

Myth 3 Godly Home Guarantees Godly Kids

Sunday Oct 4, 2009

As we grow in Christ, we are to continue to aim for what is true! If in the past, we measured truth against whatever sounded right to us at the time, we now have the sure measurement of God's Word and Jesus Christ himself. We can reevaluate our beliefs...Who is God? Who am I?

In Chapter 3, Larry Osborne explains how some Christian parents interpret Proverbs 22:6 as a wonderful *promise* concerning their children. Proverbs are King Solomon's observations about how 'life' *generally turns out!* Osborne points out that Proverbs 22:6 is not an absolute *promise* of how it turns out every time. Osborne continues to explain that parents who buy into this *myth* may become extremely disappointed and even bitter towards God when their sons and daughters turn out to be anything but model Christians. Similarly, some people, with good and godly sons and daughters, like to take credit for the successful upbringing of their children. When all is going well, these '*successful*' parents puff up with pride, as if their sons and daughters godliness was their accomplishment. Often times, they fail to give God the glory and gratitude. Osborne quickly points out that Christian parents should not be discouraged from doing their best parenting—all with God's ever-present help and guidance. As parents, we have a sacred responsibility for how we raise our sons and daughters! All praise, honor and glory to the triune God of grace!

1. If you had to assign percentages to the things that most influence our personality and character, what would you put down for each of the following and why?
 - a) Genetics _____ % Why?
 - b) Environment _____ %Why?
 - c) Choices _____ %Why?
2. What results from having been raised in a dysfunctional family?
3. Read and discuss the implications of Proverbs 21:31 in our lives.
4. The letter to Ephesians reminds us that when we trust God as our Savior, he adopts us into a new family. Read through Ephesians 6:1-4 [Children and Parents]. What do these verses say to us as members of a family (parents, children, brothers, sisters)?

5. In Deuteronomy, God gives the subject of rebuilding broken lives his full attention—a handbook for rebuilders! Read through Deuteronomy 6: 5-7 [Passing on the Blessings of God’s Word to our children]. How do these verses apply to “raising up” our children?

6. When we refuse to turn from temptation and embrace God’s power for change, what happens? Read through 1 Samuel 2:22-25; 30-36; 1 Samuel 4:14-18 [Eli’s Life] and discuss your findings?

7. Ezekiel carried the message of judgment to a people who did not want to hear it. The people of Judah could no longer deny their sins, and they turned to God for help. Even if we suffer terrible consequences for our failures and sins, we can be sure that if we repent, God will forgive us. Read [Ezekiel 18:1-20] and discuss the lessons we learn for raising up our children.

8. Luke 15:11-32 [The Lost Son]