

## Supplemental One

We should have spent more time in bible study and prayer together.).

Spend as much time with your children as you can because you can never get the years back.

Let your children know you are not perfect. If you make a mistake be able to tell them you are sorry.

Giving them your time and attention is a far greater gift than anything you could buy.

If you tell them something is wrong try to tell them why. Especially when they get older try to take the scriptures, study and show them. Although sometimes it just may be experience talking.

Shower them with love and affection. If they learn love they will give love.

Children are more apt to do what they see, so setting a good example is very important.

Give them chores to do so they learn work & responsibility. In this I could have done better. When they were smaller, I tended to do things myself.

Try not to show favoritism. Each child should be special in their own way.

Make it easy for your children to know that they can talk to you about anything. Communication is big. The older they get the more important it is.

Watch their friends and other people who influence their lives.

## Supplemental Two

The question of how godly parents can best raise their children to be godly adults is a critical question on many fronts. Most directly, it is critical for the eternal well-being of the children. And it is critical for parents, because we all know parents who look back with deep pain on the realization that, for whatever reason, their grown children have literally or practically abandoned the faith that their parents so much wanted them to have. But raising children to be godly adults is also of critical importance to the Lord's church. What a blessing God gives the local church, when its maturing adults are those who have known the scriptures from childhood, as did Timothy. And, conversely, what a curse it is to a local church when those who should be maturing into roles of leadership, evangelism, and service, fail to bear fruit as the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things choke out their weak faith.

Thus, the topic of raising children to be godly adults affects all, even those who are not currently raising children.

These are many aspects to consider when attempting to raise children to be godly adults, because truly living a life of faith affects every aspect of life. So, if godly parents are going to raise their children to be godly adults, it is going to affect such areas as:

- The ways those parents provide for their children
- The training they give their children, both spiritually and vocationally
- The education they give their children
- The ways they protect their children, both physically and spiritually
- The friends, media, and other influences they allow and encourage
- The ways in which they instill discipline in their children

The specific details of each of these areas would be a discussion unto itself. But there is one underlying foundational topic that should shape every family's approach to each of these areas, and that topic is the spiritual example being set by the parents themselves. If children grow up with a constant daily example of a deep and abiding faith that has a clear impact on the lives and choices of their parents, those children are much more likely to make that faith their own. But if children grow up without that type of daily example, they are much less likely to adopt a faith that they have not seen lived.

Some might argue that children can see a strong, vibrant faith in elders, Bible class teachers, or other parents in the local church. Hopefully they will have those examples. But the question is, will those "remote" examples override the example they see every day at home? Children rely on their parents to feed them, clothe them, educate them, train them, protect them, and befriend them. Their parents teach them most everything they know about life. How many children will be discerning enough to recognize that in areas of faith, they should deviate from this norm and follow the example of somebody at church, whom they see for only a few hours each week, and almost never in a real-life setting where faith is really lived? Few children would recognize that need, much less be able to act on it in a meaningful way. The responsibility for providing a consistent spiritual example lies squarely with the parents.

Some might suggest that doctrinal correctness is the end goal in this arena. But is that all we really want for our children? Certainly, we want to teach our children what God has revealed to us in the Bible. Certainly, we want to teach our children to reason through scriptures and arrive at consistent and logical conclusions. Certainly, we want our children to be able to expound on the written word and teach it to others. But the end goal is not doctrinal correctness; the end goal is for the Word to seep into the hearts of our children and completely change the way they live and think. The end goal is for our children to die and allow Christ to live in them, so that the life they live in the flesh is truly lived only by faith in the Son of God. Anything short of that life-altering end is abject failure.

If parents want their children to have a life-altering faith, then parents must exhibit that kind of faith as well. As parents, we all want our children to grow up into adults who take every aspect of their lives and shape and mold them to Christ-likeness. We want them to live and move and have their being only in God. But do we do that ourselves? It is very difficult to produce in our children something that we are not. So if we want that end for our children, we must first demonstrate it in our lives.

Children see the real lives of their parents, not just the “church lives” of their parents. They know how their parents really talk about the brethren around the dinner table. They know which interests are important enough to attract their parents’ spare money and time. They know if their parents groan when they fall into various trials, or if they count it all joy. They know if their parents are laying up treasures on earth. They know if their parents truly love their enemies or not. They know how their parents react when confronted with a passage of Scripture that is not harmonious with their lives. They know what it is that matters so much to their parents that they will really go out on a limb for it, versus what is just something to talk about without really making any life changes. The children see, and the children know.

If parents are not finding joy and purpose in living a life of sacrificial service, the children likely won’t grow up to do that either. If the parents are not taking steps of faith that leave them dangling with no support except for that given by God, the children likely won’t grow up to do that either. If the parents are not discussing the gospel with their neighbors, the children likely won’t grow up to do that either. If the parents are not picking up their cross daily and following Christ, the outcome for the children will likely be one of these three cases:

1. Best case: the children decide the parents are a bad example, and they choose to seek Christ according to the Bible. Praise God! But the children rarely do this.
2. Possible case: the children follow their parents’ bad example; they attend worship services mostly, but they produce little fruit for the kingdom.
3. Worse case: the children recognize the truth, that their parents’ faith is only skin-deep, and they conclude that following Christ is just a show, not a completely changed life. After all, they have not seen any changes in the life of their parents. The children will then decide that spiritual involvement is really just hypocrisy, and they will turn away from it with a disdain that prevents them from ever returning.

