

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Raising Kids That Count

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2331

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Psalm 112:2
- b) Our chief desire for our children should not be that they be wealthy or famous or praised, but that they will love the Lord Jesus Christ and count in His cause.
 - i) That they will be people who will count for God.
- c) There are certain gifts that we can give our children.
 - i) The book of Proverbs tells us about these gifts.
 - ii) If you would want a gifted child, then today's message will mention seven of these gifts that you can give to your children.

2) GIVE THEM AN EXAMPLE (PROVERBS 1:7-9)

- a) Proverbs 1:7-9
 - i) Those who do not learn to respect God will not have a modicum of genuine knowledge.
 - ii) The chains mentioned in verse nine are not iron chains but beautiful gold chains.
- b) Proverbs 20:7
 - i) Your children will learn more from your lifestyle than they will from your words.
 - (1) You need to give them a godly example.
- c) You do not have to pretend perfection with your children.
 - i) They already know you're not perfect.
 - ii) If you try to pretend perfection, then you will come across as a phony.
 - iii) Your children don't want to know that you're perfect, but that you're real and genuine.
- d) Children will watch to see how their parents handle their own mess-ups and failures.
- e) There are many things that children cannot learn any other way than from their parents through demonstration.
 - i) They can't learn them in school.
 - ii) They can't learn them in Sunday school.
 - iii) Many parents are interested in their children's sports, grades, popularity and ability, but what about their character?
 - (1) There are many character traits that they will not learn in school and that their parents need to demonstrate to them:
 - (a) Contentment
 - (b) Courage
 - (c) Courtesy
 - (d) Discernment
 - (e) Fairness
 - (f) Friendliness
 - (g) Generosity
 - (h) Gentleness

- (i) Helpfulness
- (j) Honesty
- (k) Humility
- (l) Kindness
- (m) Obedience
- (n) Orderliness
- (o) Patience
- (p) Persistence
- (q) Self-control
- (r) Tact
- (s) Thankfulness
- (t) Tidiness
- (u) Wisdom

(2) The above character traits are not so much taught as they are caught.

f) We owe to our kids an example.

3) GIVE THEM UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (PROVERBS 4:1-4)

a) Proverbs 4:1-4

b) We need to give our kids love that is totally unconditional.

c) Men who had fathers who did not love them do not really know how to give love to their kids.

i) They have to be taught.

ii) We need a generation of men today who will mentor other men who never had a father to actually give them love.

(1) We have to break the cycle.

d) Unconditional love does not mean that you give a child everything he wants.

i) That is not really love at all.

ii) True love is not giving someone what they want but what they need.

iii) But there must be unconditional acceptance, regardless of the child's misbehavior.

(1) "I may not accept what you do, but I accept you."

(2) They need to know that they are accepted so that they won't be afraid to come to you when they are in trouble.

e) Love must be expressed not merely in words but also in actions.

i) Hug your children.

ii) Luke 15:20

iii) Unfortunately, we have a generation of kids today who associate physical touching with sexual intimacy.

(1) They need to see beyond this.

iv) Charles Swindoll writes that unaffectionate dads, without wishing to do so, can trigger a daughter's promiscuity.

(1) Parents should not hold back their affection from their children.

(2) Demonstrate love and affection to both sons and daughters.

f) Show your love to your children by sympathy.

