# The role of parents to their children

First of all, we need to understand that children bring great joy to parents as stated there in **Psalm 127:1–5**. Genesis 1:28 also says; "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

# **Proverbs 22:1-6 (Amplified Bible)**

#### **Life and Conduct**

A *good* name [earned by honorable behavior, godly wisdom, moral courage, and personal integrity] is more desirable than great riches; And favor is better than silver and gold.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and poor have a common bond; The Lord is the Maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup> A prudent *and* far-sighted *person* sees the evil [of sin] and hides himself [from it], But the naive continue on and are punished [by suffering the consequences of sin].

<sup>4</sup> The reward of humility [that is, having a realistic view of one's importance] and the [reverent, worshipful] fear of the Lord Is riches, honor, and life.

<sup>5</sup> Thorns and snares are in the way of the obstinate [for their lack of honor and their wrong-doing traps them]: He who guards himself [with godly wisdom] will be far from them *and* avoid the consequences they suffer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's

wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old, he will not depart from it.

#### The four main things that the parents need to know;

- 1. Children are parent's heritage: children are gifts from our Heavenly Father. As the Psalmist said, "Children are a heritage of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3).
- 2. Children are an asset, not a liability: It is vital for parents to understand that producing a child is not a one-time event, but a lifetime responsibility. When earthly parents begin a family by welcoming children into their lifes, they assume responsibility to love them, cherish them, teach them, and lead them to eternal life.
- 3. Children deserve our time and attention:

Positive attention helps your child feel secure and valued. Positive attention is important for your child's self-image and development. You can use everyday moments to give your child positive attention. Proverbs 22:6-8 (KJV) <sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

#### The Importance of Spending Time Together with your children

- It builds children's self-esteem. ...
- It strengthens family bonds. ...
- It develops positive behaviors. ...
- It encourages communication. ...
- It can help your child's academic performance. ...
- It can help your children be a good friend.

# What to Do About an Attention-Seeking Child

- Children who are attention-seeking have a legitimate need. It's our job to teach them how to get it in a legitimate way.
- Catch them being good and immediately give them a compliment
- When they don't quite act right, correct them lovingly and give the assurance to attain success
- Be consistent in approving them when there are right

#### How to show positive attention - all ages

- Look at your child and smile.
- Show interest in what your child is doing ...
- ask your child to tell you about what they like ...
- Pay attention and listen closely when your child talks to you...
- Create some special family rituals you can share with your children like going to a movie or dinner together a certain day of the week
- 4. Children always need our love, our admonition, and commitment Ephesians 6:4: "<sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". If we are parents, we are obligated to love and raise our children according to God's truth. The Bible commands us to invest in our children by nurturing them, helping them develop intellectually, physically, relationally, and spiritually (Psalms 78:2-7). This requires maintaining an intimate relationship with them as they grow.

### Parent' main responsibility to their children

Parents responsibility is to raise godly children who will be the next generation of those who love the Lord with all their hearts (<u>Proverbs</u> 22:6; <u>Ephesians 6:4</u>).

I also sense to exalt the parents and grandparents to take extra time to pray and read scriptures with their children. I believe it is the greatest investment you can leave for them. Often, we find that parents are more dependent on the church, their pastor or even the teachers to teach their children everything.

Most parents unfortunately, are more active with the natural things while ignoring what is the most important of all – THE WORD OF GOD

We see enormous destruction in the families of our nation today. The Scriptures tell us that the enemy comes to kill, steal and destroy. (John 10:10a) There is no doubt in my mind that he is systematically trying to annihilate the biblical family structure. We must remember however, what completes John 10:10, "Jesus has come that we may have life and have it more abundantly" (John10: 10b) Jesus has already come and provided what we need in order to walk in His authority in the earth today.

We have an awesome responsibility as parents to discover our God given potential through the study of the Scriptures and teach them to our children. When we know, live and speak His Word, the enemy must flee. He must bow down to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

The greatest legacy we can leave our children for the battlefields that they face in their generation is to teach them the Word of God and pray with them daily. Deuteronomy instructs, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (Deut. 6:6-9).

Proverbs 4:23 also teach, "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." God is very clear in telling us that the primary things that should be influencing our hearts should be His Word. We can teach and impress them on our children's hearts only if they are truly the primary focus of our own hearts. You and I cannot give what we do not have. While it is necessary to come and bring your children to the house of the Lord regularly, it is more imperative to sit with them yourself and teach them the Word of God. So, moms and dads, are you spending time in the Word of God? Do you wake up early, stay up late or set aside a few minutes in the middle of the day to spend in the Word? Are you accountable to anybody? Your Pastor or Involved in your church? Small group? Whatever it takes do not neglect the Scriptures. We cannot give to our children what we do not ourselves possess.

We are directed to teach the Scriptures to our children. Do you spend time talking about the word of God when you sit with your children at the dinner table? Have they heard your testimony? These are some of the things we must discuss as we recall things that God has done for us. We are to talk about God's Word when we walk along the road. In modern language, that would be while we run our errands, going to the grocery store, to the library, to sports events or to the mall. We are to use that time to constantly teach our children the Word of God. Invest in worship music, or in other great Bible lessons that you all can listen to.

Teach your children to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are to teach God's Word when we lie down, and when we rise up. The

last thing our children should hear before bed, besides "I love you," is verses from Scriptures. The first thing our children should hear in the morning, besides "I love you," is more verses from Scriptures. The Word of God is life! The Word of God should be a constant and consistent part of our day-to-day lives. Our children will know that the Word of God is our number one priority when we exalt Him in these ways. Proverbs 22:6 encourage us to train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.