

Raising Godly Children

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

Key Text: Acts 19:11-16

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Study

Acts 19:11-16 KJV And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: [12] So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. [13] Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [14] And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. [15] And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? [16] And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. After Paul had withdrawn his disciples from the multitude, because the ways of the multitude is usually broad, he started teaching them The Word of God daily in the school of Tyrannus and it continued for the space of two years, it was at this point that The Lord worked unusual miracles through the hands of Paul.

Acts 19:11 KJV And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: God confirmed Paul's teaching by miracles which awakened people's enquiries after it they fixed their affection to it and engaged the belief of it. These miracles were so unusual that no other Apostle did same before him and it was not him that did it, it was God "for what is Paul and what is Apollos?" He was but an instrument, while God is the principal Agent. **Acts 19:12 KJV** So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. We deduce that materials were brought to the sick from Paul's body and they were healed. This could be Paul's own and it could also mean that they brought the materials and that in as much as it touches Paul's body they get healed, but in all it was God at work and Paul

could not pride himself in such miraculous deeds, thus fulfilling the words of Christ which said greater works than these shall you do. **John 14:12 KJV** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. Seeing these things, **Acts 19:13 KJV** Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

Some of the vagabond Jewish exorcist, who go about, "wanderers" wanted to do the same, these men used spells, they did not have any relationship with Christ, they go about because of money trying to use charms to send the evil spirits out, they thought their spells and formula will amount to something before the spirits, but as a house divided against himself will not stand, it did not work. How can Satan cast out Satan? Jesus asked. **Mark 3:23 KJV** And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? But something laughable about what these people did was that they included the name of Jesus whom Paul preached. They got so much familiar with Paul's message and discovered the theme of it as "Jesus" they knew those things Paul did were in the name of Jesus and thought themselves fit also to do same, though not saved, they did not meet Paul to know what they must do to be saved but they loved what the result of being a child of God is, they did not offer Paul money like Simon the sorcerer offered Peter for the power to do same, though it was in the same bid to make money, for they go about it as a way to make ends meet. They being vessels in the hands of Satan tried to apply the name of Jesus to casting out Satan. That's the same way it is today, many are vessels unto dishonour yet they use the name of Jesus as cover-up.

They cast out devils in the sight of men but in the real sense these demons multiply, for Satan will not cast out Satan, they make use of spells and formulas to carry out their Enterprise all in a bid to gaining profits. **Acts 19:14 KJV** And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. This verse contains a sad account concerning the children of a chief priest who also did so. It is indeed a sad thing to see the house of Jacob degenerated, how much more the house of Aaron, the Levites were to minister before The Lord always in the sanctuary, they were consecrated unto The Lord, so they live on

what was brought to the altar as they were not allowed to do any other work than ministering to The Lord, thus only the lineage of Aaron could become chief priests, that means all priests are Levites but not all Levites are priests or can be priests, looking at Sceva who is a chief priest, one could see that he certainly was of the descendant of Aaron, the family that was in a particular manner consecrated to God, it is truly sad to see any of that race in league with Satan.

Sceva, a chief priest, head of one of the 24 council of priests, having his own children in such a group. From this one could see a clear show of bad parenting on Sceva's part, most times when talking about bad parenting we focus on Eli, of course he did not bring his children up well, he was a priest but here we have a chief priest whose seven sons went astray. What was he so busy with to the point that seven sons of his kicked against the covenant of their race? These sons of his were born Levites, they minister in God's sanctuary as His ministers but turned into the ministers of Satan, although the scriptures did not tell us why the sons of Sceva became so but it is written **Proverbs 22:6 KJV Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.** If Sceva had trained his sons even if any would go wayward (depart from it) it wouldn't have been seven of them. It is commonly said that the children of God's ministers are the ones who always go wayward, although it is truism that more attacks are launched by Satan against ministers of God and their families but at the same time God does not forsake His servants and their families. The responsibility of the father and mother would not be taken over by The Lord. God would not come down from heaven to train a Minister's child for him, he should train his children not when they are old already that little can only be done to correct their bad ways but when they are young when there still hope.

