

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION ON A FOUNDATION OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

*“We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.”* Psalm 78:4



Fall 2013

Parents know that even if we do everything in our power to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, whether or not our children ultimately have genuine Christian faith is beyond our control. We can guide our children toward God, but only the work of the Holy Spirit in their souls can make them into the kind of Christ-honoring children that we would like to have raised. Instead of lifting up our godly children as proof that we are doing things “the right way,” our response to their love and obedience to Christ should be gratitude. God be praised for his work in the lives of these children, in many cases despite our flaws. And rather than feeling ashamed of our struggling children, we should pray that the seed of Scripture once planted would come to life by God’s grace.

With this in mind, here are summary thoughts from an article by Brian Douglas adapted to parenting:

- Focusing too much on our parenting methods can lead us down a wrong path. Self-assessment can easily leave us feeling either too strong or too weak. We praise our own accomplishments, and we feel inadequate based on what qualifications we lack. Whether our response is overconfidence or despair, anything but faith in God’s power and promises is idolatry. Our strength is from the Lord and not ourselves. We must remind ourselves, if God is not blessing our work as parents, then no measure of training, skill, or finances can overcome that. But if He is blessing our labors by changing our childrens’ lives, then nothing can overcome that either. Where should this leave us? On our knees before the Lord.
- We should pay careful attention to our childrens’ long-term goals, for they most clearly reveal the depth of the culture’s impact. Children tend toward being continually entertained and materialism because that is what they learn from our culture. Overcoming the intrusion of these influences is probably the biggest obstacle a Christian parent faces. How are we to equip our children to stand against these? Christian parents are uniquely capable of addressing the conflict because it defines parenting from an eternal perspective in terms of the health of a child’s soul rather than such temporal goals as the accumulation of stuff and the pursuit of amusement.
- We need to warn our children about the subtleties of *pride* in both its forms, arrogance and despair. We must teach them to think less of their own ability and more of God’s. The “meism” that has crept into our churches and homes will be defeated as we show with our own lives that a truly blessed, abundant life is one in which God is glorified and adored for His holiness, grace, faithfulness, and love.





PROMOTION SUNDAY, September 8, 2013

Preschool/Kindergarten
Teachers: Jane Bumbalough and
Michele Luker
Location: Room #5

Special Needs
Teacher: Kris Hubbell
Location: Room #3

First-Second-Third Grades
Teachers: Gwinn Gibbs and
Melissa Owens
Location: Room #2

Youth Membership Training
(6 to 7 Week Class)
Teacher: Bob Clark
Location: South classroom

JrHigh & SrHigh (7th thru 12th)
Teacher: Brian Cheek
Location: Room #1

*"Scripture is like a working museum
of which the Spirit is the Curator,
showing us around and explaining
the wonders of the mind of the Maker.
In this museum we are taken behind
the scenes to learn from God himself."*

Sinclair Ferguson, *A Heart for God*

Resource Recommendation: *Give Them Grace*

This book asks, "What makes Christian parenting distinctly Christian? More pointedly, what would make your parenting different from that of a Mormon or moral atheist? When we witness to adults, we tell them that they can't work their way into heaven, but is that the message we give our children? Do they know what the gospel is? Have they been dazzled by the love of Jesus? Or do they think Christianity is about being 'nice' and making Jesus smile? Have they heard the message of the glorious gospel?" Authors Elyse Fitzpatrick and daughter Jessica Thompson, in their book "Give Them Grace" suggest that the answer to this is to teach children the gospel first and obedience will follow. Paul Tripp agrees: "So many parents," he writes, "fall into the trap of asking the law to do in the hearts of their children what only grace can accomplish. Armed with threats, manipulation, and guilt, they attempt to create change that only the cross of Jesus Christ makes possible. It is so encouraging to read a parenting book that points parents to the grace of the cross and show them how to be instruments of that grace in the lives of their children."

