

# A Divine View of Parenting

## A conference for parents and serving ones

The Church in Denver

September 23, 2017

### MESSAGE ONE: STEWARDSHIP

#### I. Parenting is a great stewardship—A blessing and a responsibility

- A. Children are a gift from God—Gen. 4:1; 21:1–2; 30:1–2; 33:5; 48:9; 1 Sam. 1:11, 20, 27; Psalm 127:3; Isa. 8:18; Luke 1:13

*Genesis 4:1 . . . I have gotten a man from the Lord. (Eve)*

*Genesis 30:1–2 Rachel . . . said to Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. . . . and he said, am I in God's stead, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?*

*Genesis 33:5 . . . Who are those with you? And he [Jacob] said, The children which God has graciously given your servant.*

*Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward.*

- B. We have been entrusted with a commission and are responsible to care for our children as God's stewards—Heb. 13:17

*Heb. 13:17 Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.*

1. The primary characteristic sought in stewards is faithfulness—1 Cor. 4:2; Matt. 24:45–47; 25:23; 1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 3:2

*1 Cor. 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.*

*Matt. 24:45–47 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.*

2. The Lord loves the children, so for Him to entrust the children to us means a lot—Mark 10:13–14, 16; Matt. 18:2, 5, 6, 10;

*Mark 10:13–14 And they brought little children to Him so that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus, seeing it, was indignant and said to them, Allow the little children to come to Me. Do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God.*

- C. Our parenting should be for God's purpose—Acts 16:31; Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:4

*Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.*

1. To conduct our children to Christ—Exo. 10:9; Mark 10:14; Gal. 3:24
2. For God's building, God's testimony—Num. 3:28
3. We raise our children to lend them to the Lord—1 Sam. 1:24–28

*1 Sam. 1:27–28a For this child I prayed; and Jehovah hath given me my petition which I asked of him: 28 therefore also I have lent him to Jehovah; as long as he lives he is lent to Jehovah.*

4. It is normal to gain all our children—Acts 16:31; Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:4  
*Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.*

*Titus 1:6 If anyone is unreprouvable, the husband of one wife, **having believing children**, not accused of dissoluteness or unruly.*

- D. There is a war over the children—Exo. 1:15–17, 20–22; 10:8–9; Matt. 2:13–14, 16

## **II. God’s Word presents principles of parenting, that is, how to parent our children**

- A. By seeking God’s way—we need the Lord—Judges 13:1–23; Eph. 6:4  
*Judges 13:8 Then Manoah entreated Jehovah, and said, Oh, Lord, I pray you, let the man of God whom you didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.*

- B. In sanctification—Num. 6:1–12; Judges 13:1–23; 1 Samuel 1:9–20, 22, 28; 2:20–21; John 17:4–20; 1 Cor. 7:14; Job 1:5; Gen. 22:16–18; John 13:15; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:14–16, 18–19; 3:3–5; 1 Tim. 2:9–10; 1 Thes. 5:22  
*Judges 13:3–5 And the angel of Jehovah appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, you are barren, and do not bear; but you shall conceive, and bear a son. 4 Now therefore beware, I pray you, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing: 5 for, behold, you shall conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come upon his head; for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

- C. In the way of oneness—Psalm 133:1, 3b; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 4:2

- D. Parenting requires learning—Judges 13:1–23; Titus 2:4; 1:6  
*Titus 2:4 That they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,*  
*Titus 1:6 If anyone is unreprouvable, the husband of one wife, having believing children, not accused of dissoluteness or unruly.*

- E. Having an aspiration to further God’s purpose

- F. Avoiding extremes—Eph. 6:4; 1 Kings 1:6  
*Eph. 6:4 And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*  
*1 Kings 1:6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why have you done so? and he was also a very goodly man; and he was born after Absalom.*

## **III. Our responsibilities as parents**

- A. We are responsible to train our children, ensuring proper development of their tripartite vessel—Prov. 22:6; 2 Cor. 4:7

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

1. Training the conscience to know right from wrong in order to preserve the children from corruption, to bring them under God's rule, and give the Spirit the ground to convict and bring them to Christ—Gen. 3:7; 4:6–7; Rom. 2:14–15; Titus 1:15; 1 Tim. 4:1–2; Eph. 4:19; Isa. 7:16a; Prov. 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13–14; 29:15, 17; Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:7–11; John 16:8; Prov. 20:27; Psalm 18:28; 119:130; Luke 15:8; 2 Cor. 4:4, 6; Ezek. 36:26

*Rom. 2:14–15 For when Gentiles, who have no law, do by nature the things of the law, these, though they have no law, are a law to themselves, 15 Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness with it and their reasonings, one with the other, accusing or even excusing them)*

2. Training the mind to think proper thoughts—Prov. 1:7–9; 2 Cor. 4:4; Luke 8:12; 2 Cor. 3:14; Col. 1:21; Rom. 8:7; 2:15; Prov. 23:7a; Eph. 2:3; 2 Cor. 11:3; Gen. 3:1–6; John 13:2; 1 Peter 1:13a; Matt. 3:2 & note 2<sup>2</sup>; Mark 1:15 & note 15<sup>2</sup>; 2 Cor. 10:4–5 & notes 5<sup>1–2</sup>; Rom. 12:2; 2 Tim. 2:23 & notes 23<sup>1–2</sup>; Acts 7:22; Phil. 4:8–9; 2 Tim. 3:15 & notes 15<sup>1–2</sup>

