The Spiritual Instruction of Children – Part 1

Adam Willingham · Ephesians 6:1–4 · Series: **The Home**

INTRODUCTION

- Passages like these two emphasize so powerfully the nucleus of the home for the spiritual training of children.
- I preach on this topic with a great deal of humility.
- But there's one thing that we can all do, and that is look to the Word of God.

1 A Problem: Losing Young People

- Churches of Christ in general are losing 40% of young people once they graduate high school.
- It currently takes one entire Christian household to get one single Christian into the next generation.
- We've given up on being fishers of men and have become keepers of the aquarium.
- What we are doing, brethren, amounts to nothing more than filling up a bucket that's got a big hole in the bottom.

2 Wrong Solutions: Youth Ministries and Entertaining Classes

- One of the solutions, which is a wrong solution, is more and better youth ministries.
- I believe that this dependency is crippling. And it robs the parents of their duty to train their children.
- We don't need a youth ministry. We need parents who teach their children.
- Bible classes ought to be engaging, interesting, and exciting, but not fun and entertaining.

3 The Right Solution Is the Home

Ephesians 4:11–13; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:15

- The responsibility of the church is to equip parents to equip their children.
- What the leadership is here for, brethren, is not to do the work for us, but to equip us to do the work.
- The church provides a needed supplement.
- The home is the nucleus for the spiritual training of children.

4 Paul's Use of the Fifth Commandment: Honor

Ephesians 6:2–3

- The idea of honor is to hold someone up in a high and lofty position.
- Not only doing what you're told, children, but doing it with joy and with respect.
- They are not your pal. They are not your buddy. They are your parents.

5 The First Commandment with a Promise

Deuteronomy 5:7–16

- Honor your father and your mother as the Lord your God has commanded you.
- It's the first one and the only one of the Ten Commandments that has a promise.
- So that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.

6 Perpetuate in a Culture of Opposition

Deuteronomy 5:33; Deuteronomy 6:1–3

- What this promise means, brethren, is that God's people will continue to perpetuate in a culture of opposition.
- For you and I, we're not in the land of Canaan, but we're surrounded by Canaan.
- When children obey their parents, that is the guarantee that the community of faith, which is the church, will continue to perpetuate in this culture of opposition that we call the world.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Parents, if we do this, and children, if you do this, we not only plug the hole, we fill the bucket.**

MY NOTES