

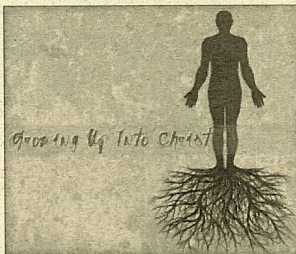
Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

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www.perryhillroadchurch.org

Growing Up in the Lord

Any faithful Christian who is also a parent knows the challenges and responsibilities of raising one's children to know and follow the Lord. Fathers, particularly, have been given the charge to *"not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4). All parents, under the Old Law, were charged to teach God's commandments *"diligently to your children, and...talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up...bind them as a sign on your hand, and...as frontlets between your eyes...write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates"* (Deut. 6:6-9), and if they did, the Lord would be with them (Deut. 11:18-23).



As a parent, it is a constant source of conflict to watch one's child grow; you want them to grow up, but you also want them to stay that little one you could hold, or have sit on you knees, and who would still want to hold your hand. Every parent wants his or her child to remain innocent, but every parent also wants to see the child mature and become independent. [Until the day comes they want to move out on their own!] Part of being a parent is watching the children grow physically and intellectually, watching them develop their personalities and become the person they will be, and watching them make mistakes, fall down, and suffer the consequences of poor choices. As much as we parents want to protect our children from all harm, we parents also know that is part of the growing process, and we do them no good if we do not let them see and feel the consequences of poor choices — or just the reality of life itself.

All parents want their children to grow and mature, and want to prepare them for the time when they will be on their own. We send them off to school [or home school], we want them to get work experience, and we want them to have build good relationships with others and have their own friends. *Continued on the next page....*