

# Children Doing What Is Wise !!

## 1. We must lead our children to live a righteous life!

This must be **applied** in the **training** of children for this ought to be our major goal in all we do in rearing our children. (See Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 11:18-22)

When they learn this principle and establish it in their lives, most other areas of training and spiritual development will follow easily.

We must **implant** in our children (youth) the **principle** of righteousness. So, we must **instill** in them the **habit of always doing what is right!** **Doing right** only comes about by repetitive action. It must be **practiced** until it becomes **character!** (See Ephesians 6:1)

- \* It is right to do right!
- \* It is right to be kind!
- \* It is right to read the Bible!
- \* It is right to forgive!
- \* It is right to honor and obey mother and father!
- \* It is right to be respectful!
- \* It is right to be morally pure!
- \* It is right to quickly obey and fulfill duty!

## 2. We must go a step further -- determine to instill righteousness:

It must be the intent of the parents to instill the concept of righteousness into the very *fabric of the child's life*. Righteous living must become the **habit of life**, the very **character** of the person. **Why are lives at risk? Because righteousness is not lived!**

Parents --**Teach righteousness as a precept! Do it by teaching it, saying it, instilling** the thought regularly, consistently, -- "*We always do what is right!*" They need to hear these words thousands of times, and have them repeat the words, "*We always do what is right!*"

Little by little the children need to get the idea *they must always do what is right*. They need to be predisposed to this by **conviction**. And convictions are only built over time. Parents must **be** the **example** of **doing right!**

In daily devotions teach the Scriptures that deal with righteousness. Talk about God's promises to those who do right. "*For thou LORD wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.*" (Psalms 5:12)

Consider the many verses in Proverbs about doing right... daily discuss some verse (s) about the blessings of doing right. Remember: **Repetition is the mother of all learning.** Again I remind you to consider the truths every where you find the word righteous or righteousness in Proverbs chapters 10 through 15.

Children, by their very nature, tend to do what they do because they *want to* or *do not want to*. They tend to be motivated by what is *fun* or *what is not fun*. That is natural because of the sin nature we were born with. We need to instill in them a higher and more spiritual motive.

## 3. One of the deterrents to godliness in our age is a fun morality!

*Doing what we do because it is fun and not doing what we should do -- because it is not fun!* If we all lived for only what is fun. . . the old sinful, wicked nature of ours would lead us into every kind of excess and sinful actions.

Teens are doing a lot of things they call fun -- illicit sex, drinking, drugs, etc., all because they embrace a worldly philosophy of doing what is fun. Our children must learn the commands, the directives from the Word of God about living righteously **early in life**. They should have fun-- but it ought to be fun that pleases the Lord.

Parents -- **You must apply the principle of righteousness**. They must see the practical outworking of living righteously. It must be applied to the *nitty-gritty of life, on a daily basis*. **LIKE:**

- \* Rock music is not right!
  - \* It is right to tell the truth!
  - \* Smoking is not only bad, it is not right.
  - \* It is not right to lie!
  - \* It is right to tell the truth!
  - \* Evolution teaching is not right!
  - \* It is right to read and obey the Bible!
  - \* It is right to treat your sister or brother kindly.
  - \* Cheating is not right!
  - \* It is right to pray!
  - \* It is not right to steal!
  - \* It is not right to have a bad attitude.
  - \* Selfishness is not right!
- Convictions based on the Word of God must be taught constantly.

#### **4. Parents -- You must teach righteousness by your example!**

The present generation of youth are at risk at the hand of parents' neglect! Training is more "*caught than taught!*"

*"Our talk walks, and our walk talks; but our walk talks louder than our talk talks."* Or our example is stronger than our words! What we do speaks louder than what we say. A consistent example will do more to reinforce what we say than about anything else we can ever do.

**5. Parents -- you must teach righteous living "early and long"!** The child must hear early in life what it means to do right. Much of the molding of a child's life is done by the time they are seven. Soon as they understand speech. . instill the Word of God.

An Illustrations: A family taught their children many memory verses by the time they were five. This insulated them from the world's impact. Wisdom and righteousness are concepts in Scripture that are tied together. (See Proverbs 8:1-6) **When we do what is right, we have done what is wise. When we do what is not right, we have done that which is not wise.** Wisdom and righteousness are so closely interrelated that they are almost one and the same. **To be wise is to do what is right and to do what is right is to be wise.** (See Proverbs 4:5-7.)

#### **Conclusions:**

1. God has promised to bless the righteous. Blessing for our children is what we want, so how can we neglect what God commands?
2. Could it be that we have allowed **strongholds of sin** to so **control** us that we find it impossible *to hold the line of right for our children? What a loss!*
3. Could it be that we have neglected the Word of God to such an extent that we don't have the inner spiritual fortitude to teach our children? If so, we must have victory; we must change. **Are your own at risk?**

**Righteousness must become a habit. . . a life-style lived out of a habitual practice of thinking Biblically so then we can live Biblically in action, and in thinking.**