

PURPOSEFUL PARENTING

TEXT: (Proverbs 23:15-16, NLT)

¹⁵ My child, if your heart is wise, my own heart will rejoice! ¹⁶ Everything in me will celebrate when you speak what is right.

INTRODUCTION

1. "The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure to have children who are wise" (Proverbs 23:24, NLT).
2. "A wise child brings joy to a father; a foolish child brings grief to a mother" (Proverbs 10:1, NLT).

I. RECOGNIZING YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT

A. Creating a Nurturing Environment.

1. "Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (Ephesians 5:33, NIV).
2. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (Ill John 4).
3. "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her" (Proverbs 31:28, NIV)

B. Being a Good Example

1. "In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us" (Titus 2:7-8, NIV).

C. Showing Respect

1. "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

II. GOALS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

A. The LORD Will Be in the Midst

1. "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV).
2. "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15, NIV).

B. Teach Obedience and Respect

1. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1, NIV).
2. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12, NIV).
3. "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death" (Leviticus 20:9, NIV).

C. The Lost Generation or the Greatest Generation

1. “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it” (Isaiah 35:5-8, NIV).

III. CELEBRATING THE OUTCOME

1. “My child, if your heart is wise, my own heart will rejoice! Everything in me will celebrate when you speak what is right” (Proverbs 23:15-16, NLT).

A. The Heritage of the LORD

1. “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come” (I Timothy 4:8, NIV).
2. “Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court” (Psalms 127:3-5, NIV).

B. Arrows Shot into the Future

1. “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also” (II Timothy 1:5, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind” (Genesis 1:11, KJV).
2. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7, KJV).

QUESTIONS

1. What are your goals for your children?
2. Is your parenting purposeful?
3. If there is a father and mother in the family, are you working together toward those goals?
4. What are your priorities for your children?
 - a. Success in the world of work?
 - b. Athletic accomplishments?
 - c. Carrying godly values into the next generation?
 - d. Hadn’t really given it much thought.