

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
“AIMING” CHILDREN TOWARD GODLINESS

1. REVIEW

A. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: BIBLICAL TARGETS TO “AIM” YOUR CHILDREN TOWARD

B. Psalm 127:4 (NASB) Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

1. A WARRIOR “AIMS” HIS ARROWS AT THE TARGET.

a. GENERALLY SPEAKING, PARENTS SHOULD “AIM” THEIR CHILDREN TOWARD THE TARGET OF GODLINESS.

b. EVERY CHRISTIAN PARENT’S ROLE SHOULD BE TO “AIM” EACH OF THEIR CHILDREN TO GOD’S PATH... HIS ‘WAY’.. GODLINESS.

1) NOT, THE PARENT’S “WAY”.

C. Galatians 5:23 (NASB) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

1. WHY DID PAUL START THIS VERSE WITH “BUT”?

2. Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB) Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

a. JUST AS HEAVEN AND HELL, JESUS AND SATAN, TRUTH AND LIES, LIGHT AND DARKNESS ARE OPPOSITES... THE “FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT” (GOOD FRUIT) AND “DEEDS OF THE FLESH” (BAD FRUIT) ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED.

1) Galatians 5:16-17 (NASB) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

2) THAT’S WHY PAUL STARTED VERSE 23 WITH “BUT”.

2. NOTE: THE GOAL OF OUR PARENTING IS TO “AIM” OUR CHILDREN TOWARD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A. TOWARD “ABIDING IN CHRIST”

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1. TEACHING OUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" IS ONLY ONE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL
 - a. IT IS NOT THE GOAL ITSELF... IT IS ONLY A MEANS TO THE END GOAL OF GODLINESS!
3. John 15:1-11 (NASB) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (We are the branches) "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. [James 1:2-4 (NASB) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.] "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.
 - A. THE GOAL OF OUR PARENTING IS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO "ABIDE" IN CHRIST = GODLINESS.
4. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:
 - A. WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" BECAUSE PRACTICALLY THAT IS WHO JESUS IS.
 1. LOVE
 2. JOY
 3. PEACE
 4. PATIENCE
 5. KINDNESS
 6. GOODNESS

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7. FAITHFULNESS

8. GENTLENESS

9. SELF-CONTROL

B. DISCUSS: "CHRISTMAS" MEMORY ASSOCIATION FOR "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"...

1. LOVE – JOY – PEACE

a. CHRISTMAS CARD

2. PATIENCE – KINDNESS – GOODNESS

a. CHRISTMAS PKG

3. FATHFULNESS – GENTLENESS – SELF-CONTROL

a. FROSTY, GOD, AND SANTA CLAUS