

A Heritage of the Lord

Psalm 127

- The rest of the Psalm sets the context.
- Why is it important to train up children in the way that they should go? – Pro. 22:6.
- It makes a better home – Pro. 10:1.
- It makes a better world – Pro. 20:6-7.
- It is the will of God... children are His heritage – Psa. 127:3.
- And he desires a godly offspring – Mal. 2:15.

Unless the Lord Builds the House

- God is the Designer, Architect and Governor for all of Creation.
- A Spiritual Plan – Ecc. 12:13.
- A Secular/Civil Plan – Rom. 13:1.
- A Plan for Families – Gen 1:26-31; 2:21-25; Eph. 5:22-6:4.
- Especially true with respect to house of God, the church – 1 Tim 3:15.

Children are God's Heritage

- A “heritage” is something received of another.
- The Fruit of the Womb is His Reward...
- Reward – (Pro. 17:6) Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.
- Negative view of children is a rejection of divine heritage and reward.
- Christian’s view of children must be different from that of the world – Mk 10:13-15.
- As God's heritage, children are to be cherished & trained.
- Loved – Tit. 2:4.
- Taught – Deu 6:7.
- Trained – Pro. 22:6.
- Nurtured – Eph. 6:4.

- Provided for – 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Cor. 12:14-15.
- Guided and Controlled – Pro. 22:15; 1 Tim. 3:4, 12.
- **Must** have good role models – Tit. 2:1-8.

Happy and Unashamed!

- Arrows illustrate the value and usefulness of godly children.
- Shame accompanies sin, neglect, abuse – Pro. 29:15.
- No shame in Christ – 2 Tim. 1:12.
- No shame in the gospel – Rom. 1:16-17.
- No shame in living for, or suffering for, Christ – 1 Pet. 4:16.
- No shame in judgment – 1 Jn. 2:28.

Decision...

- *Unless the Lord build the house* – It is costly to forget that God is the Designer, Architect, and Governor of all!
- To benefit from His blessings, we must depend on him, accept his will and respect his authority.
- Children are a gift and a reward – to be taught, trained up, cared for, nurtured, guided and loved.
- Parents and children who live by God's will, have nothing to be ashamed of – Pro. 20:11; Psa. 127:5.
- It is easier to build up a child than it is to repair a broken life. We must make our choices wisely!

Pro 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Psa 127:4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth.

Psa 127:5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Pro 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son *is* the grief of his mother.

Mar 10:13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*.

Mar 10:14 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.**"

Mar 10:15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Pro 20:6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?

Pro 20:7 The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; His children *are* blessed after him.

Mal 2:15 But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

Ecc 12:14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

1Ti 3:15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Tit 2:4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

Deu 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deu 6:6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deu 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

2Co 12:14 Now *for* the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Ti 3:4 one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence

1Ti 3:12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

2Ti 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, **for I know whom I have believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

1Pe 4:16 Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Pro 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.

- "If you are a parent who does not drink or use drugs, chances are your children will follow your example. Even if you just proclaim a negative attitude toward liquor and drugs, your child will think twice about using them. However, if you are a heavy drinker, you increase your child's chances of following your example by threefold." (Drugrehabtreatment.com)

Children of parents who practice their faith are less likely to participate in dangerous behaviors.

(Barna 2003) **Reaching People When They're Young** Barna's research discovered that a person's lifelong behaviors and views are generally developed when they are young – particularly before they reach the teenage years. As evidence of this, Barna provided research that showed four critical outcomes.

(Barna 2007) Parenting Approach

Parenting by default is what Barna termed "the path of least resistance." In this approach, parents do whatever comes naturally to the parent, as influenced by cultural norms and traditions. The objective is to keep everyone – parent, child, and others – as happy as possible, without having the process of parenting dominate other important or prioritized aspects of the parent's life.

Trial-and-error parenting is a common alternative. This approach is based on the notion that every parent is an amateur at raising children, there are no absolute guidelines to follow, and that the best that parents can do is to experiment, observe outcomes, and improve based upon their successes and failures in child rearing. In this incremental approach, the goals of parenting are to continually improve and to perform better than most other parents.

Barna found that *revolutionary parenting* was the least common approach. Such nurturing requires the parent to take God's words on life and family at face value, and to apply those words faithfully and consistently.

(Barna 2009) **Spiritual Activity** When it comes to church engagement, those who attended Sunday school or other religious programs as children or as teens were much more likely than those without such experiences to attend church and to have an active faith as adults. For instance, among those who frequently attended such programs as a child,

50% said they attended a worship service in the last week, which is slightly higher than the national average and well ahead of those who rarely or never attended children's programs. Among those who frequently attended religious programs as teenagers, 58% said they had attended a worship service in the last week. In comparison, less frequent participation as a teenager correlated with less frequent adult participation.

(NIH 2005) Religion has been identified as having a protective effect against substance use, including for youth (Wallace & Bachman, 1991).

(Science Daily 2014) Source: Baylor University

Summary:

Young people who regularly attend religious services and describe themselves as religious are less likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol, according to a new study.