

CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD

Introduction – Our society is in the process of rejecting the norms that have sustained civilizations for thousands of years. Marriage and family are not consistently supported by our culture. As Christians we must be committed to the truths about real human flourishing taught in the Bible.

A. Children need a healthy environment to become people of integrity and spiritually minded.

1. Children do not become people of good character by accident.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

2. Fathers are an essential element in God's plan for raising spiritually minded children.

Ephesians 6:1-4

B. Timothy is a good example of how to raise children.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. Scripture is central to educating the heart of young people.
2. The congregation assists parents with Sunday school and youth groups.
3. Scripture imparts wisdom that equips young people in making good choices.
4. You can learn about life the hard way by making mistakes and suffering the consequences or accept the direction and warning of Scripture.

C. When children become young adults, they must make the choice to follow Jesus.

1. Religious tradition has associated infant baptism with parents' decision to raise their child in the Christian faith.
2. In the Bible, baptism is an adult decision of the individual that requires faith and repentance.

Colossians 2:11-12

Acts 2:38

Conclusion – Since children are a gift from God, then parents, friends, and the congregation have a responsibility to help shape the character of every child in a Christ-like manner.

Psalms 127:3-5a