

Honor The Culture of The Kingdom: Honoring Children

KJV Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Children are inherited from The Lord! They come through Him into our lives!

They are not just the product of a man and woman coming together, or any other scientific method used today!

No, the Bible says children are a **reward** from God!

A **reward** is the repayment for a favorable deed done, that deed is marriage!

- **The US has one of the worst records among industrialized nations loosing on average between 4-7 children everyday to neglect and child abuse.**

As a nation we have a serious problem honoring children!

The late great Dr. Myles Munroe says “*When purpose is not known abuse is inevitable.*”

The word **Abuse** is made of two words, **abnormal** and **use!**

Children are abused when people don't know the proper place children have in the world, the community and their lives.

KJV Psalm 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Solomon tells us children are like arrows in the hand of warriors!

- Arrows are shot from bows during warfare to take out an enemy!
- Arrows are given direction and have a specific target they're aimed at!

Warriors shot them, strong well trained and battle tested people who understand what's at stake if their enemies win the battle.

People who see the needs of their community train their children to specifically target a need so they raise that child to defeat that problem.

We should teach our children how to fight problems in the community, not people in the community!

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

❖ **Honoring children is identifying their gifts and talents and placing them on the right track for success!**

Training is associated with the word **instruction**; **instruction** means to pile things in for the purpose of building up.

Education means to draw or pull the gifts and talents of the child out!

In order to do this parents must **know their children** deeply and sincerely!

Parents must spend enough quality time with their children to learn their strengths, weaknesses and tendencies.

Pro 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.

Parents who don't **truly** know their children won't be able to correct them properly and effectively so they'll be often troubled!

KJV Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

ESV Proverbs 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.

14 If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

This is **not a timeout**, this is a **spanking!** Striking with the open hand on the behind

Some say, I won't use the same hand I use to feed and love my child with and hurt them—it confuses the child!

No, it doesn't, it helps them understand it's the same hand and same person that loves you when you do well, that hurts when you do bad!

It dishonors children when we leave them ignorant and untrained, it also makes them vulnerable for abuse!

I'm not talking about abuse or smothering the child & dictating every move!

Eph 6:4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Fathers don't make your children bitter about life, only telling them how hard life was for you and all the bad things people have done to you over the years!

Instead teach them to honor God and love His instructions because they will bless his life forever!

ESV Matthew 19:13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people,
14 but Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.*"

Jesus clearly says for adults **not** to hinder children from coming to Jesus!

Because of the **church abuse scandals** in the news, we need to understand, God didn't abuse these children, people did, evil people who did not honor children.

They need to repent, get help and stay away from children, because its people like this who hinder little children from coming to Christ Jesus!

It's easier than you think for adults to **hinder** children from coming to Jesus!

What made Timothy such a man of God? What made him so valuable to the apostle Paul and the Kingdom of God?

ESV 2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

The reason Timothy was such a man of God was because his grandmother honored him by teaching his mother, who taught him!

KJV 2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

As soon as Tim was able to pick up the scriptures he was being trained!

- **Known** here means to perceive and understand!

Timothy's mother and grandmother made sure Timothy understood the scriptures were able to rescue him from this present evil world and would make him wise enough to discern what was God and what wasn't!

The only reason Timothy didn't get into something he couldn't get out of was because he knew the scriptures.

The only reason Timothy could recognize Paul was a man of God was because Timothy knew God for himself!

We honor our children when we teach them The Word of God!

Children are **rewards**, they are **arrows, weapons** God gives us to change the future, whatever the enemy is doing that we can't get the total victory over, our children should be trained to defeat!