

Laying the Foundation in the Early Years

Eph 6.1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

► The early years are when you lay the _____
in your children for all else God calls you to build into them.
But it's easy to not take this stage as _____
as we should, because parenting little ones is not the most
interesting aspect of parenting, and you can get by because
you completely control their world, and they are not in a
position to make life changing bad decisions. In truth, nothing
is more important than fully engaging and laying a _____
foundation in the early years. Everything to follow will be much
_____ if you do, and much _____
if you don't. Investments you make in the early years _____
more dividends over time than any other investments.

► It's not possible to delve into God's word on any aspect of
our lives without being convicted of how we have fallen _____.
But remember, God picks us up where we _____, not
where we should be. Walk with God _____. Sow genuine
discipleship. Sow life.

► The foundational trait God calls for in children is honoring
and obeying their _____ in faith, which is God's
way of leading them to honor and obey _____ in faith.

Eph 6.1-3

Prov 3.1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you ... 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Prov 6.25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids. [NASV]

► What is biblical obedience? What does it look like?

Remember Nathan Dowd's sermon on 7/30/23. The Greek word pertains to a servant whose job it is to answer (lit., obey) a knock at the door (*Thayer's Greek Lexicon*).

Acts 12.12 [Peter] came to the house ... where many were gathered together praying. 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer [lit., obeyed]. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.

– Biblical obedience _____.

– Biblical obedience _____.

Prov 3.1 My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands

– Biblical obedience is _____.

Psalms 119.60 I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.

– Biblical obedience is _____.

Ps 100.2 Serve the LORD with gladness

Ps 119.46 I shall delight in Your commandments, which I love.

Phil 2.14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God

– Biblical obedience comes from a _____ of obedience.

Ps 119.112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever

► As Christian parents, the kind of obedience you want to see in your children is the same kind the Lord will want to see in them as _____. You want your training to prepare your children for _____ as adult disciples. You must lay the foundation in the early years so you can build on it with Christian character and wisdom in the elementary and teen years.

– Jesus took a similar approach with his disciples during his earthly ministry.

Jn 15.14 “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

4) _____

a) _____ (vs 5)

b) _____ (vs 6-8)

► How do we train a heart of trust, honor, and obedience?

We _____ God.

Eph 6.4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Prov 22.15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him. 16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall. 17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Prov 1.7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Heb 12.5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening [lit., training] of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges [i.e., with physical discipline] every son whom He receives.” [quoting Prov 3.11-12] 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons ... 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

► To imitate God, we must use _____ his tools of training as he does, not pick and choose or major and minor.

– Elements of God’s training of his children:

1) _____ (vs 5-7)

Mt 3.17 “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” ... 17.5 “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

2) _____ (vs 5)

3) _____