



The Biblical Priorities of Life

“Take these pieces thrown away
Put them together from
Night and day
Washed by the sun
Dried by the rain
To be my father
In the fatherless days”
—The Newsboys, “Always”

Part 6 —“God’s Gift of Children”— 9/12/21

Introduction

- For many believers, the most important human relationship will be with their spouse. Outside of their relationship with Christ, this is the most significant relationship in life. Part of what gives marriage its place of primacy is that it is the context in which children are to be both birthed and reared.
- In today’s secular world, children tend to be viewed in one of two ways:
 - (1) They are a _____.
 - (2) They are means to personal _____.

Key Point: The truth is that children are gifts from God, given to us to _____, both for His glory and their good!

God’s Purposes for a Child

Psa. 127:3-5—³ Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Observations:

1. A child should be understood as a tangible means by which God _____ His people.
“heritage” “reward”
2. A child is given intentionally by God to serve His particular _____.
“arrows”
3. A child provides future _____ for parents.
“quiver”

Key Point: Parents are to care for their children when they are _____ and children are to care for their parents when they are _____.

The Basic Needs of a Child

1. _____

Psa. 128:1-3—¹ Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Question: Am I _____?

2. _____ - _____

Gen. 1:27-28a—²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...”

Question: Do I have personal _____?

3. _____ (_____)

Prov. 22:15—Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Question: How should I _____?

4. _____

Matt. 6:19a-20a—¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Question: What should I most _____?

Key Point: How we parent is an important part of making sure our children understand their identity in light of the teachings of _____ rather than those of the surrounding culture.

Instructions to Parents

Deut. 6:4-7a—⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children...”

Observations:

1. Parents are to be worshipers of the Lord who are continually shaped by His _____.
2. Parents are to _____ their children to worship the Lord and to be continually shaped by His Word.
“diligently”—*נָאֵץ* (*shanan*) — Lit. to sharpen or whet, to pierce; Fig. to sharpen or teach incisively.

Eph. 6:4— *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Observations:

1. Fathers are uniquely positioned to _____ their children.
“provoke...to anger”—*παροργίζω* (*parorgizō*) — Lit. ‘to anger alongside.’ To rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger.
2. Fathers are uniquely positioned to help their children _____.
“bring...up”—*ἐκτρέφω* (*ektrepō*) to rear up to maturity; to cherish or train, to bring up.
“discipline”
“instruction”

Prov. 29:15—*The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

Observations:

1. Mothers are uniquely positioned to _____ their children.
“the rod”
“reproof”
2. Mothers are the ones who tend to feel the _____ of having undisciplined children.

Key Point: Fathers and mothers are each uniquely called and equipped to _____ their children, raising them to love the Lord and to serve Him in the world.

A Word of Warning

Col. 3:21—*...do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Observations:

1. It is possible for parents to wound/break the _____ of their children.
“provoke”—*ἐρεθίζω* (*erethizō*)—Prolonged stimulation or provocation (presumably to anger).
2. It is possible for parents to cause their children to lose _____.
“discouraged”—*ἀθυμέω* (*athymēō*)— to lose heart; to be spiritless or dismayed.

Key Point: Just as parents can play a major role in leading their children to love the Lord, they can also _____ their children from Him through their consistent patterns of sin.

Concluding Thought

- The good news of God’s _____ to us in Christ is central to living faithfully as a family in a fallen world!

Eph. 4:32—*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

⇒ We can _____ and _____ of our sin!

⇒ We can _____ for and _____ forgiveness!



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Introduction

- For many believers, the most important human relationship will be with their spouse. Outside of their relationship with Christ, this is the most significant relationship in life. Part of what gives marriage its place of primacy is that it is the context in which children are to be both birthed and reared.
- In today’s secular world, children tend to be viewed in one of two ways:
 - (1) They are a **burden**
 - (2) They are means to personal **fulfillment**

Key Point: The truth is that children are gifts from God, given to us to steward, both for His glory and their good!

God’s Purposes for a Child

Psa. 127:3-5—³ Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Observations:

1. A child should be understood as a tangible means by which God **blesse**s His people.
“heritage” “reward”
2. A child is given intentionally by God to serve His particular **purposes**.
“arrows”
3. A child provides future **security** for parents.
“quiver”

Key Point: Parents are to care for their children when they are young and children are to care for their parents when they are old.

The Basic Needs of a Child

1. Security

Psa. 128:1-3—¹ Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! ² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

Question: Am I wanted?

2. Self-Worth

Gen. 1:27-28a—²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...”

Question: Do I have personal value?

3. Structure (Discipline)

Prov. 22:15—Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Question: How should I live?

4. Truth

Matt. 6:19a-20a—¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Question: What should I most prize?

Key Point: How we parent is an important part of making sure our children understand their identity in light of the teachings of Scripture rather than those of the surrounding culture.

