

10 Things I Am Teaching My Children

Intro:

- A. **ILL** – Consistent studies are finding that around 75%-80% of you will walk away from the Lord (resulting in the loss of your soul).
- B. **ILL** – Consistent studies are find that 50% of you will walk away from your marriage.
- C. Every person in here is going to leave a legacy – What kind of legacy will you leave?
- D. **ILL** – Charlie Hedges writes a story in his book, *Getting the Right Things Right*, I witnessed a sad event about ten years ago while attending a celebration to honor a man for twenty-five years of leadership in a major Christian organization. Part of the program was a slide show depicting the man’s accomplishments and service all across the United States. The slides showed him in various cities and states, speaking, shaking hands, and being generally quite grand. Mixed in, as an attempt to commend his dedicated wife, were occasional slides of her and the kids, at home – without him. As the presentation continued, it became embarrassingly apparent that this great Christian leader was also an absentee husband and father. At the conclusion of the slide show, it was the man’s turn to do what he does best, to speak. I will never forget the moment he stepped up to the podium. He was in tears as he said, “*I never really knew what a poor husband and father I have been.*”
- E. Here’s father who came to realize late in life that he needed to change his legacy.
- F. Question: Are you planning on leaving a legacy of faith for your children and grandchildren? (It’s what **Ps. 127** & **Prov. 31** is about. It’s Timothy’s mother & grand)

I Want My Children:

- 1. To Know and Respect the Word of God
 - A. I know my children will probably not uphold God Holy Word higher than what their dad and mom do – so we must articulate how much we know and respect the Word of God.
 - B. Do they hear us revere God’s Word like David?
 - 1. **Psalm 119:14-15** *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.*
 - 2. **Psalm 119:47** *for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.*
 - 3. **Psalm 119:97** *Oh how I love your law. It is my meditation all the day.*
 - 4. **Psalm 119:127** *Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.*

- C. I fear that we have indirectly trained our children to revere prayer in our homes and churches more than the reading and study of God's Holy Word!
- D. **ILL** – Two thousand years ago a little, old man sat in a cold prison cell writing on a piece of parchment...The government which imprisoned him was one of the most powerful the world has ever known. It ruled from India to Spain and from the Sahara desert to distant Britain. The prison house was made of stone and built to last forever. One day the dungeon was opened, the apostle Paul was taken up, led a short distance from Rome and his head was severed from his body. His spirit, released from this prison house of the flesh, went home to be with the Lord whom he loved and served. That government has already passed into history. That prison house has crumbled back to dust. The name of the executioner is forgotten. The body of Paul has long since returned to dust. But the words Paul wrote on that parchment have been alive through almost two millennia. They have brought comfort, hope and inspiration to untold millions of earth inhabitants (George DeHoff).
- E. Never forget – **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – “All Scripture...” The Word of God is OF God – respect it!

2. To Be Dedicated Christians

- A. It's not near enough to be church-goers/pew sitters!
- B. More dedicated to the Lord's church than to the school band or student council
- C. More dedicated to Christ's commands than to education
- D. More dedicated to loving the lost than loving sports
- E. More dedicated to sharing their faith than to share their thoughts on Facebook
- F. More dedicated to the Cross than to making a name in this world
- G. More dedicated to serving others than to making a million dollars
- H. More dedicated to respectful manners than to making all A's
- I. Paul expressed this thought of dedication - **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ..."

I Want My Children:

3. To Have an Answer for the Hope Within Them

- A. **1 Peter 3:15** *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect*
- B. **ILL.** I ask the question..."Were there cavemen millions of years ago?"
- C. Questions like:
 - 1. Why am I here?
 - 2. How did I get here?
 - 3. What must I do to be saved?
 - 4. Did we evolve from ape-like creatures?
 - 5. Is Jesus the only path to salvation?
 - 6. Why the Bible and **not** other "holy books"?
 - 7. Dinosaurs and the Bible—how does that work?
 - 8. Is the earth millions or thousands or years old?
 - 9. Who is God and how do I know He exists?
 - 10. What about human suffering?

4. To Be Willing To Stand Alone

- A. The idea is - when everyone else is going to an immoral or unhealthy movie or school activity – I choose to stand alone.
- B. **ILL** – Young lady in youth group (S. Gower). She was always at the area-wide or Tuesday night Bible Study when none of her friends were. When all the kids at the High School were out on Friday night doing things against her convictions, she stayed at home.
- C. Examples: David, Daniel, Jesus, Apostles
- D. **Matthew 26:56** *Then all the disciples left him and fled.*
- E. **ILL.** 16 year old young man named Joel Northrup who, due to his convictions, bowed out of an Iowa state wrestling match in February of 2011 because he was matched up with a female. Joel's family convictions taught him not to touch a girl in that manner. Joel's mother stated the following, "It's go-along, get-along versus principled decisions," Jamie Northrup said. "Very few parents I know would tell their kids to just go along and get along with everything. But the spirit of the age says do whatever the popular current is. Whereas a principled approach, doing what the core foundations of what someone believes, is not necessarily a popular thing to do right now.

