

Vessels unto Honor for God's Eternal Economy

A conference for parents

The Church in Fort Collins

May 6, 2023

2 Timothy 2:21–22 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be *a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.*

22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

A Vessel Unto Honor

I. Honor refers to the nature of the vessel

- A. God's economy is the governing principle in the Scripture—1 Tim. 1:3–4; Eph. 1:5, 9–10; 3:2, 9–11
- B. Our goal is the building up of the Body—Eph. 4:11–16; Matt. 16:18; Col. 2:19
- C. Our vision is the New Jerusalem—Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:2, 10–14; 22:1–3
- D. Our work is the unique work of the Lord's recovery in the divine stream—Gen. 2:10–14; Psa. 36:8–9; 46:4a; Ezek. 47:1–12; John 7:37–39; 1 John 1:3; Rev. 22:1

Sanctified

II. Sanctified is a matter of position

- A. Our children are uniquely positioned as vessels for God's economy—Acts 2:39; Psa. 87:5–6
- B. We must see the extreme preciousness of our children and young people for God's economy—Luke 18:16–17; Matt. 18:2–6, 10, 14; 19:13–14; Mark 9:36–37; 10:13–16; Luke 9:47–48; 1 Sam. 1:11, 20, 27; Psalm 127:3; Isa. 8:18; 2 Cor. 6:11; Col. 3:23; 1 Kings 4:29
- C. The future of the church hinges on the young people—2 Tim. 2:2; Deut. 1:38; 1 Sam. 1:24–28; 3:1, 4; Dan. 1:2–8; Matt. 4:18–20; Acts 2:14–41; Jer. 1:4–8; Exo. 2:2–3, 10–11; 1 Sam. 16:11–12; Acts 7:58; Mark 1:19–20; Luke 1:41; Prov. 29:18; Psa. 127:3–5; 128:1–6; Gen. 1:28; Psa. 17:14; Deut. 31:10–13; Josh. 8:34–35; Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1–2; 1 Cor. 14:23; Psa. 8:2; Num. 3:28
- D. Our labor on our children will hasten or delay the Lord's return—2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 24:37–39; 2 Tim. 3:10, 14–17; 1 Cor. 16:16
- E. To be prudent stewards, we must labor on the children and young people—Luke 16:8; 19:13; Heb. 13:17; 1 Cor. 4:1–2

Useful to the Master

III. Usefulness is a matter of function

- A. Our children will be useful if they are brought up to be useful—Num. 3:28; 2 Tim. 3:15
- B. The God-ordained way is to gain households—godly homes—Acts 2:39; 16:31; 21:9; 1 John 5:12; Gen. 7:1; 1 Pet. 3:20; Psa. 87:5; 2 Tim. 1:5; Gen. 17:12–13; Exo. 12:3–7; Num. 18:1, 11; Josh 2:19; 6:17; 2 Sam. 6:11; Deut. 12:7; 14:26; 29:29; Luke 19:9; John 4:53; Acts 10:2; 11:14; 16:15; 18:8; Luke 10:5–6; 1 Cor. 1:16; 2 Tim. 4:19; 1:16; Josh. 24:15; 1 Cor. 11:3; Exo. 20:5–6; Deut. 28:4; Isa. 51:2; Eph. 3:14–15; Psa. 103:17–18; Prov. 12:7; Acts 13:26; Josh. 24:15; Eph. 6:4; Gen. 18:18–19; 1 Cor. 7:14; Job 1:5; Mal. 2:15; Gen. 4:4; 18:19; 25:21; 37:2; 48:9; Exo. 2:10; 1 Sam. 1:24–28; Dan. 1:3–6; Esth. 2:5–7; 4:14; Matt. 1:18–25; Luke 1:21–25; Acts 12:12; 21:8–9; 2 Tim. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:11; 1 Tim. 4:8; 2 Pet. 3:11
- C. Our parenting matters to the Lord—it’s our responsibility before God, and it impacts the Lord’s move—Josh. 24:15; 1 Cor. 11:3; Gen. 18:17–19; 1 Sam. 2:27–30; 3:13–14; 2 Kings 20:19; 3 John 4; 1 Kings 1:5–6; Exo. 2:2–3, 11; Judg. 13:3–14
- D. The parents’ care with the church’s care will preserve our second generation—John 17:12; Acts 16:31; Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:4; Exo. 1:15–17, 20–22; 10:8–9; Matt. 2:13–14, 16
- E. We can parent our children according to principle for God’s purpose—Judges 13:1–23; Eph. 6:4; Num. 6:1–12; 1 Samuel 1:9–20, 22–28; 2:20–21; John 17:6, 12, 14, 17–19; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Thes. 3:9; Phil. 3:17; 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; Psalm 133:1, 3b; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 4:2; Acts 16:31; Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:4; Exo. 10:9; Mark 10:14; Gal. 3:24; Num. 3:28

Prepared unto Every Good Work

IV. Prepared is a matter of training

- A. Training the children is the primary job of the parents—Prov. 22:6
- B. Our parenting is a matter of our person—to be a pattern
- C. We must also infuse faith, imparting the Word all the time to make them wise unto salvation—2 Tim. 3:15–17; 1:5; 2:2
- D. This is the exercise of our priesthood of the gospel—Rom. 15:16
- E. To have a home facing the tabernacle will make a deep impression on our children—Exo. 33:10
- F. To be a parent requires much learning—Judges 13:1–23; Titus 2:4; 1:6