Unfortunately, in our current culture, the third case is becoming more and more common. Secular influences have said “religion is for hypocrites” for many years, and when our children see their parents prove the saying to be true, our children believe it, too. And really, who can blame them? We are fond of saying that our children leave the Lord because of liberal professors at college. Would that it were true. All too often, the sad fact is that our children were gone long before they left for college. In college, they just stopped attending worship services because there was nobody around for whom they need to put on the show.

So what are godly parents to do? How can they raise children who become godly adults? Yes, teach them. Yes, train them. But yes, be an example for them in the way you serve God. Take big risks for God. Go out on that limb where only God can help you. Pray bold prayers. Share the gospel like it really is a life and death matter, for it is. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and rely on God to provide what you need, no matter how scary that may be. Fill your home with verbal praise for God.

Do all of that whether you have children or not. But if you have children, and you want them to learn from your example, then invite your children into your life of faith. Involve them in it. Explain why you are doing what you are doing for the kingdom. Show them in the Bible why you are doing it this way. Let them hear you entreat God to fulfill the promise you have found in Scripture. Let them see a faith that costs you something, such as hobbies, pleasures, money, sleep, sweat, and health. If you invite them into your life of real, vibrant, faith, they will learn how to have that same faith. And they will learn how to invite your grand-children into that same life of real, vibrant, faith that they learned from you. What a blessing that will be!

## Supplemental Three

- First: Love God
- Second: Love their mother
- Third: Love your children

Pray – a lot! For you, for their mother, and for your children.

Husbands and fathers – be a man – accept and fulfill your God given responsibilities.

Lead – children can't follow unless they are lead – think “shepherd”. This is first and foremost of the father's responsibility.

Young parents need to decide early (before children, even before marriage) that they are going to do whatever it takes to get it done right.

Your ultimate goal (besides education, good citizenship, healthy – spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially) is to get them back to heaven!

Get, accept, and apply advice from godly, successful parents. Do this consistently throughout their “home years”. We can tend to become complacent or think we have “arrived”.

Children don't need money, things, fine house, the most or biggest toys – they need your love, time, personal investment in the, and guidance.

Though I know I spent 100 or even 1,000 times more time with my children than did either my dad or mother – it is one thing I'd try harder to do more of if I could go back and do it over.

Teach them early “no” means “no” (not even sometimes “maybe”). It is one of the first words they can learn and it is fundamentally needful.

Have zero toleration for defiance. You MUST win every battle of defiance.

Have zero toleration for lying.

Don't make unreasonable rules or impose unreasonable expectations – remember they are children. Unreasonableness can be discouraging (provoke to anger) and can result in rebellion.

Be reasonable in the number of rules you make – the number can grow slowly as they grow and you expect more from them.

Enforce the rules that you do make (remember the ore you make the more you must remember too).

Well loved and well trained and disciplined are happy children.

Spanking into submission without reproof will be fruitless and even counter productive. Once the discipline is past – hold them, hug and kiss them. Repentant children are to learn the principle of being forgiven.

Hug and kiss them a lot! Can't do that too much! Children go through a stage when they don't want that...they are too old or too big and certainly don't want it in front of their peers. I did this a huge amount when you all were little, but I allowed your growing to interrupt this for the above reasons. I regret it.

- I cannot remember my dad, even a single time, hugging me as a child, and only a time or two that my mother did.

Consistent discipline – this is perhaps the most difficult thing to do – be consistent. It is vital and necessary. It takes self-control and concentration – daily. I'd certainly try harder to accomplish this.

Don't reward misbehavior – ever. Even once will encourage multiple repeated attempts. If the child wins once in 100, it will try it again and again.

If you expect misbehavior (“every child does it”) you will get misbehavior.

Make sure both parents are on the same page – Mom must enforce Dad's rule and Dad must enforce Mom's rules (if you disagree – you must still show a united front and discuss differences privately). Children will divide and conquer.

Don't tolerate any disrespect – in either action, facial expression, body language, or words (sassing) towards their mother. You may be “king” but she is “queen”. This is especially important with boys who will quickly grow larger than mom.

Don't allow manipulation. Don't manipulate them and don't allow them to manipulate you as parents.

Give them time as and when needed – often this means interrupting other things that are likewise important. E.g. when talking or interacting with others and the child misbehaves or rebels.

Expect and demand truthfulness.

Be willing to admit when you are wrong – and apologize sincerely if you have been wrong. They will respect you, love you AND learn the principle of being able to admit wrongs themselves. One mistake parents sometimes make is to think apologies make them appear weak. They will know when you are wrong or unjust even when you won't admit it and this will cause resentment.

Strive hard (and pray) about being just/fair with your children.

## Discipline

- Make sure you are in control of self (both mom and dad)
- It is okay to be strict – in fact you MUST be – but be fair and balance it with lots of affection.
- Remember – discipline is for their benefit, not for your convenience, comfort, or to relieve your frustrations.
- It is for their nurture and admonition.
- It is for their training – and it is incremental – won't be done in a day, week, month or year- you get about 18 years to do this in today's society.
- Don't discipline in anger (yes they will make you angry sometimes – but that isn't the time to discipline – wait until you are sure you are in control).

Set boundaries and even though you may need to make minor adjustments occasionally – don't be moving the boundaries frequently. Doing such creates instability and confusion.

Remember – home training and instilling a love for and fear of God is a home responsibility – Church and Bible study at church is not a substitute for what is to be done at home.

Set a faithful example before them and be consistent in your daily life – children know what is genuine (even if mistakes are made) and what is hypocrisy.