Proverbs 19:18 KJV Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. This is to tell us that there is a time when there will no longer be hope that a child can accept correction. The time of the world we are in makes it really challenging to raise godly children and conscious effort needs to be made to do so. If as a minister of God, you don't want your children to turn out to be like Eli's and Sceva's, serious work is needed with God's help. Every generation has its own challenges when it comes to raising godly children. It was the same generation and environment where Hophini and Phineas grew that Samuel also

grew and he did not copy the ways and patterns of the world, there is no excuse for not doing God's will no matter how perverse a generation is. As perverse as Sodom and Gomorrah was, Lot was there and his virgin daughters, they did not follow their ways, as perverted as Noah's generation was, Noah separated himself, what about Joseph? he feared God, is it to talk about Daniel who determined not to defile himself. That people are doing it does not mean we should succumb to their ways, that ministers of God children are going wayward does not mean ours should also go wayward.

Some of the reasons why ministers children go astray.

1. **Lack of attention:** Looking into Eli's parenting, one would see that Eli only get to know about the characters of his children from outsiders. **1 Samuel 2:23-24 KJV** And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. [24] Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. I hear, I hear, was what he was saying. There was none he saw or observed by himself, he was probably busy with God's work that he had to rely on what he heard about his children. As parents who pay attention to their children, we must not wait for the people outside our homes to tell us about what our children are doing, we must have observed that in them , so whatever thing people outside say would only be a confirmation to what we have observed. It is observed that majority of God's ministers hardly pay attention to their children. They are too busy with ministry, although it is true that the work of ministry can be so much demanding in every aspect but constants time space must be created to relate with the family. Some ministers will go from one ministration to another, program upon programs, traveling upon traveling, from meetings to meetings etc but hardly come home, such people would only have the report of people to hear about their children. Children are naturally bound to make foolish decisions and actions, do silly things but when both parents are not presents to guide them, their foolishness grows firm into their hearts. **Proverbs 22:15 KJV** Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. But it is a parent that is available that would make use of the rod of correction.

2. **Environment:** The environment a child grows has a lot to do with the person the child will turn out to be. A child raised up in a ghetto, if care is not taken he

will turn out to be a tour, there are uncondusive environments for child upbringing except there are strict monitoring.

3. Friends and peer groups: Ministers children should not be allowed to make friends with just any kind of people, parents are to vet the kinds of Friends their children walk with and give warnings, cautions, rebukes when necessary. **1 Corinthians 15:33 KJV Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.**

How To Raise Godly Children

1. Pray for them: Prayer is very important when it comes to raising godly children, as the spiritual controls the physical. Although that does not mean the physical measures should be neglected. Children need the prayers of their parents often because the spirit of the devil has gone out into the world to lead children astray, and since the children of God's ministers are their prime targets, prayers needs to be constantly made to shield them. They should also be taught how to pray right from childhood, children must be trained in the art of prayer for it to be part and parcel of them.

2. Teach them the Word: 2 Timothy 3:15 KJV 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. Teach your children The Word of God by yourself, many have neglected these to children teachers in the church and media, that should not be as a minister of a gospel. Even if others are doing so, know that you should not do so, it is your responsibility to teach your children the ways of The Lord. As a matter of fact, many of those people you commit your children to are agents of Satan and can pollute your children to attack you. They must be well equipped with God's Word than any other children out there, that is when their wisdom will not be easily withstood by the children of the devil. In teaching you should know that children's brains are still fresh to accommodate scriptures than most adults, at least give them five memory verses from the scriptures to commit to memory weekly, don't say it is too much, remember God's Word cannot make a person mad.

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 KJV Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; [10] Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. The Word of God must be taught to the children from cradle.

3. Talk more about God's word before them: Instead of gossiping about about neighbours and talking about football, politics etc in your house, talk more about the scriptures, about Jesus, about heaven and hell. Children learn from what they hear and what they listen to constantly stick to their hearts. There are already too many anti-God things outside the home which children are learning from so the home should not also go in line with that direction. **Deuteronomy 6:7 KJV** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

This is so important for every parent to do that is why the Lord keeps on emphasizing on it. He knows that constant repetition enhances adequate retention, this is when the children will be able to have the knowledge and understanding of God retained in them. **Deuteronomy 11:19-20 KJV** And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. [20] And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: Their parents should be known to them as those who are scripturally inclined by that they would copy these ways. Teach them that Jesus is everywhere no matter how much they hide He can see them and He loves and cares for them and He protects them. And whenever they do something bad they have sinned against Him and He will not be happy with them even if Daddy and Mummy does not know about it, by this they will not just be following what you said but would fear the Lord.

