

DO YOU LOVE YOUR CHILDREN?

Introduction:

1. The Premise

A) Children are a gift from the Lord

- > God's intention in creation (Gen 1:27-28)
- > God's involvement in the gifting of children (Ps 127:3-5; Ps 139:13-16)
- > The impact of sin upon being fruitful and multiplying

B) All children are little sinners

- > Sin is rebellion ... rebellion against God
 - Rebellion against God's design of headship / submission (Romans 1:28-30; 2 Tim 3:1-2)
- > The Significance?
 - Children don't need behavior modification they need a heart transformation!

C) All parents are big sinners

- > We also rebel against God's authority as parents
 - We believe that our children are "ours" ... in fact they are God's
 - We raise them to glorify "us" ... in fact they are to glorify God
 - We discipline them to make our lives easier

2. How Do We Love our Children ... according to God?

A) Love God – with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength

- > The great blessing of a Christian home

B) Evangelize them – with the gospel of Jesus Christ

> Just because the parents love the Lord doesn't mean that the children will (Judges 2:6-7)

And if they reject the Lord they will know His judgment (Judges 2:10-15)

> Our children must be brought under the authority of God – and that requires regeneration

C) Teach them – the wisdom of God

> God's plan for Israel (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

> The wisdom literature assumes a parent's instruction (Proverbs 1:8-9; 2:1-8; 3:1-6; 4:1-7; etc.)

> God's plan for us (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Teach them to obey their mother / father (Ephesians 6:1)

Teach them to honor their mother / father (Ephesians 6:2)

D) Discipline them – the plan of God

> God, the perfect parent, provides an example for us to follow (Hebrews 12:5-11)

> Loving our children requires that we discipline our children

Prov 13:24 - He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Prov 22:15 - Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Prov 23:13-14 - Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Prov 29:15 - The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Prov 29:17 - Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

> What is God's opinion of a disrespectful / disobedient child? (Deut 21:18-21)

APPLICATION: The goal is parenting is really quite simple ... incredibly profound

According to God's enablement, I want to have children and raise them to love Him and serve Him

Like Hannah, I seek to glorify God and bless His people through my offspring