

A Child in Your Hands

by Bill Crews

No one has a right to beget or conceive a child who is not willing and able to accept the responsibility of providing for and rearing that child.

Fathers are commanded: *"Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:4). A qualified bishop is described as *"one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence"* (1 Tim. 3:4). He is to have *"faithful children, not accused of dissipation or insubordination"* (Titus 1:6). Deacons are to rule *"their children and their own houses well"* (1 Tim. 3:12). Young women are to be admonished by the older women *"to love their children"* (Titus 2:3-4). The enrolled widow must be one who has *"brought up children"* (1 Tim. 5:9-10). And Paul wrote, *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever"* (1 Tim. 5:8).

God is concerned about our roles as parents. He knows our potential, our limitations, and our opportunities. He knows our attitudes and intents; He considers the efforts we put forth; and He observes the fruit of our labors. We have the instructions of His holy word, and, as Christians, we have His promises, His providence and constant access to prayer.

Few responsibilities in life exceed in challenge and demand that which becomes ours when a child is placed in our hands. Every parent of a child has God-given duties toward that child: to love in word and deed and truth, to protect from harm, to provide with the necessities of life, to present a good example to follow, to teach right from wrong, to equip to fill a useful place in life. Any parent who is a Christian has the duty to so teach, to so influence, to so mold, if possible, his child that that child will choose to become and be a Christian when accountability is reached. In some cases, even when parents have done all they could and failed in nothing, children may either refuse to become Christians or serve the Lord for but a while and then forsake Him. But in other cases, when children either never become Christians or only live as Christians for a while, it is clearly due, in part, to failures on the part of their parents. If you still have children in your hands, be certain that this is not the case!

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