

Raising Children: Target, Seasons & Means

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up {ἐκτρέφω} in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Raising Children: What is the target?

What targets do you observe parents aiming for??

- Parents are _____, aiming their children like _____ at the enemies of God (Psalm 127)

- Parents disciple _____ of God and _____ of neighbors (Mt 22:34-39; Deut 6:4-8)

What are ways Scripture describes love for God?

- Aim for _____ in Christ (Eph 4:11-16; 5:1-2; 6:1-4)

What aroma do you smell in the homes of our church families?

1. Self-government

- Self-_____ (Prov 12:16, 23; 13:16; 14:16; 21:20; 22:15; 26:11; 29:11, 20)

- _____-minded (1 Tim 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2; 2 Tim 4:5; 1 Thess 5:6, 8; 1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; 1 Cor 15:34)

- Master one's _____ (Jn 8:39-47; 1 John 2:15-17; Rom 6:12; 13:14; Mark 4:18-19; Gal 5:16-17, 24; Eph 2:3; 4:20-24; Col 3:5; 1 Tim 6:6-10; 2 Tim 2:22; 3:6; 4:3; Titus 2:11-12 ; 3:3; 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11; 4:1-3; 2 Peter 1:4; 3:3; James 1:14-15; Jude 16)

In what ways do people often struggle to exercise self-control?

What are the “obvious” passions? What are “lurking” passions?

Are you familiar with the idea of “ordered passions”? How does God want us to order our passions?

2. Responsible = accepting the _____ of one's _____ (Prov 17:16; 6:6-11;24:30-34)

- Example: Moses, Aaron, and the golden calf (Exodus 32)

- Joe Rigney: Abdication of responsibility > Idolatry > Blame-shifting and making excuses

What do you avoid doing?

What makes you flinch, or react?

What excuses are well-worn pathways for you to travel?

Who or what thwarts your efforts to do the things you want to do?

3. Wisdom (Prov 3:5-8; 10:21; 18:2; James 3:13-18)

- Begins with God's _____ in a _____

- Wisdom requires _____, though it is not sufficient

- A wise person has not just knowledge, but also _____

- A wise person resolves to _____ for the greatest good

What does a lack of wisdom look like? What are biblical terms for such individuals?

What do you make of the four components of wisdom?

How do kids learn wisdom?

Raising Children: Sons vs. Daughters

- Overall goal is maturity in Christ (*Christian* character)...

What are the differences between men and women?

What do sex differences mean for raising sons vs. raising daughters?

Raising Children: Four Seasons {Rev Bradley; Ted Tripp}

- Context: God's covenant _____

1. Authority (Infancy to Childhood, 0 to 4): _____

2. Instruction (Childhood to Teenager, 4 to 12): responsibility, character, _____

3. Coaching (Teenager to Adult, 12 to 19): _____; wise _____

4. Friendship (Adulthood, 20+)

What might be missing from this approach to raising children across successive development seasons?

To what degree are there elements of authority, instruction, coaching, friendship across the seasons?

How does the idea of Christian discipleship, as a parallel for raising children, impact your relationship with God the Father?

How might you advise parents who have regrets about how they raised children in earlier stages?