It is hard to list what all I would have done differently as I still won't know all that I did wrong (you guys can certainly tell me). I will say that I learned many of the principles that I listed above as we went along and made changes (sometimes drastic) as I learned (I was ill equipped and a husband and father when I got married – my training and example wasn't very good) – following the advice of godly Christians who were willing to share with and help me. Sometimes it was solicited and sometimes unsolicited. I always appreciated those who had proven the right to speak sharing with me. I wasn't always happy to hear criticisms initially, but actually understood the necessity. So what are SOME of the things I would try do better? Again – random

- I'd try to be more consistent.
- I'd try to be more gentle.
- I'd try to speak once and quietly (yelling kind of admits defeat)
- I'd try to be more balanced in criticizing and commending. I actually learned the need for this from Kris. He once told me...”you never say what I do that is good, but are quick to criticize when I make a mistake” – I thought about that and realized that was true and I asked him to forgive me. Truth is they will do far more good than not and it is an encouragement for them that you recognize and commend the good they do. I do hope I improved on that as you all grew up.
- I'd try to do better in explaining the facts of life...there are several good books that will help with this: The Stork is Dead (Charlie Shedd); Letters to Philip (Charlie Shedd); Givers, Takers, and Other Lovers (Josh McDowell & Paul Leaks); When Can I Say I Love You (Max & Vivian Rice); Wait Guys and Girls (D.L. and Becky Holbrook) – to suggest a few.

- ...financing and budgets...
- ...repair and maintenance – house and vehicle (did a bad job of this especially with Shawn and Aaron)
- I'd look for a larger quantity of quality time! Children are up and away way too fast. Mom and I often talk about how much we enjoyed having you children at home growing up.

I will close with this: Consistent training and constant prayer.

## Supplemental Four

**Original Question** – *What advice would you give to young parents?*

**Response** –

- 1) Have lots of conversations BEFORE becoming parents.
  - i) Key in on topics such as:
    - (a) The number of children each want
    - (b) How will you handle things if there are issues having children
    - (c) Discipline of children
- 2) Be determined not to let others interfere in the raising of your children (or your marriage – Genesis 2:28), including in-laws. Asking for advice is one thing – receive advice unsolicited usually causes trouble.
- 3) Be consistent in all areas in raising children (Proverbs 22:6).
- 4) Make sure both parents agree in ideas of raising a child/discipline. Do not counter a discipline in front of the child. Discuss in private between the parts if there is a disagreement (Proverbs 22:15, 23:13-14).
- 5) Guard influences. Never be afraid to separate your child from someone who is a bad influence – in talk and actions. This includes family members! (Proverbs 20:11)
- 6) Show affection to your children. Tell them you love them.
- 7) Discipline correctly (Proverbs 23:13-14, 29:15).

**Original Question** – *What would you do again as a mother?*

**Response** –

- 1) Stay home!
  - i) Through the years I had a lot of criticism because I chose to stay home. I never regretted my decision.
- 2) Use opportunities as they came up to teach about God. Everyday happenings made great teaching moments.
- 3) Guard who had influence on the children – even family members.
- 4) Keep up with what was being taught in school.

**Original Question** – *What would you do differently as a mother?*

**Response** –

- 1) Try to spend more one-on-one time with each of you.
- 2) Try to have more patience.
  - i) Because of pressures of life, I don't think I was patient enough. I let things interfere with daily life and things could get hectic.
- 3) I would do more "training" in household things, like cooking and cleaning. I had the idea that boys didn't need a lot of that in the beginning.
  - i) I came to realize that work in those areas would help in later years – being a spouse and father.
- 4) I would have homeschooled all 4.

## Supplemental Five

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Your grandmother and I are very pleased to hear that you became a Christian yesterday. You are such a good boy and we are so happy for you. You made the right decision. I know that my grandchildren have good parents and they have been teaching you what is right. God commands parents to train up their children in the right way. Your mom and dad are trying to do that and it is good to see that it does bring the results God expects.

Being a Christian requires you to live like the Bible teaches and I know you will try to do that. Give your heart to God the rest of your life and you will never be sorry. Yes, it does take a lot of effort but it is well worth it and you have family and friends that will help you along the way.

Listen to your parents and obey them as the scriptures say to do in Ephesians 6:1-2. Why does God tell you to obey your parents? Well, because they know what is good for you and will lead you in the right way. If you learn to obey your parents you will also learn to obey God which is what God expects...

...God expects me to be a good influence on you and all my grandchildren. I take my job seriously because I know how important it is to help my children get to Heaven. There is nothing more important to me in this life. You are a very important part of my family and I want to help you reach Heaven with all my other children. God has blessed me with seventeen grandchildren and that is a very big thing.

Learn all you can about God and what He wants you to do. Always be honest and always do what is right and I will be happy and so will you.

Be careful and stay well.

Grandfather loves you all the way from West Virginia and prays for you every night.

Grandfather

## Supplemental Six

**“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (3 John 4)**

This is how a father looks at the blessings of having children who are trying to please God. There really can be no greater joy than this. When you are walking in truth you are pleasing not just me, but our God whom we all serve. In the long run I am not so concerned with you pleasing me. It is so nice to have children who bring me happiness, of course. But, understand this; if you are pleasing to God, you are certainly pleasing to me!

