

THINKING BIBLICALLY ABOUT _____ AND _____

I. _____ DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME

Ps 127:3-5 Children are an inheritance and source of _____

II. THE FAITH OF A CHILD WAS USED BY JESUS TO TEACH THE _____ OF

"SAVING FAITH" *Mt 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

- The house was probably that of Peter, {Mt 17:25} and so the child may have been Peter's child. Called unto him, shows a child able to walk; it could sit by his side {Luke}, yet was small enough to be naturally taken in his arms (Mark), and so young as to be appropriately a pattern, to afford an object-lesson. **Broadus**
- A little child has no ambitious dreams, he is satisfied with little things, he trusts, he aims not at greatness, he yields to command. **Spurgeon**

III. CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT TO JESUS: THE DISCIPLES _____ THEM, JESUS EMBRACES THEM *Mt 19:13 -14; Mr 10:13-14*

Lu 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

- We see how gentle was our King in the fact that anyone thought of bringing boys and girls to him. Their friends brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and bestow a blessing, and also lift up his hands to God, and pray for them. This was a very natural desire on the part of devout parents, and it showed much faith in our Lord's condescension. **Spurgeon**
- It was the wish of Christ that the children be allowed to come near Him. He was not too busy for children, nor did he feel they were an imposition, instead they were an example of the necessary faith for _____.

Mr 9:35-37

Christ saw the importance of children, and the truths that could be _____ from their example. We should not so quickly become burdened with the energy and childishness of children. Instead we should observe and allow them to _____ us by their examples.

(Conclusion: Eph 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children)

IV. INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO CHILDREN AND PARENTS ABOUT THEIR BIBLICAL _____

- Recognizing the importance of children to our Lord and thus the importance children should hold in our life, we are given instruction as to how we teach and train children to _____ like the One who cares so much for them.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

- THE Christian family is the cradle and the fortress of the Christian faith. Obedience is the law of childhood. It is, in great part, the child's religion, to be practiced "in the Lord." **Expositor's Bible**
- _____ obedience on the part of the child produces a bond of unity between the parent and the child. It is obedient behavior on the part of the child which _____ the blessings of God on the home, the parents and the future of the child.
- For the child to fulfill this Biblical command, the child must listen to the parent and submit to the parent's _____ over them. This does not come _____. It is something that must be taught to the child by the parents on a continuous and consistent basis. This process will _____ be without its difficult and frustrating times, but the ultimate reward for the parent's faithfulness in teaching the child this command will be worth all the effort put out by the parents.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

- As the _____ in the home, the father must show a Christ-like spirit toward the child. It is with the same mercy and grace that God demonstrates toward the father that the father should demonstrate toward the child. For the parents to do _____ will create a sense of frustration and discouragement in the heart of the child and thus affect the obedience of the child to the commands given him/her by the Word of God.
- **Provoke**-exasperate the child and thus create a feeling of frustration and anger in the heart of the child

V. THE _____ BETWEEN THE PASTOR AND FLOCK PICTURED AS A FATHER/CHILD EXAMPLE

- The picture presented in Scripture of the relationship between the shepherd and the flock is one of compassion, longsuffering and _____ teaching. It is described as a parent dealing with their children.

1Th 2:7 *But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:*

- **Gentle**-_____, a gracious and honorable manner of behavior
- **Cherisheth**-to treat with _____ and love
- The relationship between the parent and child must be one of _____ - _____, discipline, consistent training and teaching, but _____ with love, tenderness, understanding, compassion, _____ and grace

1Th 2:11

Know-were fully aware of-a fact that could not be denied by those to whom he had ministered

- **Exhorted**-admonished and challenged
- **Comforted**-ministered to you in such a way as to meet your need right where you were
- **Charged**-gave clear understandable instruction as to what to do for their good
- **As a father doth his children**-As parents we must _____ our techniques on a continual basis. We must make continual _____ as the child grows and matures so as to minister to the child where they are, not where we think they should be. We must make sure that we are _____ exhorting, comforting, and charging our children for the glory of God, and not for our own personal benefit.

VI. OBEDIENT CHILDREN A _____ FOR LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

1Ti 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (preachers)

1Ti 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

- Part of _____ the spirituality of proposed church leaders is the condition of their relationship with their wife and children. This cannot be overlooked. A man who is seeking to follow the Lord's command as a parent, cannot hide the controlled behavior of his children. This controlled behavior must be _____, and not dictatorial on the part of the father.
- In the same way that a father deals with his children, so he will deal with the _____ over which he is placed to minister. Learning about a man as a father will greatly enhance one's understanding of whether he is qualified as a _____ leader.

Concl. The Scripture speaks of children over _____ times. As we study what the Scripture teaches us about children, we will become better equipped to _____ them. The responsibility of parenting is not to be taken as a drudgery, but should be considered a wonderful _____ to shape a soul for eternity, because that is exactly what a parent does.