

GOD GIVE US CHRISTIAN HOMES!

By Keith Greer

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

When thinking about this passage, my mind wanders back to another Old Testament passage: "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

We understand that Israel went into apostasy " ..for lack of knowledge". (Hosea 4:6) Generations rose up that did not know God. Why? Parents failed to teach the law to their children. God gave them the responsibility, they were COMMANDED – but they failed to obey.

In the New Testament, we also are given the responsibility of teaching and instructing our children in God's word. We are told to bring them up " ..in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) If we fail in this task, what will become of our children, in the spiritual sense?

The key to making sure that our children " ... will not depart from it" is to be consistent in our teaching. As Christians, we are to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"Training" up a child means so much more than "taking" the children to services three times a week, saying prayers before every meal and bedtime, and giving of our means. It also means more than just seeing to it that the children are in Bible classes every week, although that is important.

We must not only give our children the truth, we must live it before them. Our lives must be "mirrored" by the teaching of God's word.

Do our children get the benefit of one teaching ... Do we live what we teach them to do? If we are not consistent, how can we guarantee that they will choose the correct path?

It is so true that each one of us, including our children, must "work out our own salvation", but if our training is to be complete, they must see in us our faithful service to the Lord. We are to be " ... doers of the word, and not hearers only, ... " (James 1:22)

God's people must understand that our children need teaching in all aspects of life. Including sexual and moral instructions. Sadly, many fail to teach their children these important lessons of life. Why? Some feel uncomfortable bringing up such subjects to their children. Do we want the world teaching our children about these vital areas of their lives?

Do your children understand what God's word says about sexual relations? "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." {Hebrews 13:4} What does this mean to them? Any sexual relationship outside of marriage is sinful and unacceptable conduct. Do your children know this passage and it's meaning in their lives? Wake up

parents. Our children are going to get “sex education” somewhere. Where do you want them to gain such vital instructions – God’s book or the internet? Tragedy is in the wake for any who fail to follow God’s pattern in this area of their lives. Children out of wedlock, single parents, sexual diseases, heartaches and choices that can never be undone. Need any more reason to sit down with your children to discuss the “birds and bees?”

God has " ... given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ...for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." (2 Peter 1:3-10) Let us never forget if we are going to have Christian homes, our children must be taught God’s values in their lives. Parents, are you fulfilling your part in the training of your children? ***(