As the Patriarch of this family, I feel the weight of leading those I am responsible for. And I do feel responsible for all of you personally and I take great pleasure in knowing each of you wants to walk in the truth and please God. What was it that made Enoch stand out among the people of his generation? **By faith Enoch was taken up so he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. (Heb. 11:5 NASB)** How was Enoch pleasing to God? **“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Gen. 5:24)**

In other words, Enoch was **walking in truth** since God is truth and the source of all truth (Deut. 32:4 KJV). What a wonderful and profound thought to think that a man could be cited with the indictment that he, **“walked with God.”** Only by walking in the truth can we possibly expect to walk with God. What a charge to be leveled against the one who would be pleasing to God! Would it not be a tribute and honor to hear someone say, “Yes, I know that man, he walks with God.”

All of my children are thought of by me every single day. You are in my prayers night and day. Your life is being watched by me all the time and I am aware of what you are doing. While I say this to let you know I am always thinking of you and very concerned with your welfare, in a very real sense your Heavenly Father does indeed watch over you every second of every day. (Heb. 4:13) You have the “all seeing eye” watching you as the song says. Keep your life right with God.

When you do this you bring me joy.  
Dad, Grandfather

P.S. I try to send my notes to every one of my children. If I miss someone, please let me know. Make sure this is read to all your children, it is important to me.

## Supplemental Seven

**Original Question** – If you were to give advice to young individuals/Christians concerning their families, what would you tell them?

**Response** –

Love God...teach by word and example. The most important thing to teach children is to love God. You can point to reasons every second of the day. God is SO lovable. If we love HIM as we ought – obedience and everything else fits in place.

Love your spouse. Nothing spells security to a child like knowing their parts are devoted to right and happy together. NEVER criticize/ridicule your spouse before children or friends. To do so is selfish; does not put the other first. Sometimes we say things in jest that are hurtful/harmful. [Also, regarding privacy, I am a great believer in preserving intimacy by keeping it private. The more you reserve to yourselves as a couple, the more special your relationship becomes. If you think about it, this can fall into the category of modesty.]

Communicate...talk to your children. Respect their mind by filling it with frequent references to truth (Deut. 6). Amplify the words with loving touch, smiles, song and laughter. (Silly practicality – changing diapers is a fun time to sing and laugh). I don't understand how to take care of children's practical needs without talking to them – period. Nina used to tell Bible stories to the kids as she sewed or washed dishes. It doesn't have to be a sit-down study.

But do have daily sit-down studies. Repeat: do have daily sit-down studies. Every. Day. Doesn't need to be a marathon. Short times with informal reverence but be consistent. Besides, it is the best way to train little ones to sit still for formal worship services.

Parents – work as a team. Discuss goals, methods of discipline. If you can't come to agreement, follow the leader. Don't you dare undermine a father's authority by setting a different standard in his absence. That's just wrong. When we work as one, kids won't choose sides. Another win for security.

Limit extracurricular activities. With several children it's easy to spend time running here and there: and not enough time together. Family "together time" is more important. Too many extras will destroy priorities. (Yeah, we've all heard horror stories about children who trade Bible classes for ball practice.)

**Original Question** – For instance, what from your own time as a mother would you do again? What would you do differently?

**Response** –

I wish I could go back and enjoy all the wonder of their growing; I wish I could remember it as well as I once did the joy of childhood. We all say, 'don't take time/them for granted,' but we all do.

One thing I regret is working outside the home. I went to work to help get the kids to FC; and I am incredibly grateful they had that experience (not to mention the good spouses it brought the girls). It was good for them; but not good for me, our family dynamic or influence for good.

- Children need moms at home. Period. No matter their age.
- Home work is never ending. Secular work is distracting and exhausting.
- No amount of extra money is worth the trade-off.

Another mistake – before getting a job, I sometimes became too involved in pursuing things that were alright to do but stole too much time/attention/energy from the kids. It's hard to balance 'getting involved,' (a good example of industry/caring) and being too busy. Caution.

## Supplemental Eight

There are a few comments (in this attachment below) that show how our kids learn. Luke knew what a hypocrite was when he was very young as he listened to his dad's sermons.

We teach our children in so many ways and we often just don't realize that we are teaching them at all. I always talk to my kids when we are working at a job and they pick up on what I have said so easily. This is exactly what Deut. 6:1-6 is saying that fathers should be teaching their sons and grandsons. All the time! When we are just doing very simple and common things the kids will be so open to learning. I know I have missed many good opportunities to teach my family as children are just little sponges absorbing whatever you say, so we should be very careful what we talk about. But teaching good, godly principles is what we should be doing all the time.

And so I do wish I had made better use of the time I had when I could have taught them many things about spiritual matters. We often think that what we say will be over their heads, but not so! They are sharper than we often give them credit for. I wanted to make sure my children and grandchildren were taught of God when I was a very new father myself. I often think how much I missed when my children were growing up and I have always had this feeling that I just wish I could have had more time with them when they were young. I look back and I think how much I have missed! I know I didn't fully appreciate the treasure they were when they were young. They were the sweetest kids in the world and the best behaved.

One time David came to me and I could tell he was pretty upset. He was in maybe seventh or eighth grade and he was always a good student. He said, "Dad, I don't have any friends! I come home and do my homework but I don't have anyone to play with." He was right about that as we lived on Rt. 21 which was a busy highway and there were no boys his age around us. I had just bought a used 750cc Honda motorcycle and so I got this idea right away. I told him to make a list of everything we would need for an overnight motorcycle trip. Well, he really liked that idea and dived into it with pencil and paper and made a bunch of notes of all the camping gear we would need. Two sleeping bags, two man-tent, mess kit for two and two air mattresses and the works. I put a luggage rack on the back of the motorcycle and I got a used army surplus backpack that would fit right down on the sissy bar and luggage rack and with bungee cords we put everything on it and took off for the mountains after school was out one Friday afternoon. We stopped at my good friend, Tom Cook's sporting goods store, Anglers Roost, in Summersville and we stopped for food at a nice store in Richwood and we found a good place to pull off of Rt. 39 on the Cherry River and camped there for the night. This was on the Spring Break in the middle of March and it was COLD. Tom tried to get me to take a couple of his down filled sleeping bags but I declined (we did get cold that night). Water froze in the puddle outside our tent and our breath created a bunch of water that rolled around inside the new nylon tent on the floor. We would have really gotten wet if we had not been sleeping on the air mattresses!