4. Preach to them: This means that they should be made to understand what it means to be born again; they should be able to tell who Jesus Christ is as soon as

they're able to differentiate their right hand from their left. This is a common issue I have observed in Christendom as someone into children and teenage ministry for sometime now. I observed that many children do not get born again through their parents, in fact, they do not know what it means to be saved. It's also observed that many parents do not care about the spiritual lives of their children like how they care about their education and other basic needs.

To raise godly children, you need to monitor your children and preach to them when you start realizing that they have entered the age of accountability. The age of accountability is an age when a child can recognize what is good from what is bad, when he can decide to tell lies so as not to be punished. Bible stories can be helpful at this point, as you explain to them let them know that the Bible (scriptures) is special and it is God Himself speaking to them and it should not be regarded as irrelevant for any reason. Constantly lead them through renewing their born-again covenant with the Lord, that is rededication, this can be done until they are able to understand why they are doing it for themselves.

The point is that according to observation many of ministers children are not saved they are only following the dos and don'ts of their parents. Children must know that whatever they do is to the Lord not unto men by these their focus will be on the Lord. That was what helped Joseph in Potiphar's house. **Genesis 39:9 KJV** *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, AND SIN AGAINST GOD?* He had the fear of God, he knew God was watching him, so his concern was not to sin against God, not his master, not his father but God!

5. Be a godly example: This is one of the major areas many parents fail today which is why they are unable to raise godly children. They are not godly examples to their children. In fact, this has been a major challenge for those who are in children and teenage ministry. The truth remains that many parents are far from being godly examples. In a situation when a parent is not born again how would such be a godly example to their children?

A parent that tells his child to lie that he is not at home when he sights those whom he owes money from afar. What is he teaching that child? I have several

cases of teenagers and children whom after receiving Christ want to start dressing modestly and godly but their parents stood against them, mostly mother's, they themselves dress seductively, so they force these things on their children who are willing to forsake such evil ways. Such parents are bad examples and cannot raise Godly children.

Some would tell their children not to steal, yet they inflate the prices of goods lying to their spouses and these children are aware of it. **Romans 2:21 KJV** *Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preaches a man should not steal, dost thou steal?* As a parent, you should be number one role model of your children, they should wish to be exactly like you because you are godly and put what you teach them into practice. Even Jesus Christ was doing what He was teaching, **Acts 1:1 KJV** *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,* He was not just telling them to do what He was teaching them and not do what He was doing. Be a godly example for your children to follow.

6. Be ready to answer all questions: There is no foolish question from your child, if she asks a question don't say that is a foolish question, you will kill her confidence and she might ask a wrong person a delicate one next time. And don't say "you are too young to know that now" if they can ask, at that point it means they have an idea surrounding such thing. Yours is to answer them in a godly way by referring to the scriptures. Here are some real life instances,

Some time ago a 9-year old girl came to ask me if committing abortion was good. I did not shout, what!? you this small girl, what do you know about abortion? I simply answered her and explained to her that it is a great sin against God and that it is the same as committing murder, I did not know why she asked but I know she did not just come up with such idea. Be ready to give well and detailed answers to your children. In fact they should see you as their Google instead of the internet, because the Internet is filled with many ungodly answers to questions today.

What of a 14 year old girl who asked me why is it wrong for her to have a boyfriend. It's a pure fact that many parents are not friends to their children, so their children cannot confide in them and they cannot ask them questions which

is why many of them have taken the wrong steps asking those whom they are not supposed to ask these questions. Children are naturally inquisitive, and curious, this is how many uncle's and Aunties have defiled many of them. Recently, a 15year old girl told me of how she's been having sexual intercourse before she was 13years old and her parents were not aware of it.

