

Dear Church (Part 16)
"Children and Parents" [Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 22:6]
August 13th, 2017
Pastor Bill Bowers

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

PROVERBS 22:6

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.

Proverbs 22:6 "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." NLT

The parent's most immediate task is to create a thirst in their child for that which pleases God.

THE WORD "WAY" is the HEBREW WORD *DEREK*=USED TO DESCRIBE MANNERISM OR CHARACTERISTICS.

The word came originally from the MAKING OF A PATH OR A WAY.

The Way a Parent Nurtures:

1. You nurture when you help children know who they are.
2. You nurture when you take the time to cultivate them

A WORD TO THOSE WITH PRODIGALS

1. EVEN IN GODLY HOMES SOMETIMES KIDS REBEL. IT DOES NOT MEAN THE PARENTS HAVE FAILED.
2. If you have a child that goes prodigal stay true to your beliefs.
3. Never give up!
4. Always keep the door open

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HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- When you read, "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right..." what are the first thoughts that come to your mind? Consider your life as a child and consider your experience around children. (Ephesians 6:1)
- How do you interpret Proverbs 22:6? Do you think it is a promise or do you think that it is wise advice? Can you describe the difference between the two and why you feel one perspective might be more relevant than the other? Can you cite examples where the proverb has failed to be true? Discuss your experiences and positions.
- Pastor Bill stated, "parents most immediate task is to create a thirst in their child for that which pleases God." In what ways might you describe examples that parents might create this thirst?
- Discuss the following:
 - We nurture our children when we help them to know who they are... How do we nurture self-knowledge?
 - We nurture our children when we take time to cultivate them... How do we cultivate our children? What does cultivation include?
- Can you describe an environment of godly training and "instruction of the Lord? (Eph. 6:4).
- Pastor Bill gave us some encouragement and instruction concerning "strong-willed" children, even those that might go "prodigal."
 - Stay true to your beliefs
 - Never give up
 - Always keep the door openWhat is your response to these steps to remember?
- Do you think there is a next step or application from this teaching that you might incorporate in your current situation? What might that be? How will you move into this teaching that it changes or transforms the way you interact with your children or the children of others?