

What Are We Teaching Our Children?

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. We generally have a system of age, experience, teaching youth and inexperience. This principle is found in Scripture. Cf.

1. Hebrews 5:12

a) Point? The Hebrew author was saying IT SHOULD NOT BE THIS WAY!

2. Titus 2:1-8

a) Remember – Titus was “younger” in relationship to Paul, not necessarily in relationship to much of his audience.

3. Ephesians 6:4

4. Proverbs 22:6

B. We, as parents, brethren, must be greatly concerned about what we are teaching our children – by words, actions, attitudes, examples, etc.

1. Not all teaching is done verbally!

II. ARE WE TEACHING OUR CHILDREN SCRIPTURE?

A. First question: Are we actually teaching them scripture, or what we think we want Scripture to teach?

B. Second question: Do you know what and how much they know about scripture?

1. Do they know more about movie “stars,” T.V. “stars,” and sports “stars” – biographies, statistics, etc., than

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they do bible stars?

2. Who are their “heroes”?

3. Would they recognize the heroes of faith from Hebrews 11?

a) Do they know who Daniel, Debra, Gideon, Jonathan, David, Elijah, Esther, Ruth, Naomi, Joshua, Caleb, Paul, Peter, Stephen, Lydia, etc were?

b) Do they know who the righteous are among us?

(1) Have you destroyed the influence of the righteous by your petty backbiting?

C. Third question: How much do they know about Christ and His church?

1. One God?

2. One Lord (Savior) ?

3. One Body?

4. One Faith?

5. One Hope?

6. One Baptism?

7. One Spirit? – Ephesians 4:4-6

III. ARE WE TEACHING THEM SUBJECTION TO AUTHORITY?

A. This is an item largely missing from society and from far too many homes ... subjection to authority!

B. Ephesians 6:1

1. Who? Children

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2. What? Obey your parents

3. Why? Because it is right!

a) If we do not teach them, and / or, they do not learn respect for authority in the home, they will HAVE IT NO WHERE ELSE!

(1) Church

(a) James 4:7 – submit to God.

(b) 1 Corinthians 16:15-16 --- submit to those who have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints.

(c) Submit to one another – Ephesians 5:21

(d) Colossians 3:17

(2) Society

(a) “higher powers” – Romans 13:1

(b) Every non conflicting (of God) ordinance of man -- 2 Peter 2:13-15

(3) Their own future homes.

4. Authority must be taught and insisted upon!

IV. ARE WE TEACHING THEM HONESTY?

A. Romans 12:17

B. Philippians 4:8

1. This includes being honest in our representation of others!

V. ARE WE TEACHING THEM BITTERNESS AND MALICE?

A. Bitterness = “bitter hatred.”

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B. Malice = “spite, ill will.”

C. Do we teach them such by having ill will toward others?

1. Do we teach them such by having bitterness towards those who have sought to teach us and correct us?

a) Sometimes this is shown simply by a lack of co-operation.

b) Sometimes by out-and-out malicious backbiting.

D. What are the consequences of such?

**1. “...hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy...”
Galatians 5:19-21 “... that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

a) SERIOUS!

2. BTW ... Our forgiveness with God is contingent upon our ability to forgive others – Matthew 6:12-15.

a) Our lack of forgiveness shows up in the way we treat those whom we have not forgiven.

VI. ARE WE TEACHIING THEM TO BE CRITICS, COMPLAINERS, MURMURERS?

A. Matthew 7:2-4

B. Do you often criticize other Christians? Their work? His sermons? Do you teach them to ignore what he says by “roasting” him each week?

1. Do you do the same to the Bible class teacher?

2. If so, you do not teach them to disagree with a “point” ... you teach them to disregard the teacher! Ultimately the sender ... God!

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C. Do you complain about having to go to worship or Bible studies?

D. Do you murmur against those who DO try to get things done, or if they rebuke you for not doing such?

1. cf. 1 Corinthians 10:10

VII. ARE WE TEACHING THEM TO RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL?

A. Matthew 5:38-45

1. Suppose that some one has wronged you ... either real or perceived ... how should you act?

B. Romans 12:17-21

1. Do we teach our children these principles ... or do we teach them to “get even.”
2. I perceive some to have done me wrong ... so I will bide my time and eventually get even with them?
3. Remember these principles apply to ... neighbors, brethren, fellow workers, and even enemies!

VIII. ARE WE TEACHING THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITHFULNESS?

A. How much does God require?

1. Even “unto the point of dying” for him – Revelation 2:10
2. Making our bodies a “living sacrifice” – Romans 12:1-2. (BTW ... a “sacrifice” represent a “total commitment” for the sacrifice!

B. 1 Corinthians 15:58

C. Teach them to persevere unto the very end. Teach them

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that NOTHING interferes with your service to God!

IX. ARE WE TEACHING THEM THAT GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES FIRST?

A. Matthew 6:33

B. Matthew 22:37

C. Have we taught them that worldly (not necessarily ungodly) things come first?

- 1. Camping**
- 2. Fishing**
- 3. Hobbies**
- 4. Festivities**
- 5. Golfing**
- 6. Sports**
- 7. Hunting**
- 8. Jobs ... etc., etc.**

a) E.g. Uncle John ... a family that fished, hunted, camped, rode bikes Still does ... does not worship!

X. ARE WE TEACHING THEM THAT DISORDER IS ACCEPTABLE – REVERENCE IN WORSHIP IS NOT REALLY IMPORTANT?

A. 1 Corinthians 14:40

B. When we allow them to disrupt the service, worship?

C. When we set an example of disturbing the worship?

D. When we allow them to habitually run in and out of the

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assembly?

1. Just a note: generally if a child is old enough to go out by themselves, old enough to wait till service is over. If not, then probably need the attention of a parent. Brethren, the exceptions will not occur every service!

E. Children ... young ones included... need to be taught REVERENCE for God.

1. Do not allow your child to disturb other people in their sincere attempts to worship God.
 - a) BTW ... good idea to have younger children sit with or in front of you!

XI. ARE WE TEACHING THEM TO HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS?

A. Romans 14.

B. Do we show disrespect for others ourselves?

C. Do we allow our children to be rude and offensive to their elders?

D. Do we allow them to get by without showing honor to those who are older?

1. Proverbs 16:31
2. Leviticus 19:32

a) It is one thing to question validity of some teaching or statement. It is entirely another to show disrespect and disregard for the studied older person.

XII. CONCLUSION:

A. Much, much more that could and should be said.

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B. But, we must be diligent to teach our children the right things.

C. What we teach them now is what they will most likely do later in their lives.

D. It is what they will teach THEIR children.

E. Are you guiding your children in the “right way of the Lord?”

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