

Biblical Child-Rearing — part 6: Evangelizing your Children

1. Foundations
2. Husband's Responsibility
3. Setting the Right Standards

4. Practical Procedure of Disciplining
5. Doctrinal Instruction of Children
6. Evangelizing Your Children

7. Discipline of Older Children

Assumptions

1. That we are believers ourselves. 2 Cor. 13:5; Lk. 6:39
2. That we understand the Gospel clearly ourselves— what it is; what it is not. 1 Cor. 15.
3. We have a simple and robust confidence in the Word of God. —How is it that God saves?
 - we believe God uses His word. He speaks through His word.
 - we are serious about our children hearing the word and being instructed in it.
 - "Law & Gospel" Gal. 3:24; Rom. 7:7ff

Pitfalls

1. We must be very careful to not "twist our kids arms."
 - again, understanding the gospel is crucial here
 - e.g., we can fairly easily talk our kids into "asking Jesus into their heart," to "pray a prayer"
 - we cannot talk them into repenting and believing the gospel
 - said another way, we are not trying to "get them to do something"
 - our confidence is in the truth of the word of God brought to their hearts by the Spirit of truth
2. We must not give our children a false assurance that they are Christians.
 - We must be careful to not "talk ourselves into" the idea that they are Christians.
 - Is there fruit? (cf. 1 John; Gal 5:22-23; Matt. 5:1-12)
 - we should expect conversion to look the same in our children as it did in us.
 - i.e., it should look like the Scriptures describe it (2 Cor. 5:17).
 - it will not do to merely refer them back to a past "decision"

Guidelines

1. We teach them from earliest years that they need a new heart; that this requires a work of God.
2. We raise them in an environment of law and love (a well-ordered home is critical).
3. We trust God to use His word in their hearts. This keeps us from the temptation to "pressure" them.
4. We pray for them and with them; we wait to see God work in them.