*2 Cor. 4:4 In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.*

3. Training the heart to love rightly—Prov. 4:23; 2 Tim. 3:1–4; 1 Tim. 6:10–11a; 2 Cor. 3:16; Rom. 10:9–10

*Prov. 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance; For from it are the issues of life.*

*2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

4. Training the children to control their emotions—Eph. 6:4; Gen. 4:5b–8; Prov. 16:32; 25:28

*Gen. 4:5b–8 ...And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and his desire is for you, but you must rule over him. 8 And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.*

*Prov. 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.*

5. Training the will to choose—James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:6, 8–9; Gen. 2:16–17; Deut. 30:15, 19–20; Josh. 24:14–15, 20; Heb. 11:24–26; John 7:17; Phil. 2:12–13; cf. S. of S. 1:4a

*James 4:7b Withstand the devil, and he will flee from you.*

*Deut. 30:19–20 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today; I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, you and your seed may live.*

*Josh. 24:15b As for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.*

6. Training their character for the shaping of their vessel—Acts 7:22; Phil. 3:4–6
  7. Training the body to be healthy and fit to be useful in their service to God—1 Cor. 6:19–20; 1 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 6:13; 3 John 2
- B. We are responsible to nurture our children—Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14–16; 1 Thes. 2:7–8
- Eph. 6:4 And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*
- 1 Thes. 2:7–8 But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children. 8 Yearning in this way over you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us.*
- C. We are responsible to provide for our children
1. Physical needs—1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Cor. 12:14
  2. Education—Prov. 18:15
  3. Discipline—Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:6–11; Prov. 29:15, 17; 23:13–14; 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 1 Kings 1:6
- Prov. 13:24 He that spares his rod hates his son; But he who loves him chastens him early.*
- Prov. 19:18a Discipline your son, for there is hope.*
4. Spiritual environment— Josh. 24:15; Prov. 13:20
- Josh. 24:15b But as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.*
5. Time and attention
- D. We are responsible to teach our children the Lord’s Word—Deut. 6:1–2, 5–9, 20–23; 11:18–21; Gen. 1:1; Eccl. 12:1; 2 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Exo. 10:8–9; Acts 21:5; Gen. 18:17–19; Josh. 24:15
- Deut. 11:18–19 Therefore you shall lay up these words of Mine in your heart and in your soul; and you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. 19 And you shall teach them to your children, talking 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.*
- Gen. 18:17–19 And Jehovah said, Shall I hide from Abraham that which I do; 18 seeing that Abraham had surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham that which he has spoken of him.*

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### ***MESSAGE TWO: THE CHURCH'S ROLE***

#### **I. Training the children and preparing them to serve the Lord is primarily the parents' responsibility—Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Deut. 4:9; 11:19; Job 1:5; 1 Thes. 2:19; Heb. 13:17**

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

*Deut. 11:19 And you shall teach them to your children, talking 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.*

#### **II. The church helps and supports the parents through the children and students' work—Gal. 6:2**

*Gal. 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ completely.*

#### **III. Our labor in the church in Denver**

A. With a view to the building up of the Body of Christ

B. With a goal in three phases:

1. To have the children saved & baptized by around age 12
2. To have the young people develop a spiritual life and become functioning members in the Body of Christ by the time they are in college
3. To have our college graduates go to the full-time training to be perfected for the Lord's service

#### **IV. Our "pipeline" has crucial elements at each stage**

A. The children's meetings have:

1. Weekly classes with openings, lessons, memory verses, and crafts
2. A curriculum
3. A summer program and special programs
4. With an emphasis on learning the Word that will make them wise unto salvation—2 Tim. 3:15

*2 Tim. 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

B. The young people's work has:

1. Weekly Saturday night young people's meetings—Heb. 10:25

*Heb. 10:25 Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.*

2. Lord's Day morning young people's district meeting
3. Young people's conferences in Fall and Spring
4. Summer School of Truth
5. With an emphasis on developing their life practices

C. The college work has:

1. Campus Bible studies and gospel outreach
2. College age home meetings
3. College conferences and trainings
4. An integration into the church life
5. Preparing the students to attend the FTTA after college
  - College work - spiritual pursuit, gospel work, functioning in the church, prepare for FTTA

D. The full-time training perfects our young adults to be normal, functioning members in the Body of Christ— Eph. 4:12; 2 Cor. 13:9, 11; Heb. 13:20–21; 1 Pet. 5:10

*Eph. 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,*

**V. The parents all need to labor in the church's work on the children**

**VI. Specific fellowship about our arrangement in the children's meeting**

## **Addendum: Resources for the Parent**

Children and Students class from the FTTA - 31 recorded messages

H. Clay Trumbull, *Hints on Child Training* (new edition coming soon).

Witness Lee, *Character*.

Parenting with Scripture

Secular resources for character training (books, etc.)