

DEDICATE YOUR CHILDREN TO GOD

TEXT: (Proverbs 22:6, TPT)

⁶Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way that they should go, and the values they've learned from you will be with them for life.

I. UNLESS THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE

1. "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV).

A. Training Children God's Way

1. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6, NIV).

2. "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death" (Proverbs 23:13-14, NIV).

3. "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him" (Proverbs 13:24, NIV).

4. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18, KJV).

5. "A child left to himself disgraces his mother" (Proverbs 29:15, NIV).

B. The Power of 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. Provision, Protection, and Security

1. "Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place" (I Timothy 5:8, MSG).

2. "When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof" (Deuteronomy 22:8, NIV).

II. THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. The LORD in the Midst

1. "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 Importance of Father's Role

1. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV).

2. "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" (Colossians 3:21, NIV).

III. BUILDING A PARAPET (BATTLEMENT)

1. "When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof" (Deuteronomy 22:8, NIV).

A. Discipline

1. "At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them" (I Samuel 3:12-13, NIV).
2. "I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber" (proverbs 24:30-34, NLT).

B. Reverence for the Bible and Its Principles

1. "These commandments that 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, NIV).
2. "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11, NIV).

C. Family Worship

1. "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it" (Genesis 8:20, NIV).

D. Consistent Life

1. "[A church leader] should be respected by those who are unbelievers, having a beautiful testimony among them so that he will not fall into the traps of Satan and be disgraced" (I Timothy 3:7, TPT).

CONCLUSION

1. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (III John 1:4, NIV).
2. "Her children arise and call her blessed" (Proverbs 31:28, NIV).