We made a big circuit and visited Cranberry Glades and the Rt. 150 Scenic Highway and a few other places and made it back to Charleston before dark Saturday evening. Since that worked out so well with David, I decided to take each of the other three kids to the same area and even

took Peni once at least. I had more fun than they did, I know. But I really got to know my four kids a lot better as we did that for a number of years.

Supplemental Nine  
Teel Sermons (Section One)  
Godly Homes

Introduction:

Strong, godly families begin with strong, godly fathers. This is a very basic point, but I am afraid fathers often overlook it. **Gen. 18:17-19**

A country is never stronger than its leadership. Israel never rose above the wicked kings that ruled her. *Your family, fathers, will not be stronger than you are.*

What a profound and serious position fathers occupy in the family!

Fathers, your family is in your hands. It is up to you to make of them what they should be. How will you meet this crucial challenge? **Joshua 24:15**

This lesson is primarily intended for fathers, because fathers have the major responsibility for directing the family.

## A. DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

1. Some homes do not have fathers. This is regrettable, and I am sorry for those homes. God's arrangement is for fathers and mothers to be the parents of their children (not best friends or buddies – but parents!)
2. In some families the mother bears the responsibility of parenting alone and becomes the “head of the house.” This is not what God intended, but it may happen in the following circumstances:
  - a. A man and woman marry, have children and the father dies;
  - b. A man and woman marry, have children and a divorce breaks up the home;
  - c. A woman has children out of wedlock and never marries;
  - d. A man refuses to shoulder his responsibility as father / head of the house.
3. There are so many scenarios of modern “families” that it would be almost impossible for me to name them all.

- a. Grandparents raising their grandchildren – happens many times.
- b. Older siblings raising younger siblings (instead of parental supervision?)
- c. Relatives raising relatives
- d. Just about anyone can adopt children these days
  - homosexual couples
  - single people
  - just about anyone with money
4. Is it any wonder so many folks don't know what a “normal” family life is?
5. How can children raised in these kinds of abnormal environments ever turn out right?

**B. GOD'S DESIGN – A NORMAL HOME**      **Gen. 2, 3 and 4**– Since Creation.

1. Composed of Father – Mother – Children
2. God is at the head of all. **1 Cor. 11:3**
3. Father is the head of the house. **Eph. 5:23**
4. Mother sees to the needs of the children under the direction of the Father.
5. Mother manages the household as only she can.
6. Father in charge of discipline, training and correction. **Eph. 6:4**
7. Father and Mother work together – in concert. Teamwork!
  - a. They are both unified in the way the family should go. VERY IMPORTANT!
  - b. There is no fighting between them, or jockeying for top position.
  - c. Mother reinforces the direction the father sets.
  - d. Children know who is in charge of the family. Father

8. Wife is subject to her husband. **Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18**
9. Husband loves his wife. **Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19**
10. Wife respects her husband. **Eph. 5:33**
11. Children obey their parents. **Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20**

**C. MEN TAKING RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY    Deut. 6:1-9**

1. Some fathers will not take their job seriously, as they are supposed to.
2. Men, do not place burdens upon your wife that are yours to carry.
  - a. A wife/mother/woman is to be subservient to men in general.  
**1 Tim. 2:11-12**
  - b. How many husbands place their wives in positions where the wives are expected to dominate or control men?
    - Put her out in the “workforce” to earn income?  
“work at home” **Tit. 2:5**
    - Do you men handle the repair/ service men that come to your house?
    - Do you expect your wife to stand up to the car mechanic and “make him” fix it right?
    - Does your wife have to fret over household bills and juggle finances?
  - c. And then you expect her to be the soft, timid, submissive person that you so much adore and that God demands?
3. Yes, there are wives who have to be the head of the family. This is always regrettable.
4. It is not a substitute for Gods ordained plan but rather an exception to the rule – (*which should only occur when it is beyond all prevention!*)

**D. GODLY MOTHERS    Titus 2:3-5 A Worthy Woman – Prov. 31**

How could we study a lesson on the home and not cover the importance of a good mother?

1. The value of good mothers is seen in every facet of the home.
2. A home is not complete without mother. She makes everything in the home run smoothly.
  - a. There could not be a warm meal placed upon the table so easily if it were not for Mom.
  - b. Who can cure a bruised knee and ease the pain of any hurt like Mom can?
  - c. Children respond to mother's attention in a way they can never do to father's.
  - d. Mothers know instinctively what a child needs, where fathers don't have a clue.
3. God placed mothers in this position because He knows what the family needs.
4. Thank God for good, godly mothers who are content with the position God gave them to occupy in the home.
5. Good mothers are slandered and ridiculed by worldly critics:
  - mocked by women who “don't feel fulfilled” in their God-given role
  - called “just a housewife” as though the term is a “dirty” word
  - Good women, don't let such ridicule deter you from the most worthy goal you could ever achieve in this life – wife, mother and homemaker.
6. Remember the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. There is no more valuable position for any woman than this.

