

Parenting Tools:

Raising a Godly Man



HOME
22.6

Parenting Tools:

*Raising your son to be a godly
man in an ungodly world*

Can you see the extraordinary power of a relationship? It can transform a man's life. That's why Jesus, after spending a night in prayer, chose twelve men to be "with Him" (Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). He knew that His greatest impact would come from living side by side with handpicked men day after day. There is no substitute for knowing and being known by another human being - especially Dad. There is no other way to experience what deep down we really want as people - to be heard, to be understood, to be affirmed and to be valued.

Stephen Clark, in his book, *Man & Woman in Christ*, describes the normal Jewish family pattern in the days of Jesus: "In Jewish society...the mother had primary charge of all the children from birth until 5-7 years of age. At that time care of the boys would pass from the mother to father. He would work along with his father, helping him and thereby gradually learning his father's trade. During that time the father would form his son as a man. He would raise his son in his own presence and teach him all that he knew. His father was expected to equip him to function as an adult male. That's how it was done for thousands of years. They knew whom they were and what they were supposed to do because they had seen a model. But, when factories became the source of income, men had to leave home, thus diminishing their ability to influence their sons."

LESS TIME = LESS INFLUENCE

Men stopped raising their boys because they weren't present to lead their boys. When our boys have a clear role model, they intuitively know how to function when they assume the responsibility of marriage and parenting. It is the God appointed

task of fathers, to equip their sons to that end. They must know whom they are and what they are to do. They must see their role model in action. How do you raise a Godly man? Be a Godly man! Model that for your sons. You must be seeking the Lord with your whole heart before instructing your sons in God's ways. Although we never live out our roles as fathers perfectly, our genuine desire and efforts to continually love, obey and grow in our knowledge of God can be felt. Take a heart exam! As your heart goes, so goes your family. If your heart isn't right, no child-raising scheme will work.

Author Tedd Tripp says, "Parenting is concerned with shepherding the heart. You must learn to work back from the behavior you see to the heart, learning to engage; not just reprove. The fundamental task of parenting is shepherding the hearts of our children."

WAYS TO INFLUENCE YOUR SONS

Start by loving your Wife – God designed parents to be partners. Show a Godly love for your wife.

1. Start by taking your family to church.
2. Start by growing spiritually. A man after God's own heart is a man who constantly deserves to grow spiritually.
3. Start by spending time with your son.
 - Be a mentor to your son.
"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." Proverbs 13:20
 - Be an encourager.
"And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my beloved Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'" Mark 1:11
 - Be a confronter.
"Better is open rebuke than hidden love." Proverbs 27:5-6

- Be an intercessor. Acts 20:18-38
- Be a partner. A partner helps lift the load.

4. Start by modeling Christ-like behavior. As you begin maturing in your walk with Christ, you will assume more of a leadership role in your family.

TO BRING UP A SON

1. Make home the brightest and most attractive place on earth.
2. Make him responsible for a number of daily duties.
3. Never punish in anger.
4. Do not ridicule his vanity, but rather talk frankly on matters in which he is interested.
5. Let him feel free to invite his friends to your home and table.
6. Be careful to impress upon his mind that making character is more important than making money.
7. Live Christ before him all the time, and then you will be able to talk Christ to him with power.
8. Be much in prayer for his salvation and spiritual growth.