

IT TAKES FAITHFUL CHILDREN

Psalm 127:3-5

Introduction:

1. A primary purpose of the home as GOD created it is the propagation of the human race.

“So GOD created man in His own image; in the image of GOD He created Him; male and female He created them. Then GOD blessed them, and GOD said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Gen. 1:27, 28).

2. The home as GOD designed it is the ideal place to nurture children.
 - a. Parents provide for their children’s physical needs.
 - b. Parents protect their children from harm.
 - c. Parents prepare their children for life and for eternity.
3. Children add a measure of happiness to life that nothing else can.
 - a. “Children don’t divide a couple’s love. They multiply it.”
 - b. “Babies are such a nice way to start people.”
 - c. “Those who choose not to marry live one third of life; those who marry live two thirds of life; those who marry and have children live a full life” (Batsell Barrett Baxter).
 - d. “No home can be at its best nor enjoy its greatest happiness without children” (R. R. Taylor, Jr., Christ in the Home, p. 191).
 - e. “Children’s children are the crown of old age; and the glory of children is their father” (Prov. 17:6).

Discussion:

I. CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.

- A. The psalmist extolled the blessing of having many children:

“Behold, children are an heritage from the LORD. The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate” (Psa. 127:3-5).

- B. In Bible times, married couples strongly desired children.

1. GOD promised Abraham a son with Sarah, but for many years,

- they were childless (Gen. 12 - 21).
2. Manoah and his wife were childless until God gave them Samson (Judg. 13).
 3. Hannah desired a son to dedicate to the LORD (1 Sam. 1).
 4. Zacharias and Elizabeth were childless but became the parents of John in their old age (Luke 1).

II. PARENTS OWE THEIR CHILDREN MANY THINGS:

- A. Parents owe their children food, clothing and shelter (1 Tim. 5:8).
- B. Parents owe their children a home where love prevails.
 1. “The most important thing a father can do for his children is love their mother” (Theodore Hesburg in The Best Things Ever Said About Parenting).
 2. “Sometimes we’re so concerned about giving our children what we never had growing up, we neglect to give them what we had growing up” (James Dobson, Ibid.).
- C. Parents owe their children training in how to live with others.
 1. Children learn how to get along in life from their family.
 2. Our Savior grew in four ways (Luke 2:52):
 - a. He increased in wisdom - mentally.
 - b. He increased in stature - physically.
 - c. He increased in favor with GOD - spiritually.
 - d. He increased in favor with man - socially.
 3. Discipline is a necessary part of this training (Prov. 13:24)
- D. Parents owe their children training in how to make a living.
 1. The ancient Jews had a saying: “The man who does not teach his son a trade teaches him to be a thief.”
 2. Paul was highly trained in the Law of Moses, but he was also a tentmaker (Acts 22:3; 18:1-3).
 3. Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go (according to his natural bent, talents and temperament) and when he is old he will not depart from it” refers to training a child for the occupation for which he is best suited.
- E. Parents owe their children training in how to live for eternity.

1. Jewish parents taught their children God's Law at every opportunity (Deut. 6:6-9).
2. Fathers are commanded to bring their children up "in the training (discipline) and admonition of the LORD" (Eph. 6:4).

III. CHILDREN OWE THEIR PARENTS MANY THINGS:

A. Children owe their parents obedience.

1. Jesus was subject to Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:51).
2. Under the Law of Moses, a rebellious son could be stoned (Deut. 21:18-21).
3. "Disobedient to parents" was one of the steps into apostasy of the Gentiles (Rom. 1:30).
4. It is one of the sins of the last days (2 Tim. 3:2).
5. "Children, obey your parents in the LORD, for this is right" (Eph. 6:1).

B. Children owe their parents honor and respect.

1. "Honor your father and your mother" was the fifth commandment (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3).
2. Jesus taught this also included caring for parents in their old age (Mark 7:9-13).
3. The wise man said: "Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness" (Prov. 20:20).

C. Children owe their parents gratitude (Rom. 1:21).

1. We owe our lives to our parents.
2. Good parents make untold sacrifices for their children.
3. One never appreciates his parents until he is a parent.

Conclusion:

1. Many have "gained the world, but lost their children" in their efforts to acquire and achieve in this world.
2. Children from the best of families sometimes go into "the far country of sin" like the Prodigal son (Luke 15).
3. Having "faithful children, not accused of dissipation or insubordination" is required of elders, "for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of GOD" (Tit. 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:5)?
4. The beginning point for having a faithful family is to be faithful to the LORD.