#### **E. THE TASK AT HAND FOR PARENTS**

- Working together IN THE LORD – Husband, Father in control.
- Setting the RIGHT EXAMPLE – Leading the way.
- Teaching the WORD – Lots of Bible study in the home.

- Molding CHARACTER – Shaping soft, tender hearts.
- RESTRAINING from EVIL – training, instruction, correction.

### **Conclusion:**

This lesson is intended to show how God's way is the ideal way. It will produce the results God is looking for and which mankind needs so desperately.

God's way is always the best way.

Godly parents are a vanishing breed in our evil world.

What a difference there would be in this world if each family had at its head a strong, godly father!

Fathers, we must demand that our children be obedient to God. Living right ourselves is not enough. A good example is great. But it takes more than that...much, much more! Example of Eli: **1 Sam. 2:22-25; 3:11-14**

Correction / Restraint

Will you be a Joshua or will you be an Eli? Think about this as we continue these lessons.

Fathers will be the deciding factor in whether their families serve God or not. **Josh. 24:15**

The KEY to godly families resides in godly fathers.

Fathers are in command of the family.

Father, do you see God's role for you in the life of your family?

Supplemental Ten  
Teel Sermons (Section Two)  
Family Matters

**Introduction:**

Lessons on the family are so needful. Finding a starting place is the most difficult thing for me to do.

- Where do you begin on a lesson of this most serious subject? This is my dilemma!
- Where can we find a truly dedicated man and woman who fully understand their respective roles as husband and wife, father and mother?
- Am I looking for a perfect couple? I do not believe I am, as they simply do not exist. Still, WE NEED TO TRY!

**Mt. 5:48** Be perfect! **1 Pet. 1:13-16** Be holy!

- So, who has been raised by godly parents and are willing to do the same in raising their children?
- The reason I ask these questions is to get everyone to see how serious the job of parenting really is (and is not a blanket condemnation of all parents). *Thank God for those who are really trying!*
- **1 Thes. 5:11** Encourage one another.

A. **A MATTER OF BREAKING THE CYCLE – A Downhill Spiral**

**2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 1:18-32**

1. Moral Decay – Worldly liberalism is eating at the moral fabric of our society. Liberals are trying to destroy the make-up of the family as God ordained it.

There is a reason for this attack on the home. The family, as God designed it and intends for it to function, offends their godless conscience. They simply cannot tolerate that and will go to any length to destroy the traditional family.

2. It is absolutely necessary that we all recognize the mess our society is in over all. Morally, spiritually this world is bankrupt! No right-thinking person will deny it.
  - a. Godlessness is seen on every hand.
  - b. Abortion is a way of life (or death).
  - c. Acceptance of homosexuality is no problem for our society – “out of the closet.” **1 Cor. 6:9-10**
  - d. God has been expelled from schools and public places – McGuffey’s 6<sup>th</sup> Reader.
  - e. Murder and violence are everyday occurrences.
  - f. Political corruption; dishonesty by CEOs hit the headlines everyday.
  - g. Breakdown of the family as God planned it and we know it is shown in that:
    - Divorce is commonplace today. **Mt. 19:9**
    - More people are living together out of wedlock – “shacking up.”
    - Out of wedlock births have skyrocketed.
    - Role reversals are the “norm” instead of the exception.
    - Role perversions – homosexual couples “playing house”
3. Liberalism in the world spills over into the Lord’s church:
  - a. There is little or no respect for God’s word
  - b. Everything the world does affects Christian’s sooner or later.
  - c. Israel of old wanted a king; to be like nations around them. **1 Sam 8:5**
  - d. The Lord’s church wants to be like denominations.
  - e. Can’t tell today’s churches apart from country clubs – many are nothing more than that.
4. We must rise up / speak out against this progressive worldliness
  - a. Who is going to object? Who will stand in the gap? **Ezek. 22:25-30; Prov. 25:26**
  - b. How much does it take to make us say enough already?

**B. A MATTER OF DOING IT GOD’S WAY    **Ps. 119:97****

1. God's word is the only manual we need on parenting. Back to the Bible **2 Pet. 1:2-3**
2. There is no other way that will work.
3. Following His plan assures us; gives us confidence and comfort.
4. We need courage and conviction to implement what we know is right.
5. Who has the desire and will to do it God's way?
6. If we are doing it God's way, we can't be wrong.

### **C. A MATTER OF SETTING THE RIGHT GOAL**

1. What is the most important thing in this world to every human being?  
Preparing our soul for heaven! **Eccl. 12:13; Matt. 16:26**
2. The next most important job for men is preparing our family's souls for heaven; i.e., being the spiritual leader. Be a Joshua! **Josh. 24: 14-15**
3. These serious tasks should not conflict with each other. They run concurrently – just as Peter writes in **2 Pet. 1:5-11**
4. I need to make sure I am doing what I must do to save my own soul, plus the souls of those I am immediately responsible for.

Many of my brethren will tell me that I am NOT responsible for the souls of my children. This is foolishness. What is all the Bible teaching about that indicates I am my brother's keeper? **Gen. 4:9; Ezek. 3:16-21 (Ezek. 18:20, 30)**

### **D. A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH** **Deut. 30:19-20**

1. We are engaged in a struggle for the souls of our children.
2. The battle is real! It is not imaginary. **Eph. 6:12**
3. Satan never gives up – sadly, parents do – Satan wins!
4. Like fighting potato bugs! We cannot let up.
5. Parents, how vigilant are we going to be in this fight?

