

# What Children Really Need

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## Introduction:

- A. Who we are today is often greatly influenced by who our parents were yesterday.
  - 1. Seldom does a nation, a congregation, or an individual rise above its leaders.
  - 2. Children are a heritage of God - Psalm 127:3
  - 3. As Reuben said: "Do not sin against the child" - Gen. 42:22
- B. I am astonished and dismayed by Christian parents who seem to want everything for their children except the salvation of their souls
  - 1. You generated those children; you are obligated to them by God for the following things:

## I. WE OWE OUR CHILDREN UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

- A. Failing to love our children unconditionally distorts their view of God's love for them - 1John 3:1; Psalm 103:13
- B. Love your children equally
  - 1. Abraham with Isaac and Ishmael
  - 2. Isaac with Jacob and Esau
  - 3. Jacob with Joseph and the rest of his sons
- C. You might be surprised to learn that parents do not love their children
  - 1. Rom. 1:31 - Parents who fail to put their children's spiritual needs above all of their other needs do not truly love them in spite of their words

## II. WE OWE OUR CHILDREN OUR TIME AND OUR BEST EXAMPLES

- A. Learning is so much easier when we can see an example.
  - 1. Matt. 1:19 - husbands; John 13:15 - Jesus; Phil. 3:17 - apostles; 1Tim. 4:12 - young preachers; James 5:10 - prophets; 1Peter 2:21 - every Christian
  - 2. Clearly children would profit equally from parents' good examples
- B. They need to be shown and not just told how to live.
  - 1. You will never be effective as a parent until you live what you teach
  - 2. Would you follow the teaching of a preacher or the leadership of an elder who did not practice what they taught?
- C. Children need both quality time as well as quantity time with their parents.
  - 1. You had the time to produce them, now make the time to raise them
  - 2. That is not accomplished by proxies

## III. WE OWE OUR CHILDREN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- A. Our children are eternity bound beings - Ecc. 12:7
- B. They need to be taught God's will - Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4
  - 1. There is no part time job, no school sport or activity, no homework assignment, no community function that takes precedence over your God required duty to see that they are taught God's will

2. In 38 years of preaching, I never had a parent say to me, "I wish I had allowed my child to miss more services for part time jobs and school activities." I have had multitudes tell me they wish they had brought them to more services and Bible classes
- C. Our children need to know about:
1. Heaven and Hell, sin and its consequences, Christ and His church
- D. Our children need to be taught to love God with all their hearts, not for what He has done or for what He will do, but just for being God.

Conclusion:

- A. No one likes to hear that they are putting a stumbling block in front of their children, but often what we like to hear and what we need to hear are two different matters
1. Mark 9:42 - But it won't be a millstone; it will be a home in perdition
  2. Do not sin against the child (Gen. 42:22), but raise him or her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
  3. You can get angry and dismiss this admonition and witness your children join the 61 other children who have attended here between 1962 and 2012 who have left the faith or never obeyed the gospel
  4. Or, you can examine yourself, repent, and make a greater effort to bring your children to Christ