As it is currently, many parents cannot accurately vouch for what their children are doing but they think they know these children. It is a pity that many think they know their children whereas what they know about them is less than 40% of whom their children really are. Do you know that things can be going on even right under your nose without you noticing anything. Smiles, that's the generation we are in.

There is currently the case of a 13 year old boy at hand who was asking a 14 year old girl out using his father's phone. And this is a boy that is father is so much concerned of in the aspect of his education, preferring that he stays in school to attend extra lessons and others rather than coming to church to learn God's word. And right under his nose he is doing all sorts of things which is father is unaware of. Is it to talk about another boy who borrowed someone's phone that he wants to use it for an assignment and he started browsing through pornographic sites and closed all the tabs when he finished?

Many of these children wouldn't have gone into all these things if their parents had been available to answer most questions that were coming up as they were growing.

7. Correct them in love: flog them when necessary and let them know why what they did was wrong. Like a child that lied, flogg him and tell him that Satan is the father of liars and that liars will go to hell, then ask him if he wants to be the child of Satan and go to hell, he will certainly say no then you would pull him to yourself and tell him Jesus was not happy when he lied that He has done what made Him unhappy, that he should ask Him for forgiveness by so doing such child will not only know that it is wrong to lie but he would also know why he should not lie. **Proverbs 22:6 KJV Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

Recently, a teenage girl of 16 years old reported her 14 years old younger sister to me that she's in a relationship. I had been teaching these teenagers along side others for sometime now, and I have always told them that they should not go into any boy friend and girl friend relationship because it will lead to sin. Many of these children are close to me and are free to tell me even the things their parents do not know. The younger sister had already told me of two or more boys whom have been disturbing her for relationship of which I told her to preach to them.

So I was shocked when her sister told me she's now in a relationship, fortunately, she was online at that point and I made her know that I'm annoyed with her, at that point she became restless until I saw her the following day. I then told her how disappointed I was in her and she really felt sorry, and she did not deny. At the end, I counselled her and made her know that I don't want her to miss it in life, then made her see reasons why she has to wait and not rush, the negative and positive.

After then, she started opening up telling more things I did not even ask her or know before. Mind you, when it was needed for me to rebuke her, I did but did not stop there, I had to make her realize that I was doing that because I love her and I want her good.

Some parents would shout when they hear such and the next thing is koboko(cane) with punishment. Such things can hardly solve such problems, you have to realize that the puberty age is not easy for these children, that's why you need to always be there to guide them in love. I wish we'd have a time we'd really talk about **puberty stage for christians**

Now, this girl has learned her lesson, so she started amending her ways, she immediately broke the relationship even when I told her she should do so only if she does not want to continue in it. (Of course I knew she'd break up, that was why I gave that option) so that it will not be as if she's obeying my commands. Godly wisdom is needed in correcting children especially in this endtime. But one important thing is that, never leave children uncorrected. They might prove stubborn at times, keep correcting them.

8. Let them know who they are: This is not about them being ministers children if they are, but who they are in Christ; let them know that they cannot misbehave because the Lord owns them since they are saved and they are from your family. Sceva may not have made his children know that they are Levites who should remain consecrated to God. This should be registered in their subconscious minds that though others, may they can not. For they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people called out by the Lord Jesus Christ to be different.

9. Train them to read the bible, fast and pray: some ministers do fast often and leave their children to be eating always like gluttons. Their claim is that these children are too young. But the truth is that anything that will become part and parcel of a child must be inculcated in such a child from an early stage. Those who would not give diligence to bringing up their children would have themselves to blame like Eli and by the time they would want to give themselves over to the work expected of them it would have been too late.

If we would not raise children like the sons of Sceva as ministers of God, we must learn from the mistakes committed by these men and not fall into such for in the midst of many counselors there is safety. **Proverbs 11:14 KJV** *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

9. Encourage them to do something for God in the church: Let them join work force at a early age, like choir, usher, prayer group, sanctuary keepers, drama, instrumentalists, media etc. Whenever they are going for practice, don't use house chores to tie them down, it can discourage them.

If there are things you want them to do at home, tell them to do these things before the time of practice. By these doing, and serious prayers, we will raise godly children to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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