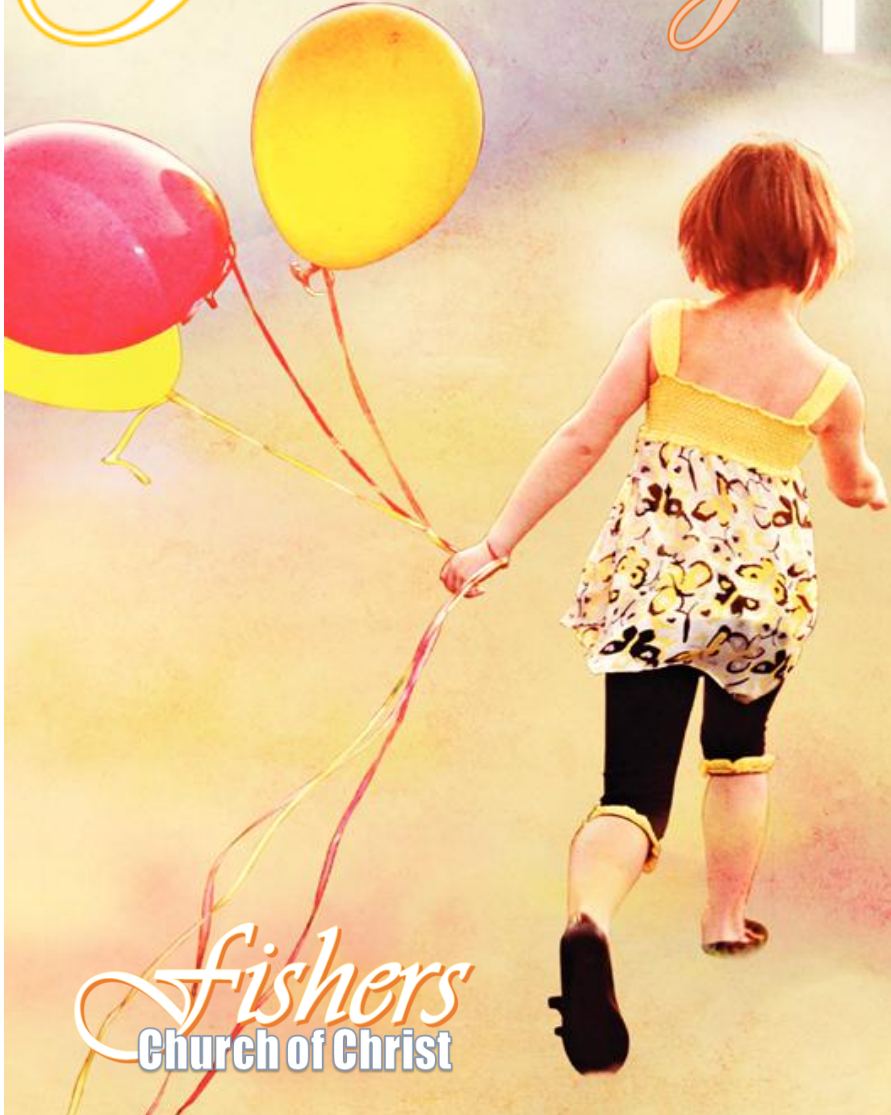


Parenting

God's Way



sermon  SNAPSHOTS

fishers
Church of Christ

RAISING CHILDREN

I approach this subject with a great deal of humility (1 Corinthians 2:3), because I am painfully aware of my own shortcomings as a parent. And since all parents and children are different, it's impossible to reach a consensus on parenting methods. However, there are many **solid Biblical principles** which can guide our individual parenting methods. In this lesson I shall try to stick to those, and keep my opinions to myself...

