

What Does the Bible Say About Children's Role in the Home?

The saying "Just as the twig is bent, so grows the tree" is accredited to the poet Alexander Pope. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" is credited to King Solomon of the bible. (Proverbs 22:6)

All of us understand that this verse is a principle and not an absolute. God has given to all people free will.

Parents have a grave responsibility to do their best to *train up* their children.

Parents fall into four categories:

1. Parents who love their children but do not discipline them. Their children grow up without self-control and shame their parents.
2. Parents who discipline their children without loving them. Their children become bitter and resentful.
3. Parents who neither love nor discipline their children. Their children fill their lives with self-destructive tendencies.
4. Then there are parents who both love and discipline their children. Their children grow up well-adjusted and able to contribute to their own homes and to society as a whole.

When parents neglect the proper instruction of their children, the children seldom become a blessing. Carelessness in parents often leads to rebellion in their children.

So just what is the children's role in the home?

1. To obey their parents. (Col. 3:20) "Children obey your parents in all things for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord." And to honor their father and mother (Eph. 6:2). By adherence to these verses a child learns respect.
2. To contribute to the running of the home. Children who are never expected to contribute their time and energy to help the family in any way will never feel a part of the family unit. Children should be given age appropriate chores. This teaches responsibility.
3. To not be caught up in the world. The apostle Paul told the young man Timothy in I Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers in manner of life, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity." Also in 2 Timothy 2:22 Paul tells him to "flee youthful lusts." Proverbs 19:13 says a foolish son will ruin his father. A child involved in drugs, alcohol, breaking the law of the land, an unwed pregnancy, and sometimes even murder causes a parent to lose sleep, money, time, and self-control.
4. To care for aged parents. I Timothy 5:4 says "But if any widow hath children or grandchildren let them learn to show piety (fidelity to natural obligations) at home and to requite (make some return to) their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God." I Timothy 5:8 says, "He who does not care for his own is worse than an infidel (unbeliever)." Sometimes, today's grown children try to escape their obligation to their parents by making excuses. When a parent dies their guilt will be as great as their grief because of their failure to care for their parents.

Psalms 127: 3-5 says, "So children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty warrior; so are the children of thy youth. Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them."

For our homes to be pleasing to God and a happy place, both the parents and the child(ren) must do their part!

On March 6th we had corresponding lessons on the topic of a children's role in the home. Check our website for sermons titled "Eat, Sleep and What... (Ephesians 6:1-4)" from the AM service and "The Forgotten Commandment (Mark 7:1-13)" from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.