

Six Gifts That Last A Lifetime

A DEVASTATING MYTH

THE MYTH:

A **GODLY HOME** guarantees **GODLY KIDS**.
Proverbs 22:6/ Genesis 3/ Ezekiel 18:20

THE TRUTH:

We have tons of **INFLUENCE** but no **CONTROL**.
Proverbs 21:30-31

SIX GIFTS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

- (1) A strong **MARRIAGE**.
Ephesians 5:22-6:4/ Malachi 2:13-16/ Genesis 2:24

- (2) A **CONSISTENT** example.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7/ Luke 6:40

- (3) Respect for **AUTHORITY**.
Romans 13:1/ 1 Peter 2:13-22/ 1 Corinthians 5:12

- (4) Valuing **CHARACTER** over **PERFORMANCE**.
1 Samuel 16:7/ Mark 8:36/ Matthew 6:33

- (5) A genuine **INTEREST** in their **WORLD**.
Philippians 2:3-5

- (6) Battles picked **WISELY**.
Ephesians 6:4/ Colossians 3:21

Food for Thought for the week of December 2, 2018
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Note to those who aren't in a parenting role: *These questions are written in the context of parenting, but many of the answers also apply to other significant relationships. Answer them in light of any role of leadership or responsibility you may have - or counsel you may need to offer.*

1. Two Old Testament passages give us good insight into God's desires for parenting. In the following passages, jot down the actions and attitudes you see in each one that can relate to parenting.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8 (NIV) - ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress 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. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Psalms 127:3-5 (NIV) - ³Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. ⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

What does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 add to your understanding of the role of a parent?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) - ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

2. Many things in parenting are better "caught" than "taught." In light of that, what would it look like for you to model each of the following passages in such a way that those watching would be inclined to follow your example?

Psalms 119:15-16 (NIV) - ¹⁵I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) - ¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Colossians 3:13 (NIV) - ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

3. Larry talked about how important modeling is in parenting. Take some time to reflect on what you hope your children will catch as they watch what it looks like to know, love and follow Jesus in the following areas...

...serving and putting others first

...forgiving others and owning up to your mistakes

...loving your enemies

...speaking the truth to others

...time with God