

1

YOU AND YOUR CHILD ARE THE LORD’S CHILDREN. AS CHRISTIANS, YOU SHARE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 18:2-5 NIV — *“He [Jesus] called a little child and had him stand among them.*

And He said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.’”

2

PARENTS MUST BE CAUTIOUS.

MATTHEW 18:6-7 NIV — *Jesus said:*

“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” Jesus said: “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!”

3

DO NOT EXPECT OTHERS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD ABOUT FAITH — “THEY LEARN IT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL” IS A COP-OUT.

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7 NIV — *“These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.*

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

4

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

PROVERBS 20:11 NIV — *“Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.”*

PROVERBS 22:6 NIV — *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

5

LET YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THAT WHEN YOU DON’T OR CAN’T UNDERSTAND THEM, JESUS DOES.

PSALMS 27:10 NIV — *“Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.”*

6

BE DILIGENT! HELP YOUR CHILDREN CHOOSE GODLY ATTITUDES. REMEMBER, DISCIPLINE MEANS YOU LOVE THEM.

PROVERBS 19:18 NIV — *“Discipline your son [and daughter], for in that there is hope; do not be a willing part to his [or her] death.”*

HEBREWS 12:5b-6 — *“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”*

7

DO NOT EXPECT PERFECTION. ONLY GOD IS PERFECT.

EPHESIANS 6:4 NIV — *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”*

8

LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT EVERYONE IS A SINNER.

ROMANS 3:23-24 NIV — *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

9

FOLLOW YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER’S EXAMPLE: PRAISE YOUR CHILDREN!

MATTHEW 3:17 NIV — *“And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’”*

10

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THAT BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THIS WORLD IS DIFFICULT, BUT THAT JESUS WILL MAKE THEM VICTORIOUS.

JOHN 16:33 NIV — *Jesus said: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

ROMANS 8:31 NIV — *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

11

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THAT FOLLOWING GOD IS A CHOICE THEY MUST MAKE FOR THEMSELVES. EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN SALVATION.

EZEKIEL 18:20 NIV — *“The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son.*

The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.”

REVELATION 3:19-20 NIV — *Jesus said: “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.”*

12

IF YOUR CHILD IS A CHRISTIAN, HE OR SHE IS YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST, NOT YOUR POSSESSION OR BURDEN.

LUKE 6:37 NIV — *Jesus said: “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”*

13

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO PRAY. PRAY WITH THEM AND FOR THEM.

EPHESIANS 3:12, 14-19 NIV – *“In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints,

to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

14

BE AN EXAMPLE! REMEMBER, YOU TOO WERE ONCE A CHILD.

I CORINTHIANS 13:11 NIV – *“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.*

When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.”



Children may close their ears to advice, but they keep their eyes open to example!



Jesus said: “Where two or more are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:20 KJV



May God richly bless you and your family as you walk in Him ... TOGETHER!

Biblical Encouragement for Parents

“The Most Excellent Way” is *love, acceptance and forgiveness*. These attributes of God are to be expressed to children by their parents, just as our heavenly Father expresses them to us.

We parents (if we are born-again believers) now have the power of Christ within us to break the chains of bondage. It is no longer necessary for our past sins to be passed on to our children: *“the old has gone; the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17b). Show them!

During our season of addiction, we were selfishly seeking to satisfy our own appetites and desires. We gave too little of ourselves to our children—much less than they needed and wanted. They suffered because of us.

We must be careful not to bring the selfish attitudes of our old life into our new life at our children’s expense. We must repair and rebuild. Our concern for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs must meet or exceed our concern for ourselves. In fact, they should be intimately involved with our new life with Christ. It’s a whole new world for them.

The Biblical principles provided here are to help and encourage you to love and disciple your children. Allow them to share with you the love you have received, and to *grow with you* in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! —TMEW

The Most Excellent Way

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The Most Excellent Way

Biblical Encouragement for Parents

“All your sons [and daughters] will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children’s peace.”

Isaiah 54:13



*The Christian Solution
to Chemical Dependency:
“Becoming GOD-Dependent”*