

**BRINGING UP CHILDREN
IN THE INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD
Ephesians 6:4b
8/8/10**

Read Ephesians 6:4

Every child enters the world with no prior knowledge or experiences.

Each generation is starting out from scratch in attempting to deal with the basic questions and issues of life.

They have to learn:

What is true and what isn't

What is important and what isn't

How to deal with personal temptation

They have to determine for themselves if God is real and whether or not they can trust the Bible.

Surveys show that in the teen years, peers have replaced parents as the number one shaper of values and behavior.

Our culture also tells our children that in order to be important, admired and respected you have to be famous, powerful, beautiful, and rich.

In movie after movie success is seen as the action hero walks off into the sunset over a pile of dead bodies, being cool and having been sexually immoral with at least one beautiful woman.

The Bible teaches that parents play a crucial, God-ordained role in the discipleship of their children.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- 1. Teach them the value and authority of the scriptures.
Proverbs 1:1-6; 3:5-6 cf 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Teach them that the Bible is the ultimate reliable guide for living

It is the final authority in life.

2a Wisdom - skillful living

Decision-making, friendships, finances, speech, leadership, marriage, childrearing, etc.

2b Discern- the ability to see differences and distinctions

True and false

Wise and foolish

Right and wrong

Good and bad

4a Prudence- The ability to foresee the consequences of various actions and decisions

Prudence safeguards them against being misled.

The need for discernment and prudence is seen in the popularity of the *Twilight* phenomenon among Christian teenage- age girls.

A number of both secular and Christian authors have written enlightening reviews.

Shedding some Light on Twilight by Mary Kassian
(<http://www.girlsgonewise.com>)

Top 20 Unfortunate Lessons Girls Learn From Twilight - by John Scott Lewinski

Global Warming Among the Undead (The New York Times, June 30, 2010)

Book Review- Twilight by Tim Challies
(<http://www.challies.com/book-review-twilight>)

I have been asked by people in our congregation if werewolves and shape changers are real.

4b Discretion- wise plans, purposes or direction in life

Naïve- simple, empty headed, gullible, easily influenced.

4 types of people in Proverbs.

Wise, naive, fool, scoffer

7b fools despise wisdom and instruction

How you submit to the scriptures in your life will largely determine how much authority your children will view them as having in their lives.

2. Teach them to fear and love God. Proverbs 1:7 cf 9:10
Deuteronomy 6:5

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

The fear of the Lord is foundational to all the choices they will make.

The secular world leaves God out as it considers the answers to the purposes and problems of life.

Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

3. Teach them to respect authority. Proverbs 1:8-9
4. Teach them how to stand alone. Proverbs 1:10-16

Against the peer pressure and the excitement of sin(11-12), the temptation of money (13), and bad friendships (14).

5. Teach them how to deal with sexual temptation. Proverbs 2:16-19; 5:1-11, 20-23; 6:23-29

The message coming across through the media and peers is that love is purely physical.

It is indiscriminate and for the moment only

You've got to get as much as you can right now, because in a few years you're not going to be as attractive anymore.

Besides everyone is doing it. Just do it safely.

We need to teach our kids how to relate with members of the opposite sex

How to deal with temptation

How to choose a life partner

Modesty

6. Teach them how to handle money. Proverbs 3:9-10; 22:7, 9

Proverbs 22:7, 9 The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *becomes* the lender's slave . . . 9 He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor.

The danger of co-signing 6:1-5

7. Teach them the value of hard work. Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 13:4; 26:13-16

Proverbs 10:4-5 Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, *But* he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and *gets* nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat.

8. Teach them the importance of honesty. Proverbs 6:17, 19 cf 11:1; 21:6; 28:6

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

Proverbs 21:6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.

9. Teach them the right and wrong uses of the tongue. Proverbs 12:13-14, 18; 15:4

Proverbs 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

10. Teach them how to choose and be a good friend Proverbs 12:26; 13:20; 14:7; 22:24-25; 27:17

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

11. Teach them the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Proverbs 23:19-21, 29-35
12. Teach them how to determine the will of God.
13. Teach them a biblical understanding of the purpose of life.
To glorify God before the angels and enjoy Him forever
14. Teach them a biblical view of suffering and contentment.
15. Teach them by your example.

The importance of regular Bible study and prayer

How to walk by the Spirit

How to share their faith

What really matters in life

Etc.

There's a wide-eyed little youngster

Who believes you're always right;

And his ears are always open,

And he watches day and night;

You are setting an example

Every day in all you do,

For the little one who's watching

To grow up and be like you!