6. Many parents do not see it as a problem...they have already given up!
7. Just how important are the souls of your children?
8. Some parents are more interested in their children's social standing (before men) than in their souls' position (before God) –
  - provide latest toys and games, newest fashions, sneakers
  - take them to baseball / soccer practice / sports of every sort
  - send them to summer camp
  - see to their every *physical* need
  - BUT, neglect the most important need...their children's *spiritual welfare!*

**E. A MATTER OF ATTITUDE Philip. 2:5 - Have this attitude. Phil.4:13**

1. How seriously do you see your job as parents?
2. Do you have what you need to accomplish the task?
3. The material is available!
  - Have we been trained by it?
  - Do we know how to use it?
  - Are we convinced this is the right way?
  - Are we willing to change our thinking?
4. Make no mistake – God's word is all we need! 2 Pet. 1:3
5. If we have the right attitude, we can do it!
6. Are you determined to do it God's way?

**F. A MATTER OF TENACITY 2 Tim. 4:7 – I have fought the good fight.**

1. Parents, how tough are you?
  - a. Are you milquetoast and mush or do you have the strength to handle the job?
  - b. Are you one to give in to pleadings of your children for things they shouldn't have or don't need? [*Cartoon Transparency*]

- c. Is it just too hard for you to spank your little children? **Prov. 22:15; 23:13-14**
  - d. Are you resolved to give them the training they need?
2. Just who are the parents anyway?
    - a. This seems to be a question some parents can't seem to answer?
    - b. God placed parents over children. [*Little boy on Sears escalator*]
    - c. It is not an easy job. It is hard to be firm.
    - d. But, when it is done right it is the most satisfying job in the world!
    - e. When done wrong it is the most heartbreaking experience parents will ever have.
  3. How long does the job last?
    - a. This is a 24 / 7 responsibility.
    - b. At least for 20 years.
    - c. And until we die.

### **In Conclusion:**

We must come to grips with the fact that we are living in a very evil world. Christian parents please understand it is up to us to set the proper example before our children. It truly is:

- A Matter of Breaking the Cycle
- A Matter of Doing It God's Way
- A Matter of Setting the Right Goals
- A Matter of Life and Death
- A Matter of Attitude
- A Matter of Tenacity

Will you meet the challenge to be the kind of parents God intended for you to be? Or, will you shrug your shoulders, ignore your responsibility and just muddle along?

Children test parents every day. How do we measure up?

My prayer is that each parent will recognize his and her serious position before God and measure up to His expectation of them!

I don't appeal to you on the mistaken notion that some have that God needs YOU. God does not need anyone or anything. **Acts 17:24-25; Esther 4:13-16**

Your children need you to be the kind of parents that will help them make it to Heaven.

We as parents must show them the way. It is our job, our responsibility. Not the church's, not the school's, not anyone else's responsibility, but mine!

Will you do it?

God help us all to see our most serious duty!

Supplemental Eleven  
Teel Sermons (Section Three)  
Shaping Souls for Heaven

**Introduction:**

1. Children are a blessing from God. **Ps. 127:3-5**

How sad that we do not always see them as such!

2. **Mt. 19:14** But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”  
[NAS]

Too many parents are taking the first part of this statement literally. They are certainly leaving their children alone. They are not teaching them godly principles or trying to direct their tender minds. They are ignoring them.

3. Parents, it is our job, our duty, our life to *shape the souls* of our children for heaven.

The mind of a child is as moldable as soft clay. And when it grows up it will be as permanent as fired clay – BRICK. **Isa. 64:8**

4. Why is it that many parents fail to capitalize on the tenderness of such easily shaped minds? This is the tragedy that we face in our world today.

Example:

EVABETH – “*How did you get to be so good so soon?*”

Answer: “*Well, I just watch my brothers and they help me be good.*”

This from the mouth (and heart) of a child just 5 years old!

5. Children raised by godly parents will want to please their parents. They won’t fight you and be rebellious. Of course, they will test your resolve occasionally, just to see if you’re serious. This is normal.
6. Children raised in submission to godly parents will have no problem obeying their heavenly Father.

Children trained up in the “way they should go” will want to do the right thing. Why? Because their tender consciences have been programmed in the right way. Is this simple enough? *McGuffey’s 4<sup>th</sup> Reader*, page 139.

7. This is why I believe in **Prov. 22:6**

God’s plan will work, brethren! The question is, will we work God’s plan?

## **A. CHILDREN MUST BE TRAINED**

1. **Prov. 22:6** “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
2. This passage is one of the most powerful (in my humble opinion), if not THE most powerful verse in the entire Bible!
3. All of God’s word is important. But, this passage gets to the heart of the corruption and ungodliness in our world like no other passage. The failure of fathers to follow what this passage teaches is the reason our society is in a mess today.

This verse has been ignored down through the centuries and only lip service has been paid to it. I heard an overview of the book of Proverbs given about a year ago and **Prov. 22:6** was not mentioned even once. I was shocked.

4. I believe **Prov 22:6** means what it says and will work every time it is used.
  - a. Many say my view on this passage is too simplistic. Let me ask this question:
  - b. Why do Catholics claim that if they have a child from birth to age 7 the child will always remain Catholic? They seem to see the power of training and we don’t think it is all that important. This is a shame.
  - c. **Prov 22:6**
    - does not say a child will not sin.
    - does not say a child will be perfect.
    - It does say the child will not turn away from the faith.

