

## A Parent's Assignment (Mission)

## Proverbs 22:6

### \* Questions ---

> What is the ultimate goal of a Godly parent in raising his child?

\* In present days, goals for children often center in four areas;

- 1) Their Partner (*Who will they marry?*)
- 2) Their Profession (*What will they do?*)
- 3) Their Prosperity (*How will they live?*)
- 4) Their Popularity (*Will they be liked?*)

\* These all have to do with “*issues of life.*”

\* There are **no verses** admonishing us to pursue these goals in the lives of our children.

\* In fact, we are told not to make them a priority!  
Matthew 6:25 “*Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?***”

### \* **Scriptural Truth:**

These “*issues of life*” are the “*result*” of meeting scriptural goals in the life of your child.

Note: A proper goal has to do with the development of the “**heart**” of the child.

Proverbs 23:7 “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*”

Proverbs 4:23 “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the **issues of life.***”

- > It makes no difference;
  - How smart he is...
  - How strong he is...
  - How successful he is...
  - How sociable he is...

\* If His Heart is Not Right! \*

> Do you want to raise “*good*” children or “*godly*” children?

— Characteristics of “*Good*” children:

1. Courteous (They maintain their beliefs quietly)
2. Conscientious (They hold their positions as long as they do not cause trouble)
3. Considerate (They will easily yield to someone who disagrees to avoid offending them, even regarding doctrine)

\* These are all commendable character traits which demonstrate a desire to “*do right*”. However “*good*” children are often “*passive*”, which aids them in staying out of trouble. Hence, they are “*good*” children.

\* They are often the advocates of “*tolerance*”.

— Characteristics of “*Godly*” children:

1. Committed (They hold their beliefs very strongly)
2. Consecrated (They will pay a price for what they believe)
3. Confrontational (Not with arrogance or unkindness)
  - \* A “*Godly*” child will actively and eagerly proclaim the truth.
  - \* Their conviction will compel them to defend their beliefs.

> Will there be a regression of spirituality in future generations?

Normal Sequence:

- \* 1st Generation - Emphasis - Godly
  - > Result - Committed
- \* 2nd Generation - Emphasis - Good
  - > Result - Courteous
- \* 3rd Generation - Emphasis - Greed
  - > Result - Corrupt

What causes this digression?

- \* Three obstacles parents have to overcome;
  1. Doubt - (uncertainty)
    - a. Regarding the Applicability of the Scripture.
      - I.e.. ...Times have changed.
      - ...Kids have changed.
      - ...What used to work will not work today.
    - b. Regarding the Ability of the Son
      - Note: We should be very careful about making excuses for our children's wrongdoing.
      - I.e. ...Teachers expect too much of my child.
      - ...My child's needs are unique.
    - > This "doubt" will lead to;
  2. Disobedience
    - Note: If a parent is not convinced of the veracity of Bible principle or does not feel his child is capable the result will be disobedience.
    - > This "disobedience" ultimately results in;

### 3. Disappointment

- \* What we had hoped for in the beginning is not what we attained.

- \* Four Primary Goals in the spiritual maturity of a young person;
- \* Remember, scriptural training of a child has to do with...
  - >> Developing the heart!!
- \* What is the heart composed of?
- \* It is the seat of the...
  - a. Will
  - b. Intellect
  - c. Emotions

#### I. Shape his Desire (*Emotion*)

- > What does he love?
- > What do you love?
  - A. Passions
    - Colossians 3:2 "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*"
  - B. Priorities
    - Matthew 6:21 "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"

#### II. Sharpen his Discernment (*Intellect*)

- A. Consciousness
  - 1 Kings 3:9 "*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*"
  - Job 6:30 "*Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?*"
- B. Conviction (*Decision*)
  - The ability to make righteous choices.

### **III. Strengthen his Determination** (*Will*)

Daniel 1:8a *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.”*

#### A. Character (Inner Strength)

- \* Character is what helps us to stand in the face of temptation.
- \* Character is what reinforces decisions that were previously made.
- \* The secret of determination is making decisions ahead of time.

#### B. Commitment (Mental Firmness)

- \* Commitment is a conscious willingness to obligate ourselves to a particular goal or purpose.

### **IV. Set his Direction** - The Result