The value of such a study

- If we have kids, the value is obvious; if we do not have kids, we may some day!
- If our kids are raised, we examine the past; correct mistakes w/God; advise others!
- If we never had any kids, we can still learn and "teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2)
- These verses stress the value of this study: Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Judges 2:8-15; 1 Samuel 3:10-14; Proverbs 29:15

The ultimate goal of parenting

- Our goal is NOT just to "teach a trade," but to make them Christians! (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)
- The work of parenting should be considered a blessing, not a curse! (Psalms 127:3-5)
- Parents need to **blend** instruction, correction & affection! (Prov.1:8; 22:6, 15; Titus 2:4)
- Parents must be willing to use the "rod of **correction**"-- *not abuse!* (Proverbs 22:15)

Practical principles of parenting

- Present a **united front**: Dad (Ephesians 6:4) & Mom (2 Timothy 1:5) MUST be united! (Matthew 12:25)
- Try to discuss issues ahead of time if you can't, find time – in private!
- To avoid confusion, grandparents, in-laws, etc., should respect the children's parents!
- You may not agree w/them, but do not interfere! Otherwise, kids will "divide and conquer!"

Be consistent: discipline every transgression & disobedience. (Hebrews 2:1-3; Eccl. 8:11)

Be impartial: boys-girls; oldest-youngest; (kids know! Genesis 37:2-4; James 2:9)

Be fair: don't vent personal anger, & let punishment fit the crime (Leviticus 24:17-22)

Be thorough: in instruction; correction; affection ("good intentions" insufficient!)

Finally, we must remember that the most important aspect of parenting is setting the proper example! (Romans 2:21-23). If we teach our kids not to "smoke, drink & cuss," yet WE do those things, our message goes unheard! If WE fail, our kids may fail; and their kids, too! Many souls are affected by your parenting skills – including your own! However, If we strive for excellence as parents, we will be blessed! (Proverbs 29:17)



YOUR CHILD IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Psalms 127 teaches us that the LORD must “build” our families; and that children are gift from God. The home was established by God, and should be governed by Him. Raising children is hard work! It requires much time, patience, instruction and correction. Sadly, many parents are too busy to be parents! This is not acceptable! This lesson is designed to remind all parents of their personal obligation in child-rearing.

We are happy to arrange Bible classes for children!

- Local churches are charged to spread the truth (Acts 8:3-4; 11:22-23; 13:1-5)
- Small groups (classes) within churches can be taught (Acts 20:17; Galatians 2:1-2; Titus 2:1-10)
- We’ve spent much time, treasure, and talent to arrange classes for your children!
- We do this gladly and willingly! We want to help, and hope you’ll let us, by attending!

But hear this well: church classes are NOT enough!

- Two hours a week (Sunday PM and Wednesday PM) is not enough!
- If you don’t show up, the situation is even worse! (Hebrews 10:25)
- You teach them how to walk, talk, get along, be polite, and earn a living
- *But you must also teach them of spiritual matters -- and exemplify them!*

Now hear this: YOUR child is YOUR responsibility!

- The local church must “not be charged” with your family duties (1 Timothy 5:16)
- *The Lord did not give child-rearing obligations to the local church, but to parents*
- Consider some passages on this: Deuteronomy 6:6-8; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15
- *If your child fails because of your neglect, don’t look at us; go look in the mirror!*

Developing God-fearing families takes much time!

- Don’t be a missing parent; or one who is too busy. MAKE TIME for what is so important!
- Look for opportunities to teach (Deuteronomy 6:6-8); attend all assemblies and classes! (Hebrews 10:25)
- Eat at least one meal together as a family every single day! (It is the TIME that’s critical!)
- Make time for “family days” -- where everything else is set aside (i.e. every Saturday)

Parents, if you’re not already doing it, you need to step up and take responsibility for the spiritual development of your children. If you fail, you’ll live to regret it!

-Lanny Smith



Join Us for Worship!

Sermon Snapshots are designed to improve your personal study life and presentation of spiritual topics to friends & neighbors in a simple and exciting manner! Hopefully after your reading, you'll want to further enhance your knowledge on the subject and we can provide that through personal study, in-depth sermons on CD, or downloadable content on our website!



Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Elders

Jan Boser
(H) 773-3178 (C) 509-1828
Al Easter
(H) 585-9846 (C) 698-1846
Randy Shouse 570-4908
Lanny Smith 770-8077

Contact Information

10082 East 126th Street
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 577-3788

Facebook & Youtube:
Fishers Church of Christ
Twitter: @FishersChurch
Visit Us Online!
www.fishers-churchofchrist.com