I Want My Children:

5. To Wisely Know that There are Times When it's Okay to Quit

- A. My observations have been that many of us Christian parents encourage our children to take up athletics, band, drama, academic clubs, Tae Kwon Do, gymnastics or something else of interest (most of which are neutral activities). Depending on the circumstances it sometimes gets too demanding and starts taking a toll on the individual or family. And sometimes we'll even make a change if grades really start to slip, but we seem to overlook the spiritual toll that is taking place. (Too tired to make it for Bible class, missing great church activities, missing family play and worship time, etc.) And for the sake of a flawed principle, which is, "We don't want them to be a quitter" we continue on at the cost of their spiritual health. We will go to ends of the earth if our child gets physically sick or hurt...but are we evaluating their spirits?
- B. Brothers and Sisters, if God is not coming first in our families – it's not just okay to quit, it is expected of Him that we quit!
- C. **Colossians 3:17** *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- D. ILL – Paula's (Valley Spring, CA) son (8 years old) when he quit the ball game and left the team with one less required player to go to Wed. Bible study. As he walked out the parents were getting all over him about it.
- E. **Matthew 16:24** *"If anyone wishes to come after me..."* self-denial means quitting some things that are becoming Idols
- F. For the child of God, Jesus first, period!

6. To Understand that it's All Going to Burn

- A. **2 Peter 3:10-12** *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*
- B. **Matthew 6:19-20** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- C. I see children who love their phones and gadgets more than the study and worship of God Almighty!
- D. The question is: In our families, where do our homes, cars, clothes and tech devices rank when it comes to God and eternity?

I Want My Children:

7. **To Wait for the Season of Marriage to Find a Committed Christian Mate**

- A. Short history on dating – historians point to the late 1800’s and early 1900’s as the introduction to dating in America. Prior to this, courtship was the normal practice – where a young man would get to know a young woman, under the watchful eye of the parents, with the intention of getting married. Dating pulled this system out of the young ladies home, away from mom and dad which lead to the modern idea of “build intimacy with as many guys or girls as you can to see which one fits you best.”
- B. When you mix in the immaturity (frontal cortex) of young people in general, plus, the “lust of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life,” hormones, and lastly, the sexual culture of today – you have a receipt for disaster – it easily turns into what is call “**divorce practice**”.
- C. Perhaps God would have us think differently about this issue of dating.
- D. Michael Farris, in his book, *What a Daughter Needs from Her Dad*, talks about how intimate relationships are reserved for the season of life when both you and the young man are prepared to be married.
- E. “As your daughter approaches the years when it is appropriate to have a relationship that contemplates possible marriage, a father’s involvement in helping to check out a potential suitor is particularly crucial. A father shouldn’t make the choice for a spouse – the daughter should. But his insights and counsel are critical.” (pg. 84)
- F. How different from the world would it be for the parents to help their son or daughter pick out a spouse that would meet the expectations of **Ephesians 5 & 1 Peter 3** – submission, sacrificial giving, love, respect, modesty, gentleness, honor, etc.?

8. **To Maintain a Strong Prayer Life**

- A. We want them to “*pray without ceasing!*” **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
- B. When our children see and hear us plead with God and praise God on a daily basis – we are showing them our faith! (the opposite is true as well)

- C. **ILL** – After Rudy died – my thoughts while we were hurrying to be with my mother-in-law was – “I want my children to see and hear where their mom and dad are going to put their faith – in God!” We prayed in the car and numerous times everyday for the next few weeks.
- D. Prayer is the expression of our relationship with God!
9. **To Never Be Satisfied with Their Holiness**
- A. **1 Peter 1:15-16** *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy*
- B. **Ephesians 5:1-3** *Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*
- C. John RW Stott – English theologian, states, "Vision begins with a holy discontent with the way things are..."
- D. A legacy of faith begins with a holy discontent with the way things are...
- E. Christians, we should take constant inventory of our walk with God, asking ourselves, “What can I give up for God today?” and “How can I imitate my Father better today?”
10. **To Stay Focused on Heaven During the Happy Times as Well as the Sad Times**
- A. Our circumstances do not determine where we spend eternity – it is our choice!
- B. Heaven should be a part of our homes, our conversations and our goals in life.
- C. **ILL** – Where are we going? HEAVEN!
- D. **2 Timothy 4:7-8** should be our theme! *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*
- E. **ILL**. When Micah (5-6yrs) was sick and throwing up one Thanksgiving "I just want to go to Heaven right now!"
- F. We are sojourners, pilgrims, resident aliens! **1 Peter 2:11**
- G. Question: What messages are sending the world? Do we spend more time and energy fixing up our earthly home than preparing for our eternal home?

Conclusion:

- **ILL.** - Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite – Morning of 1888 he awoke to find his own obituary in the newspaper by mistake. Nobel's brother was the one who had died – reporter had carelessly reported the wrong death. Nobel was shocked – not only to see his own obit but also to see himself as the world saw him – “The Dynamite King” – a man who had made an immense fortune from creating explosives and weapons of war – pictured as a “**merchant of death.**” Nobel vowed that morning that he would spend the remainder of his life changing that image and working for peace. His last will and testament left his vast fortune to honor those who have benefited mankind. One of those recognitions is the **Nobel Peace Prize**. (*Basic Training – by Randy Simmons, pg. 33.*)
- **Will you choose this day to raise a strong Christian family and start or carry on a legacy of faith?**