

Be Who You Want

Your Children to Be

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Most would say they want them to be Christians.

If that is true, then parents would set the right example, teaching, reproofing, and correcting them using God's word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

God set forth a perfect example for His Son who saw what His Father did and heard Him.
(John 5:19, 30)

Jesus obeyed His Father in everything He said and did (John 12:49-50; 15:10).

Be Who You Want Your Children to Be

Before Jesus taught His disciples, He had God's word in His heart in overcoming every temptation of the devil.

(Matthew 4:3-11; 1 Peter 2:21ff)

If we are going to give no place to the devil, we must have God's word in our heart and imitate Him before we teach our children to obey (Dt. 6:6-8; 4:9-10; Eph. 5:1-2; 6:1-4).

What are your children learning, receiving, hearing, and seeing in you (cf. Phil. 4:9)?

Be Who You Want Your Children to Be

Sometimes we are blind to our faults and may condemn our children's behavior when we are practicing the same thing (Rom. 2:1-3).

If so, we must remove the beams so that we can judge righteously (Mt. 7:1-5; John 7:24)

If we don't, our children will likely see through our lip service and be the hypocrites we trained them to be.

Our actions speak much louder than our words!
(cf. Luke 6:46)

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in the Use of Your Time

Compared to eternity, we have a very short time to train them.

We must make the best use of our time to help them remember God in their youth before the devil can entice them to do his will (Eph. 5:15; Eccl. 12:1; 2 Ti. 2:26; Ro. 6:16).

Since the days are swiftly passing towards eternity, we must prioritize and put God's will first above our desires (Ps. 90:10; Mt. 6:33).

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in the Use of Your Time

Your children should see in you punctuality {job, worship services, scheduled appointments}.

They should see you diligently completing your tasks {Bible study, household responsibilities, promises you made to others, etc.}

If they don't see these things in you, but instead see you are lethargic {TV, computer, hobbies, sports, etc.} they will likely imitate that behavior.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Gratitude

We are so bountifully blessed in this country (freedom of worship and speech, own home, food and clothing, and many conveniences).

Do your children see in you a grateful or a grumbling attitude (1 Th. 5:18; Phil. 2:14)?

God gives people over to sin when they don't give thanks or honor Him (Rom. 1:21ff).

Too many demand their rights as they have not been taught by parents to be grateful.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Honesty and Respect

If you want your children to be honest tell them the truth and to your spouse (don't lie to them, for them, or try to cover up sin) (Eph. 4:25)

If they see hypocrisy don't be surprised if they cheat at school, or lie to get out of trouble.

If you want your children to be respectful, honor those in authority (Rom. 13:7) or it is unlikely that they will respect them.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in the Use of Your Money

If you want your children to be thrifty, they must see that you are a good steward of what God has given you (Luke 16:1-14).

They should see you living within your means and not charging for things you can't afford or pay back (Ps. 37:21).

You can help them by using coupons, discounts, eating meals at home or if you go out to eat drink water, etc.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in the Use of Your Money

If your children see in you, impulse shopping, overspending, gambling, unpaid bills, late fees or repossessions, how will they learn to have self control in their own finances?

This irresponsibility might lead to the father having to work overtime or the mother having to work.

How are you managing the time and resources God has given you to train your children?

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Worship to God

Since the Father seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth, they must see in you a zeal for praising God (Jn. 4:23; Ps. 122:1).

If you want your children to worship with the saints regularly, you will be diligent to be there at every service possible (Heb. 10:25).

If you make excuses, don't be surprised if they beg you to miss for studying for a test, homework, a ball game, or getting a job.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Worship to God

While attendance is necessary, active participation is even more important.

They should see that you are giving cheerfully, joyfully singing, reverently partaking of the Lord's supper, and examining the Scriptures that are used in the sermon.

(2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:19; Acts 2:42; 17:11)

If you are bored (cf. Mal. 1:13), don't be surprised if they quit when they leave home.

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Service to God

Because of God's mercies toward us, it is reasonable to offer our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice to Him (Rom. 12:1).

Do your children see that you are dedicated in your daily service to God?

If you want your children to read, study, and obey God's word, they must first see your delight in meditating on the Bible (Ps. 1:2).

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Service to God

Do they consistently see you praying in good times as well as bad times? (1 Thess. 5:17)

If you want them to teach others that they might be saved, they should see you seeking opportunities to teach lost souls [tracts, bulletins, outlines, Bible study] (2 Tim. 2:24f)

If you want them to be compassionate, help others in their time of need (1 Tim. 5:4; James 1:27; Gal. 6:10; 1 John 3:16-18).

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Service to God

If you want them to be hospitable, be kind in welcoming guests (**Romans 12:13**).

God expects you to be a doer of His word....He and your children will know if you are.
(**James 1:22-25**)

Are you being who you want your children to be
in service to God?

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Your Marriage

If you want them to be pure in preparation for future, they must see it in you (Heb. 13:4).

But sadly, many have been enticed to commit adultery instead of making a covenant with their eyes (Mt. 5:27-28; Job 31:1).

David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba led to him deciding to kill her husband and resulted in two of his sons (Absalom and Adonijah) rebelling against him (2 Samuel 12:10-11).

Be Who You Want Your Children to be ...in Godly Behavior

When parents fail to fulfill their vows, it hurts the credibility in the children's minds of being married for life as God desires (Matt. 19:6).

There are many dangers of fornication {STD's, AIDS, abortion, shotgun wedding, divorce, remarriage, & torment} (Pr. 5:11; Heb. 13:4)

Love your spouse, keep your vows, and help our children to flee from youthful lusts.

(Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:22; Ps. 119:9)

Conclusion

God has given you your children to train them up to know His will and not anyone else.

As parents, we realize that we fail to do what's right but let's not make excuses, shift the blame, or try to justify ourselves.

(Heb. 12:9-10; 1 John 1:8, 10; Pr. 28:13).

Their first impressions of who God is will come from their experience in your home and will influence who they will marry, how they will raise their own children, and for eternity!

Conclusion

Before you can put God's word in your children's hearts it must be in yours (Deut. 6:6).

You must live it before you can teach it.

There is no greater detriment to parenting than hypocrisy.

Your children are watching and depending on you to do what is right.

Conclusion

Be who you want your children to be and this will help them to be godly, enjoy a lifelong relationship, and go to heaven one day.

We only live our lives once and we can't turn back the clock.

But if we have failed, there is forgiveness of sins but it is only available in Jesus Christ.

(Acts 2:38; 8:20-22)