responsibility to teach their children by their own example the meaning and value of worship. Therefore, parents should want their children with them in worship so the children can catch the spirit and form of their parents' worship....They should see how Mom and Dad sing praise to God with joy in their faces, and how they listen hungrily to His Word. They should catch the spirit of their parents meeting the living God. Something seems wrong when parents want to take their children in the formative years and put them with other children and other adults to form their attitude and behavior in worship. Parents should be jealous to model for their children the tremendous value they put on reverence in the presence of Almighty God."

-John and Noel Piper, *The Family: Together in God's Presence* (www.desiringgod.org)

- Helpful tips as you transition your children to the worship service
 - Pack a special "church bag" that includes their Bible (various Kid's Bibles are available in the Countryside bookstore), some pens, coloring pencils, or crayons, their Kids in Worship booklet, and other quiet age-appropriate Bible coloring pages or other activities.
 - Practice sitting still and listening at home during family devotions.
 - Work to get them plenty of rest on Saturday night.
 - Be sure they go to the restroom before service.
 - Expect them to stand when the congregation stands, even if they can't follow along to sing. These are also times to get the wiggles out.
 - Help them take notes by letting them look on your notes, by dotting out difficult words for them to trace (justification, etc.), or
 - provide a page full of words to listen for and circle each time they hear them during the sermon (Jesus, salvation, love, Father, etc.).
 - Give them a Tic Tac or mint halfway through the service to encourage their efforts and help them understand they are halfway through.
 - Sit on the end close to the door so you can slip out quickly if things go awry.
- Your _____ preaches the gospel to your children
 - Ephesians 5:22-33

"The gospel is the good news that the Groom loves his bride. He loved her so much that he humbled himself, descended an infinite distance, became man, and suffered poverty and abuse for thirty-three years. Then, in the greatest display of love in history, he allowed himself to be tortured to death on a cross in his bride's place. The Son of God did all of this to serve his bride, to make peace where enmity reigned. What motivated him? Love that surpasses knowledge! He longed to unite himself in irrevocable love to an unworthy bride.

But the gospel is not just about the Groom's love. It also provokes a response from his bride. When understood from the heart, it motivates her to humble herself, love the Groom with all her heart, respect him, and serve him with joyful abandon. The gospel summons Christ's bride to yield to the servant authority of her crucified King.

Here is Paul's point: Christian marriage preaches this union. It makes it either attractive or ugly. When a husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church, washing her with the Word, forgiving her, serving her, and tenderly leading her, his marriage says "Christ loves his church. You can trust the Groom. He is infinitely loving. Serve him. You won't be disappointed."

...But when a husband is unfaithful to his wife, verbally belittles her, loves his children more than her, or takes her for granted, his marriage says, "Christ's love is not that great. He loves us only when we perform. You can't trust this Savior. You can't meet his expectations. He doesn't keep his promises. Why serve a fickle despot?"...

Wives also preach. When Mom joyfully submits to her husband "as to the Lord," recognizing that he is her head as Christ is the Head of the church, and that she is his body as the church is the body of Christ, it makes an attractive statement. When she does this for an unworthy husband, not because she trusts *him*, but because she trusts Christ to care for her, it points her children to Christ. Her behavior says, "Christ is trustworthy. The Son of God is infinitely good. You can trust him..."

But when a wife tells her children to obey Christ, yet doesn't trust him enough to take care of her relationship with an imperfect husband, but seeks to control him, resists his authority, refuses to respect him, and declines to serve him, her actions speak loudly. They say, "The Son of God cannot be trusted. He promises to exalt the humble, but I don't believe he will exalt me. He says he will take care of those who submit to lawful authority, but I don't really believe that. If I don't take care of myself, who will?" In most cases, her children will internalize what she does, not what she says."

V. Prioritize _____ in Instructing your Children

- Because Scripture gives _____ for salvation
- Because Scripture is _____ for:
 -
 -
 -
 -

Therefore...

- Scripture must be the primary _____ of our instruction
- Scripture must fill our _____ and _____ as parents
 - _____ Scripture
 - _____ Scripture
 - _____ Scripture
 - _____ on Scripture

Questions for Reflection

1. What is your life teaching your kids? What does it tell them is important? What does it teach them about God, His Word, etc.?

2. What is your marriage teaching your kids about the gospel?

3. How are you/will you develop your knowledge of Scripture so that you can better impart that truth to your children? Are there some specific verses you should memorize so you can more easily regularly share them with your children?