

“Raising Children To Be Used Of God”

Introduction:

What do you expect your children to be doing in 10/20/30 years?

What do you want your children to be doing in 10/20/30 years?

Proverbs 22:6 It is not wrong to have a spiritual vision for your children.

What are you doing to train them to accomplish that goal?

Are your goals and vision selfish or are they from the Lord?

*Are you doing your best to train your children for God
or
are you doing your best to pursue financial security for your children?*

*Are you doing your best to prepare your children to be used of God anywhere in the world He so desires
or
are you doing your best to see to it that your children stay close to home?*

1. Train your children in godly living.

- a. Children need to see and hear their parents praying.
- b. Children need to see their parents reading and studying the Bible.
- c. Children need to see and hear their parents singing praises to God.
 - i. Christian CD's and tapes are not sufficient.
 - ii. Nothing substitutes your personal example of participation.
- d. Children need to see godly character in their parents daily.

Love	Joy	Peace/Abiding in Christ
Longsuffering	Gentleness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Meekness	Temperance/Self-Control
Holiness	Merciful	Christian Maturity

2. Train your children in godly service.

- a. Children need to see their parents ministering to other saints.
- b. Children need to minister to other saints with their parents.
- c. Children need to know that the parents expect them to minister to others of the household of faith.
 - a. Children need to see their parents reaching out to the lost.
 - b. Children need to reach out to the lost with their parents.
 - c. Children need to know that their parents expect them to reach out to the lost.

To whom should we minister as a family?

- ✓ *Poor/Hungry/Thirsty/Naked/Homeless*
- ✓ *Widows/Includes Single Parents & the Divorced*
- ✓ *Fatherless/Orphans/Includes Abandoned Children*
- ✓ *Strangers/Foreigners/Different Races*
- ✓ *Needy/Outcasts/Addicts/Derelicts/Prisoners/Oppressed*
- ✓ *Afflicted/Sick/Disabled/Handicapped*
- ✓ *Ministers of God/Pastors/Missionaries/Evangelists*

3. **Train your children for God's special ministry.**

- a. Parents need to respect and speak highly of those serving God as pastors, missionaries, and evangelists.
 Speak highly of them both publicly and privately.
 Pray for them both publicly and privately.
 Treat them well both publicly and privately.
- b. Parents need to open their home often to show genuine hospitality to God's servants.
- c. Parents need to expose their children to Christian biographies of God's servants. Books, Videos, Tapes, etc.
- d. Parents need to involve their children, as well as themselves, in a systematic program of giving financially to missions.
 * Children need to see and know of their parents involvement in giving to missions. (A program of giving by faith is the best way.)
 * Children need to give also to special missions offerings.
- e. Parents need to take their children to the mission field.
 This is opposed to sending them alone or with others.
- f. Parents need to encourage and facilitate relationships and communication between their children and full-time servants of the Lord.

Conclusion:

This list is not complete. There are other ideas that can be added.

This list does not guarantee that your children will be perfect.

However, if you do seek with all of your heart to follow the guidelines taught here, God is sure to bless you with godly children whom you may be proud of and who will bring you many rewards, both on earth as well as in Heaven.

If your children do not sincerely feel the call of God on their lives even after you have trained them to be used of God in some full-time ministry, then both you and they can be assured that God has other great plans for them as laymen, serving Him faithfully and diligently in their local church. Their pastor will thank you for your training of them, and so will the Lord!