Solid Foundation For Good Homes

Robert Harkrider · Ephesians 6:4

INTRODUCTION

- A Chinese proverb says, one generation plants the trees, and the next gets the shade.
- We cannot sit by idly and just expect it to happen that our children are going to know the Lord and they're going to be able to make the right choices. It doesn't just happen by chance.

1 Submitting Yourselves One to Another

Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2; Ephesians 6:9

- The apostle says, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- All of us have a responsibility of submission, of lining ourselves up under one another, recognizing the needs and the wants of the other, and yielding ourselves to provide for them.
- There's a sense in which fathers in the care of their children will submit to them.

2 Children Will Bring Either Joy or Grief

Proverbs 10:1; Proverbs 29:15; Psalm 127:3–5

- What we do as parents will largely determine whether we're going to have joy from our children or whether we're going to have grief and sorrow from our children.
- A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
- The rod and reproof give wisdom. The rod is what you do, reproof is what you say.
- A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. There's more to parenthood than just bringing children into the world.

3 You're Bringing an Eternal Soul

- What we bring into this world is not just a flesh and blood human being going to live for a few years. You're bringing a soul, an eternal soul.
- He still may die of success if heaven is his home. But if he doesn't have heaven as his home, he's a failure.
- Those formative years were large to determine what choices that child makes for life. The time of training is short.

4 A Child Needs a Mother and a Father

Hebrews 11:23; Luke 2:52

- God intended for children to be a joy to their parents, but that'll happen only when we raise them up according to God's principles.
- It is a responsibility of both mother and father to bring up the child in the proper way. A child cannot be left to develop on his own.

- Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God and with man.
- Your children need your guidance in every one of these areas.

5 Provoke Not Your Children to Wrath

Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 22:6

- Do not provoke them to anger lest they be discouraged.
- What he's really saying is it is not to provoke them to become unruly or rebellious or smoldering.
- Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it, Proverbs 22 and 6.
- That isn't an ironclad rule. There are exceptions to it. But that is a rule that is generally so.

6 You Can Ruin Your Child

- Over protection. You can smother your child, fence them in, never trust them, always wonder whether they're telling you the truth.
- Favoritism. Some parents have ruined their children by preferring one child over another.
- You can provoke your child to wrath by constantly griping and complaining, never giving approval, never giving him a reward or honor.
- Failure to make allowance for their childishness. But children are children.
- Don't be so busy trying to be a success at whatever you're doing, whatever business you're in, that you don't have time for your children.
- Don't withdraw your love. Most of all.

MY NOTES