- d. I have read articles over the past few years (in papers of the brethren) that say, in essence, that parents should not beat themselves up when their children go to the devil. The attitude of these writers seems to be that there is only a 50/50 chance that our children will turn out right and be faithful to the Lord. Just like a toss of the dice. No matter what parents do, some children will turn out good and some will turn out bad. It has nothing to do with the way they are raised. ***I emphatically deny this kind of thinking!***
- e. Parents, do you want to see your children in heaven? Then live like you believe this verse means what it says. I do!
5. **Prov 22:6** says “train up.” Not beat up, jerk up, whip up; but train up.
- Training is what is under consideration here.
  - Many times parents mistake a thrashing for training. That is abuse, not training.
  - A dog trainer does not kick his dog in the side in order to train him. That kind of treatment will produce a ruined dog. *Example: Alan and Black.*
6. If we as parents show our children the way they should go (if we are always Christ-like in our own demeanor), they will need very little correction.

## **B. CHILDREN MUST BE CORRECTED**

1. Discipline is no stranger to godly homes. The Bible is filled with passages that emphasize the need for correction. Notice the following verses:

*Prov. 3:11-12*

My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,  
Nor detest His correction;  
For whom the LORD loves He corrects,  
Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.

Prov. 23:13

Do not withhold correction from a child,  
For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

**Prov. 29:15** [NAS]

The rod and reproof give wisdom,

But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

**Heb. 12:5-11**

2. Why is it so hard for parents to spank or correct their children?  
Excuses I hear:
  - a. “I love them too much to spank them.”
  - b. “My little children never need spanking.”
  - c. “If you spank a child you are just teaching them to hit back.”
  - d. “If you spank children you are teaching them that you are a bigger bully than they are.”
3. With answers like this, is it any wonder we have a world of criminals?

### **C. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL**

*There are many ways of teaching our children – suggestions, commands, examples.*

1. Teach them by example. One example seen is better than a thousand words of instruction.
  - a. Daily right living by parents is what children need most. They learn quickest from that.
  - b. Parents, children learn so much from your good, godly example (in words, actions and attitudes). Don't deprive them of that immeasurable way to learn.
  - c. You, parents are the role model your children need, not some corrupt “Hollywood star.”
2. Teach them to know God. Not superficially, but deeply.
  - a. Let them know that serving God is the most important thing in your life – and it will be in theirs as well. [As young children they will love and trust God *no more* than you do. Don't be a hypocrite. *Example: Luke, age 6*]

- b. Parents, your children must see God/Christ in YOU! **Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:24-29**
3. Teach them God's word – on a regular basis. Home Bible study is so important to children and their development.
    - a. The close and personal Bible study time will only draw the family closer together. Make the time! **Deut. 6:6-9** Timothy and his mother and his grandmother! How did this strong faith get into him? **2 Tim. 1:5**
    - b. Pray together more times than just at meals.
    - c. What more beautiful scene is there than father, mother and children sitting around together with open Bibles at the close of the day?
  4. Teach them to obey you immediately – **RIGHT NOW**. None of this counting to ten stuff. No threats. No three strikes and you're out foolishness. **THIS INSTANT**.

*See, TTUAC, page 45*

5. Teach them responsibility.
  - a. See that children have chores around the house. Everyone is expected to work.
  - b. Mothers, teach your girls to cook, wash dishes, clean house, keep their rooms clean, etc. This is training for living.
  - c. Fathers, work with your boys. Gardening, lawn mowing, taking out trash, car maintenance, etc. These things will put them in good stead when they get out on their own.
  - d. Children who are taught to work will understand the value of labor.
  - e. Let and encourage them to help others who need help, volunteer time and work..
  - f. Let them earn their allowance and they will come to appreciate the value of a dollar.

#### **D. MISTAKES PARENTS MAKE**

Parents are not faultless – we slip up in many ways. Common mistakes include:

1. Excuses –

- a. “I’m doing my best.” We seldom do. [*Lion chasing man*]
  - b. “No one is perfect.”
2. Being way too casual and laid back in this most serious role.
 

Would a father toss the Bible at his 16-year old son and say, “Here it is. Read it, and do what it says. Any questions? Now you can go out and play.”

This may be an over-simplification, but I use it for emphasis.
3. Thinking that their children will learn what they need to know through the process of osmosis. They will just somehow absorb what they need to learn. Rub off on them? Folks, it won’t happen.
4. Turning children over to Day-Care Centers. [Example: T.V. analysis proved mother lost money by working.]
 

Mothers, you need to be with your children. No one can care for your children like you can. They need you with them all the time.
5. Letting children decide what they want to do. Are children in charge? Again I ask, “Who are the parents, anyway?”

*Examples:*

- Tim Fedukovich – Emily.
  - Christian parents who can’t take their little 2-year old daughter to a restaurant because she won’t behave. Duhh! What kind of training is this little girl getting?
  - The same father told me that his little two-year old daughter was a devil. When I said, “No, she isn’t. She is the closest thing to an angel,” he replied, “If you had her for 24 hours you’d be looking for an exorcist!”
  - What ungodly talk from Christians! How will this child ever turn out right?
6. NOT apologizing to your children when you have failed them.

Everybody makes mistakes – even parents. [*Example: coffee grinder.*]

Children will find out sooner or later anyway. You may as well tell them now.

7. One preacher told me parents should never apologize to their children!  
Shame!

**Conclusion:**

Parents, God has given us tremendous blessings in our children. How can we let our children down and not train them for heaven? More importantly, how can we let God down?

Your children must be trained properly – that is up to you, parents!

They must be corrected – do you love them enough?

They must be taught about God and how to live – do you have the time?

Don't continue to make the same mistakes the world does – ignore, neglect.

Shape your children's souls for heaven – one soul is worth more than entire world!

With God's help, we can do it! **Phil. 4:13**