

## Parents and Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Parents must be an example to their children in their attitudes.
  - a. Our attitudes indicate our values and priorities -- what we count important. We cannot hide our value system.
  - b. Parents must show Biblical values to their children. Honesty, truth, doing what is right, fair play, the importance of being a Christian, believing in prayer, expressing faith, being loving thoughtful and kind must be seen in our lives if our children are to live that way.
2. Parents must be an example to their children in their actions.
  - a. Our actions prove our attitudes. How we live must present a pattern of life to our children. Any inconsistency between our attitudes and actions will cause confusion.
  - b. Children will imitate their parents. We cannot escape the inexorable law that what we do – our children will do.
  - c. It is not enough to be neutral and allow our children to choose their own life-style. By doing this we are saying to them -- "What you do is of no consequence to me." Such indifference is the very opposite of love.
3. Parents must be involved with their children in life.
  - a. It is not enough to be a spectator of our childrens' daily life, even a loving or critical spectator.
  - b. We must get our children involved in our attitudes and actions and be involved in theirs. We cannot allow them to live separate from us by living separate from them.
  - c. An important part of this activity is discipline. How our children earn and spend their money, use their time, prepare for the future, relate to other children in and outside the home, do homework, and conduct themselves in life, is a part of parental responsibility. Failure here will blight our children for life, and – except for the grace of God -- insure their failure in all areas of life. Biblical discipline, justly administered, is an expression of love to the child, obedience to God, and the fulfillment of parental responsibility.
4. Parents must lead their children to understand and love God.
  - a. The above points apply here. Our children will see God reflected in our attitudes and actions.
  - b. One of the most important areas that is often neglected by parents is that of Bible study with their children. The Word of God must be read, explained, and applied to the practical daily life of all the members of the family.
  - c. The leadership in these activities has been given to the husband and father. It is his solemn responsibility, before God, to be the example in the home and guide the family into a Biblical way of life.