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God Loves Children

Parents have the responsibility to:

- I. Take THEM to Jesus
- II. Teach THEM about Jesus
- III. Train THEM up in the ways of Jesus

❖ Take them to Jesus

Mark 10:13-16

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them. *NKJV*

❖ Teach them about Jesus

Deut 5:16

16'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. NKJV

Eph 6:1-4

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.

NKJV

Parents are responsible for teaching their children, and they should not delegate it to:

- a. The Television
- b. The Babysitter
- c. The Video games
- d. The Computer

“The average child in the United States only gets about 21 minutes a day of primary attention with their parents, but, according to the Motion Picture Association, CHILDREN spends up to 10.25 hours per day [*this is more than eight hours of sleep*] with the internet and TV.”

Who Teaches Our Children by the time they are 17

63,000 – Media (TV, Internet, Computer, Video Games)

11,000 – School (63% less than media)

2,000 – Parents (21 minutes per day and 96% less than media)

800 – Church (99% less than media)

❖ Train them up in the ways of Jesus

This subject under discussion includes making disciples or learners. The Greek word is *matheeteusatē* (2nd person plural, imperative, active, as used in Matt. 28:19)

The word “*disciple*” conveys the idea:

- a. To learn by practice
- b. To learn by experience
- c. To learn by acquiring a habit or a custom

Prov 22:6

**6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.
NKJV**

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. NKJV

Phil 4:11-13

**11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
(This was how the Apostle learned).**

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. KJV

Rev 14:1-5

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the

Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.
NKJV

A great practical example of this message is seen in the life of young Timothy.

Acts 16:1-3

1. Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek

Timothy was a young child who became a great leader in the Christian Faith. He was not responsible for his:

- a. Birth
- b. Bi-racial heritage
- c. Background

Timothy's Grandmother and Mother took the responsibility in his life.

- ✚ They took him to Jesus
- ✚ They taught him about Jesus
- ✚ They trained him up in the ways of Jesus
- ✚ There are two books of the New Testament with his name

II Tim 1:2-7

2 To Timothy, a beloved son:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the

laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. NKJV

Children Learn What They Live
By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

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