

Parents Who Are Christians By Irvin Himmel

It is obvious that parents have an obligation to feed, clothe, love, protect, and care for their offspring. A newborn human is about as helpless as any creature could be. Parents who are Christians have responsibilities which extend far beyond temporal provisions. There is an area of spiritual care, training, growth, and development that demands special attention.

Parents who are Christians have an obligation to set a good example before their children. That includes a godly home life—no drugs, no tobacco, no strong drink, no profanity, and no fussing and fighting. A good example means godly living in the home, on the job, while on vacation, during recreational activities, and in all other situations. A good example includes regular attendance at Bible classes and church services. It also includes honesty, fairness, willingness to admit wrong, and readiness to forgive.

Parents who are Christians have the responsibility of disciplining their offspring. Mischievous acts that may be dismissed as “cute” in the little ones can be quite annoying to others. Those “cute” little capers, if unchecked, can establish a pattern that turns into a nightmare by the time the child is a teenager. Discipline must start early. “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).

Parents who are Christians should teach their children right priorities. Which comes first, your personal interests or the Lord’s work? Which is more important, a child’s solving a math problem or preparing a Bible lesson? The principle taught in Matthew 6:33 is learned quickly by a child who sees that basic truth demonstrated by his mother and father. Your child needs your help in establishing the correct sense of values.

Parents who are Christians are responsible for bringing up their children to be Christians. Put your child in the tiny tots’ class on Sunday morning and teach him to sit still during worship. If you do not train him, who will? Tell him some of the great stories in the Bible. Those historical narratives about Noah, Abraham, Daniel, Moses, and others will do him more good than nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Drill him in Bible facts. Make him conscious that there is a wealth of material in the Bible. Teach him about God and Jesus Christ. Some fathers leave the spiritual training to the mothers. But the Bible says, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). Daddy cannot shift his responsibility over to mother. The spiritual training of a child calls for the best efforts of both parents. Christians who are parents have much for which to be thankful. Children are “an heritage of the Lord” (Ps. 127:3). But the responsibilities of parenthood are serious. In today’s wicked world, it is not easy to bring up children in the nurture of the Lord. However, it can be done.

Malchus' Ear By Greg Gwin

Christians are often disappointed and discouraged when they fail to convince their unbelieving friends and relatives to accept the truth from the Scriptures. They ask

questions like: "How can they ignore the evidence?" and "It's so obvious, why can't they see it?" These are good questions. We understand your frustration. We agree -- it is not logical for people to ignore the abundance of available proof.

Do you recall the occasion when Judas brought a band of armed men to arrest Jesus? Peter, thinking to defend Him with force, drew out his sword. Each of the gospel writers describe him cutting off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest. Jesus rebuked Peter, and Luke tells us that He proceeded to heal the severed ear (Luke 22:51). Think about that a minute! In the presence of this mob of angry conspirators Jesus worked a miracle. They saw it! Yet still they proceeded to participate in the events that led to the unjust murder of God's own Son.

We remind you of this simply to illustrate that prejudiced men have always ignored evidence that contradicts their predetermined positions. If the Scribes and Pharisees could see the many miracles of Jesus and still call for his crucifixion, we should not be too surprised when men today reject the plain truths of God's word.

But, there is another, more positive lesson to be learned here. Jesus said in John 10:18, "No man taketh (my life) from me but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." In healing Malchus' ear, Jesus proved His point. By working that miracle He showed that He had unlimited power to save His own life, but He refused to use it. He died willingly for our sins. What a Savior! -- Via The Beacon, May 18, 2010

The Way of the Cross

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1Cor. 1:18).

Officer Peter O'Hanlon was patrolling on night duty in northern England some years ago when he heard a quivering sob. Turning in the direction that it came from, he saw in the shadows a little boy sitting on a doorstep. With tears rolling down his cheeks, the child whimpered, "I'm lost. Take me home." The policeman began naming street after street, trying to help him remember where he lived. When that failed, he repeated the names of the shops and hotels in the area, but all without success. Then he remembered that in the center of the city was a well-known church building with a large white cross towering high above the surrounding landscape. He pointed to it and said, "Do you live anywhere near that?" The boy's face immediately brightened. "Yes, take me to the cross. I can find my way home from there!" (From Bible Illustrator) Indeed, the way of the cross leads home.

A Moments Wisdom

Before we set our hearts too much upon anything, let us examine how happy those are who already possess it.

It is pretty hard to tell what does bring happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed. Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.

The actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts.

A preoccupation with the future not only prevents us from seeing the present as it is but often prompts us to rearrange the past.

It is never too late to be who you might have been.

Pessimist: One who, when he has the choice of two evils, chooses both.