

Parents & Children

by Bill Crews

When the union of a husband and a wife is blessed with a child, something unique and special has come into their lives:

1. Something that will make demands upon their time and attention that they never thought possible (they will wonder what they did with their time “before the baby came”).
2. Something that will be more expensive than they ever thought possible (babies do not come free, and the bills are just beginning).
3. Something that will more and more become part of their lives and call forth their deepest devotion (babies are so easy to love and so hard to lose).

But that is not all! far from it! A baby is so precious and so helpless, but so impressionable. A little child is so sweet and so innocent, but so easily influenced. Little ones are not accountable, but time will soon change that — and their parents had better get them ready for it! Babies become people, adults — the result of the mold into which their parents, their peers, their environment, and their own decisions cast them. Only God knows how great, in the case of any given child, is the role of the child’s parents.

(However, more and more in our land are having to grow up without the benefit of parents, or without the benefit of two parents; is there any hope for them?) A baby is also:

1. A CHALLENGE that parents must ACCEPT.
2. AN OPPORTUNITY that parents must USE.
3. A RESPONSIBILITY that parents must MEET.
4. A TRIAL that parents must ENDURE.
5. A TRUST that parents must KEEP.

As parents God wants you to be concerned about more than the physical and mental and social development of your children. He insists that you also be concerned about their moral and spiritual development. He requires you to set good examples for them, to lead the way in being right and doing right, to be Christians (isn’t every child that comes into this world entitled to have parents that are Christians?), to teach them His word, and to insist that they do right, be moral, have integrity, be dependable, be responsible, and treat others justly.

God said to Israelite parents: *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (Deuteronomy 6:6- 7, ASV).

The New Testament says: *“And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4, ASV). Do all that you can to help them to become and be Christians and to reach heaven.

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