- i) You may think that the problems your kids have are not big problems compared to yours, but they are big to the kids; and that's what matters.
 - ii) Cry with them when they hurt.
- 4) GIVE THEM CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT (PROVERBS 3:21-26)
- a) Proverbs 3:21-26
 - i) In this passage, Solomon was encouraging his son.
 - b) When we regularly encourage a child, we are giving that child confidence.
 - i) We are blessing that child.
 - c) Children need encouragement like a plant needs water.
 - d) Rather than trying to catch children doing something wrong, try to catch them doing something right.
 - i) Let your speech be positive, not always negative.
 - e) There is a difference between praise and encouragement.
 - i) We often praise a child for something they have done.
 - (1) For instance, for getting all A's or for winning a ballgame.
 - (a) Praise is often based on achievement.
 - ii) When we encourage a child, we might say, "I know you didn't make straight A's, but I saw you study and do your homework, and I'm grateful for that. I really believe that you tried your best."
 - (1) Encouragement says, "I love you and am grateful for you, not necessarily because you achieved, but because of who you are."
- 5) GIVE THEM WISE INSTRUCTION (PROVERBS 2:1-7)
- a) Proverbs 2:1-7
 - i) The "her" in verse 4 is knowledge.
 - b) Proverbs 22:6
 - c) Wise instruction is always joined to training.
 - d) Especially when children are small, it is always good to have family worship.
 - i) One of the simplest and easiest forms of family worship is to let one of the children choose a Proverb for that particular day, read it, and then let that child explain what he thinks it means.
 - (1) Then, everyone else can join in and discuss it.
 - ii) When children learn the Proverbs and have to think about that they mean, that is distilled wisdom.
 - (1) It is a nugget of truth that they can carry with them to school or to work.
 - e) No one ever learned how to play football by merely reading a book.
 - i) You have to train to play football.
 - ii) Likewise, we are to train up a child.
 - f) The prime educational institution is the home.
 - g) Many young people in churches today don't believe in a fixed standard of right and wrong.

- i) Many Christian parents believe that it is a disgrace that the Ten Commandments are not allowed in America's schools, but they don't even have them posted in their own homes.
 - ii) Our children will not know the difference between right and wrong unless we give them wise instruction joined with training.

- 6) GIVE THEM REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS (PROVERBS 6:20-23)
 - a) Proverbs 6:20-23
 - b) We encourage our children to set goals for themselves, but we also need to give them limitations.
 - i) There are some things that need to be denied.
 - ii) There are restrictions.
 - (1) God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and He gave them some restrictions.
 - c) Limitations don't bind a child.
 - i) They actually set him free.
 - d) When we give children limitations or restrictions, they will naturally push against them.
 - i) If those restrictions give way, then that child will have no confidence.
 - (1) He will feel unloved if those restrictions move.
 - e) If we don't put limitations on a child, then he will allow someone else to do so.
 - i) No limitations on a child implies that we have rejected that child.
 - (1) This is why so many children are conquered by someone else.
 - f) In today's society, limitations are sometimes looked upon as something bad.
 - i) As parents, we need to stop trying to win popularity contests and do what is best for our children.
 - g) There is no need to make a lot of little rules.
 - i) Make a few big ones, and keep them.

- 7) GIVE THEM A LISTENING EAR (PROVERBS 18:13-15)
 - a) Proverbs 18:13-15
 - i) The word "infirmity" in this passage means "weakness."
 - b) We must be willing to listen when our children want to talk.
 - i) We have to be ready when they're ready, and we have to make the time.
 - c) Take your children or grandchildren out to dinner.
 - i) Make an opportunity for them to talk.
 - d) Never be too busy to listen to your child, especially a teenager.

- 8) GIVE THEM A HAPPY ENVIRONMENT (PROVERBS 15:13-17)
 - a) Proverbs 15:13-17
 - i) A vegetable plate is better than a steak dinner if you have love, joy and happiness.
 - b) Let your home be filled with laughter and fun.

- c) When raising kids, be firm, be fair and be fun.
- d) When a person's spirit is broken, then the spark, the zest, the enthusiasm and the fight are gone.
- e) The Bible warns against coarse, unclean laughter.
 - i) Ephesians 5:4
- f) Genesis 21:6
 - i) God believes in laughter.
 - ii) God gave Sarah a son named Isaac.
 - (1) The name "Isaac" means "laughter."
- g) We need to learn to laugh at ourselves.

9) CONCLUSION

- a) You can have a gifted child if you will give your child these seven gifts.
- b) Ideally, God wants everyone to have three homes:
 - i) A family home.
 - ii) A church home.
 - iii) A Heavenly home.
- c) Jesus is the greatest home builder.
 - i) Satan is the greatest home wrecker.
- d) Jesus is the key to all three homes.
 - i) You have to know the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16