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Raising Children Based on the Proverbs 22:6 Model

By

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“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it”. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

This verse speaks volumes to parents involved in teaching, instructing and modeling the strategic principles of God’s word, in leading their children to a life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The following concepts are suggested to be used as tools in assisting children in the way they should go.

1-Parents are responsible: Parents are charged with the responsibility for teaching and leading their children to Christ. It should be understood that the teachings, instructing and modeling is Christ-centered.

2-Training and guidance: The foundational teachings should be scriptural based, organized, and taught in a manner that leads to a lifetime relationship with God as a disciple of Jesus. Training of children is a long-term process and to be effective the following five stages must be addressed: assessment, motivation, design, delivery and evaluation.

3- Individualized Approach: The principles of raising children to be disciples can be the same but because children are uniquely and wonderfully made, the methods must be individualized.

4- Long Term Impact: Solomon’s wisdom is on display as he encouraged parents to teach them with confidence that it will remain. The supernatural word of God is a living organism. Isaiah 55:11AMP says “So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me void (useless, without results), without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it”.

5-It’s important to start early: Foundations are placed before any construction begin. The path to maturity begins with ministering to the child while in the womb and then build on the foundation of the Word daily. The training is designed to serve as a preparatory act to the children themselves becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

6- Influence of Parents: In ministering to children, it’s understood that the teacher (parents) are disciples of Christ themselves. They can enhance their teachings by saying “follow me as I follow Christ”.

7-Future success assured: When the training start early and is grounded in The Word of God, Solomon assures us that even in old age they will stay with it.

8- Generational model: The overall concepts of raising children via the Proverbs 22:6 model; is suitable and ready to be passed down generation to generation. This concept speaks to the directive “be fruitful and multiply”, and replenish the earth in kind. The training also speaks to the children’s future as disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations”.