

Five Things to Teach Your Children
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Introduction: Our God gives us great guidance concerning things that really matter.

- A. It should be a natural concern for parents to give their children the best upbringing.
 - 1. Societies have vastly different views on this. Some have discarded the home. **(Rom 1:30-31 KJV; Deut 18:9-10; 2 Kgs 16:2-3)**
 - 2. A young man was working a puzzle. A boy was on one side and the country was on the other. "If I get the boy put together right, the country will be ok!"
- B. A group of historians spoke recently on CSPAN. All expressed shock at the rapidly changing morals in the country. **(Prov 14:34; Gen 15:16)**
 - 1. The church began during a time of great wickedness in Roman culture.
 - 2. Even amidst persecution and social ridicule Christians were able to instill faith in their children and see a rapid growth of the church.
 - 3. Consider some basic truths each generation must teach in the home.

I. Respect for authority

- A. You cannot have a relationship with God without respect. **(Deut 6:24-25; 7:9-11)**
 - 1. With this basic truth as a foundation a man who fears God will also show respect in many different human relationships.
 - 2. Many are teaching a very different "god than revealed in the Bible. Many believe in a "god" that has spoken on almost nothing! **(2 Cor 11:3-4)**
- B. Respect for governmental authority. **(Rom 13:1-2; 1 Pt 2:13-14)**
 - 1. Should we only respect a government we agree with?
 - 2. What was the response of the early church to governmental persecution?
 - 3. We must respect, obey and pray for all of those in authority over us. We must disobey our government when it goes against God's law. **(Acts 5:28-29)**
 - 4. Where does this respect begin? In the home, at school, dealing with police officers and at work!
 - 5. Parents your real attitude will be revealed and transmitted to your children!
- C. Respect for brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - 1. The Lord commands us to have a certain attitude towards all Christians! **(1 Pt 1:22; Rom 14:10, 15, 19)**
 - 2. You should respond decisively to any disrespect towards Bible class teachers.
 - 3. Those who lead should be given respect. **(Heb 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13)**
 - 4. A young girl tried to "teach" her boyfriend by complaining about Christians.
 - 5. Respect cannot be learned when bitterness is planted in the heart. This is why some lose their young. **(Deut 29:18-19)**
 - 6. Parents can follow their children in departing from the Lord and His people.

II. How to worship God

- A. It is difficult for a child to seek and meditate on God when he lives in a videogame world. **(Heb 11:6)**

1. As parents you can give your children the faith that you possess. **(2 Tim 1:5)**
2. You can read to them, talk to them, let them see you worship God.
3. Your children will be serious about that which you are serious about.

(Prov 22:6)

- B. Worship must be learned by each individual. How can we teach this?
1. We should read and talk to them about scripture that is meaningful to us. (Ex. Bedtime stories, the loss of a grandparent, what to do when hurt by another.) **(Deut 6:5-7)**
 2. It is a great blessing when your child begins to turn to scripture and pray because he needs it and has learned to do so.
- C. Public worship is a time for learning.
1. From the youngest of age there are things where we can involve our children.
 2. Putting an emphasis on being at every service teaches has an enormous impact.

III. How to work with others

- A. There are basic things necessary to establishing any relationship.
1. Putting others ahead of self.
 2. Honesty.
 3. Learning how to listen.
 4. Compassion.
- B. The kind of relationships they form will determine their future.
- C. How to give anger over unjust treatment to God. **(Mt 5:44-48)**
1. The next generation will be under greater pressure in these areas.
 2. If our children let bitterness rule their hearts all will be lost. **(Eph 4:26-27)**

IV. How to make faith your own

- A. How can a young person stand in an ungodly society? Consider Daniel. **(Dan 1:8)**
1. Many laugh at applications concerning “external” things.
 2. Men of faith know that discernment must be taught and will bring great blessings! **(Heb 4:12; 5:14)**
 3. The discerning young person will pay a heavy price in the social circles of the world. **(1 Pt 4:3-4, 12-14)**
- B. Respect for God’s word will lead to a careful discernment in all things. **(Col 3:17)**
1. Does your child know the difference in the Lord’s church and the ways of man?
 2. Churches that fail to discern in “doctrine” will also fail in morals.

V. How to build a home

- A. All of the previous points are part of the kind of heart needed in the home. **(Eph 5:23-25, 33)**
1. Respect for God’s plan limits who you can marry. **(Mt 19:9)**
 2. Marry one who will help you go to heaven.
- B. Many of you will see the fruits of your work for generations. Let us pray for God’s help! **(Prov 10:1; 17:21, 25; 23:24-25)**

Conclusion: What will be the end of the house you are building? **(Mt 7:24-27)**