

# VI. GODLY PARENTS PRODUCE GODLY KIDS.

-- DISCUSSION Q'S: --

## INTRODUCTION

Children are a great gift and great responsibility from God. We are called to be stewards of what God has given us. We are to raise our children to know about God and to understand His ways. But we have to remember that Proverbs isn't a book of promises, and Pr. 22:6 does not mean Godly homes produce Godly kids.

## DISCUSSION

What do you think it was like for your parent(s) to raise you? Were you an easy or difficult child?

## EXPLANATION

Talk about someone you admire as a parent and why.

If you are a parent, share your personal experience regarding your child's/children's success and struggles. Do you resemble one of the fictitious families portrayed in the message?

If you are not a parent, did the sermon change your outlook on parenting and family dynamics?

## APPLICATION - Read Galatians 1:6-7.

Have you ever felt superior due to the positive outcome of your Godly actions? What do we have to be cautious about in regard to understanding and interpreting the book of Proverbs?

How does this change the way we support families struggling with spiritual, behavioral, and/or psychological issues?

## MISSION

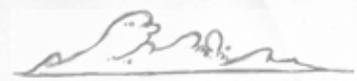
How would you encourage or explain the Gospel to someone struggling with false hope, unwarranted guilt or shame, or a sense of self-sufficiency and self-satisfaction?

As a GC, pray for each other's families: for wisdom in regard to parenting, praise for the successes God has given, and encouragement for those struggling with guilt, shame, or superiority.

Read Hosea 1-3

### HOMEWORK:

If you are going through a hardship right now, why are you there? Did God put you there? What are you learning in this hardship?



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## TODAY'S VERSES:

## MY NOTES:

- Ezekiel 18:20
- John 15:1-2
- Psalms 127:3
- Psalms 78:4-7
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-17
- Proverbs 22:6
- Ezekiel 18:20
- Proverbs 22:15
- Jeremiah 17:9
- Romans 3:10-12
- 1 Peter 2:21
- Ephesians 2:3
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-10
- 1 Peter 5:5
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-9
- Revelation 7:10
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- Philippians 4:6

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

[ourelement.org/events](http://ourelement.org/events)



**FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT** 9/2 - 4pm \$10

**FAMILY GEOCACHING EXTRAVEGANZA**

Sunday, September 29  
Start at Element at 2p  
<http://goo.gl/XnnsJK>  
Signup by 9/22

**BAPTISMS**

NEXT Sunday, 9/1 - 1pm  
1371 Solomon Road

Last Name:

A-L - Desserts

M-Z - Salad  
or Side Dish



## VI. GODLY PARENTS PRODUCE GODLY KIDS.

-- SERMON NOTES --

**Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Children are a great gift and great responsibility from God. We are called to be stewards of what God has given us. (Psalm 78:4-7) We are to raise our children to know about God and to understand His ways.

Strong Christian families who parent well can find themselves with wayward children. This can result in either being riddled with guilt and shame over their wayward children for some, and for others, a confident sense of hope for their wayward children returning to a life of following God. Why? What gives?

Surprisingly, these vastly different emotions are both based on the same core assumption: the belief that a good and godly home guarantees good and godly kids. Some interpret that to mean that their home was far more messed up than they had realized. Others interpret it to mean that their children have to come back to the faith someday.

### Where Did We Get This Idea?

Like many other spiritual urban legends, the idea that a godly home guarantees godly kids finds its source in a well-known, but widely misunderstood, Bible verse. In this case, it's Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Many people seem to think this verse promises that a child raised correctly will come back to the Lord eventually. But, that's not what it says.

### Proverbs Aren't Promises.

They are observations about how life generally works. The observations are far from universal. The righteous are not always honored. The wicked sometimes succeed. The diligent can lose it all, and the lazy can strike it rich!

The idea of this proverb: being a Godly responsible parent has a better outcome of children, who continue on as followers of God. In this case, not many will depart from their spiritual

roots, but some will. That's why shame and guilt are so unwarranted. Wayward offspring are no more proof that the parenting was the cause of turning away than the untimely death of a young Christian is proof that he or she must have been living a secret life of sin and wickedness.

Confidence that children will one day return to the Lord is equally unwarranted. It's not based on anything God said or promised in the Bible. Proverbs 22:6 would indicate never turning away, not returning!! Believing otherwise gives the enemy a foothold from which to attack our faith and sets us up to be angry at God if these wayward children never come back. Buying into a lie may bring some temporary comfort.

Remember that this is a proverb. So, it's not saying that a properly raised child will never rebel. It's merely saying that he's unlikely to do so. In the case of those who do walk away from the Lord, this passage and the rest of the Bible are silent about their odds of returning.

The choices and lifestyles of grown children provide no conclusive evidence about the quality of the parenting provided. Eventually, all will have to answer to God for their own choices, and parents will be held accountable for how they raised their children, not how their children turned out.

This lie, as with most others, is spiritually dangerous. If we buy into it, we become vulnerable to three things that are never part of God's plan: unwarranted guilt, foolish spiritual pride, and false hope. Biblical Hope is a place of rest, peace and confidence that has its source in the character and revealed history of God's working (1 Peter 1:21, 2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

### Not saying parenting does not matter!

The whole Bible makes it clear that parents and parenting matters. We just finished up over a year and a half in Genesis, and saw the impact of parenting. The New Testament also makes it clear that passing the spiritual torch should be a top concern for every Christian parent. Nothing says that more than the requirement that those who offer leadership in the church must first have their household in order. (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

Parenting is a tough job. Advice is easy. So is critique. But, for those of us in the midst of the battle, it's not so simple. Rather than preening in pride and casting harsh judgments or being overcome by unwarranted guilt and shame or buying into a faith wrecking hope that is not founded in God, we simply need to cast aside the myth that produces these harmful responses and live in light of the truth. As parents, we do have a sacred responsibility for how we raise our kids, but understand their salvation is not based on how good or bad we are as parents. Their salvation is not in our hands, and we thank God for that because we would have surely messed it up. We need to be praying and calling out to God to help us parent and to fight for our children.