**Purpose Driven Parenting**

* What **motivates** your parenting?
* What are you **trying** to **do** as a parent?
* What is your **purpose** as a parent?

My **purpose** as a parent is to **raise** a **champion** for God.  
**Genesis 6:8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.  
**Luke 1:30** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.”

Do you have a **plan** or a **strategy** as a parent?

* **Teaching** is the primary **tool** that God has given us to do our **job** as a parent.  
  **Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.   
  **Proverbs 1:8-9** Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and do not forsake your mother’s teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck.   
  **Proverbs 3:1-2** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life, and peace they will add to you.  
  **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; “And you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

**Kids & God’s Word**

* God **honors** His **Word** when we teach it to our kids.  
  **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any tow-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, And able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
  **Isaiah 55:11** So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
* One of the most powerful teaching tools we have is to have our kids **memorize Bible verses**.  
  **Psalm 119:9&11** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may nit sin against Thee.

**How Do You Teach?**

* Most parents don’t **teach**. They **scold**. They nag. They lecture. But they don’t **teach**.
* **What** do you want to **teach** your children?
* If you don’t **know** what you want to **teach**, it won’t happen by **accident**.
* If you don’t have a **plan** in your teaching you will tent to **react** to your kids’ problems and **misbehavior**.
* **Reactionary** teaching is almost always **poorly received** by your kids.
* Good teaching is **pro-active**, purpose driven, not **reactionary**.
* Purpose driven teaching is well **thought** out and **presented** well.
* Parents who faithfully **read** the **Bible** will be much **better** teachers.  
  **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; “And you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
* **Reactionary** teaching is off the **top** of our head and has **irritation** coming through most of the time.
* Teaching is the tool and **timing** is the **key**.
* **Volume, repetition,** and **consistency** is what makes teaching effective.  
  **2 Peter 1:13** And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder.  
  **2 Peter 3:1** This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder.
* A key to good teaching is thinking up **questions** that creates a **teachable** **spirit** in our kids.  
  **Proverbs 2:1-5** My son, if you will receive my savings, and treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God.
* **Parents** are God’s major tool for producing a **teachable** **spirit** in our kids.
* Kids that grow up with a **teachable spirit** will be life-long **learners**.
* As we define what we want to teach, it helps us as parents to be **motivated** and work on our own **behavior** so as to be a good **model**.
* Good teaching doesn’t major on **telling** our kids exactly what to **do**, but giving them Biblical **principles**.
* If we do a faithful job teaching, our kids will **come** back to **us** for **counsel** all of their life.

**Ten Top Teaching Topics for Tots and Teens**

1. **Obedience** to parents.  
**Proverbs 4:1-4** Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, For I give you sound teaching; do not abandon my instruction. When I was a son to my father, tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, Then he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live.”  
**Proverbs 6:20-23** My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you. For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life.

- The first **verses** to have your kids **memorize** is **Ephesians 6:1-3**.  
**Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your Father and Mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), That it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

- **Discipline** your children for obvious, immediate **disobedience** to parent.

- The more **teaching** you do the less **disciplin**e you will need to use.

- Good teaching makes **discipline** go much further in producing **permanent results** in the life of your child.

- The goal is **instant obedience**.

- Don’t **beg**, plead, **yell**, threaten or **nag**.

- Good **teaching** and **discipline** must be **anger** free.  
**James 1:20** For the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

2. The **fear** of the **Lord**.  
**Psalm 34:11** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
**Psalm 111:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.  
**Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.  
**Proverbs 10:27** The fear of the Lord prolongs life.  
**Proverbs 16:6** And by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil.  
**Proverbs 19:23** The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.  
**Proverbs 22:4** The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.  
**Psalm 103:11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 103:13** Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 103:17** But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.  
**Psalm 25:14** The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 33:18** Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 34:7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.  
**Psalm 34:9** O fear the Lord, you His saints; for to those who fear Him, there is no want.  
**Psalm 1-3:11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.  
**Psalm 145:19** He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.  
**Psalm 147:11** The Lord favors those who fear Him.

- God is every **place** and He **sees** everything we **do**, **hears** everything we **say**, and knows exactly what we **think**.  
**2 Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.  
**Jog 34:21** For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps.  
**Proverbs 5:21** For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.  
**Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.  
**Jeremiah 16:17** “For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.”

- God is holy. He **rewards** our **good** behavior and He **disciplines** our **wrong** behavior.  
**Psalm 18:20** The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness.  
**Proverbs 11:18** The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a true reward.  
**Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.  
**Jeremiah 17:10** “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.”

- A **skill** that good teachers learn is to **ask** the right **questions**.

Example:

- Why do **bad** things **happen** to us?

\* **Bad** things **happen** to **everybody** sooner or later.  
**Matthew 5:45** For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.  
**Job 5:7** For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward.  
**Genesis 3:17-19** Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

\* God uses **trials** to help us **grow** to be **like** Him.  
**Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

\* God is **disciplining** us for our **sins**.  
**Hebrews 12:6-11** For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; Shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; But to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- Teach about the **ultimate** day of **rewards** at the **Judgment** Seat of Christ.  
**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- The goal of teaching the **fear** of the Lord is to impress upon our kids that **everything** that we do **matters** to God.

- Even after our kids trust Jesus Christ as their Savior we need to remind them over and over again that God **loves** us, **forgives** us, and that we are **going** to **heaven**.

- The ultimate **goal** of all our teaching is to create a strong **desire** to **please** God in all that we do.

3. How to **respond** to **disappointments**, problems and **trials**.  
**Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!  
**Philippians 2:14-15** Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, Children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.  
**James 1:2-4** 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, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- How did you **respond** to that **problem**, disappointment or **trial**?

- Why do you think we should **consider** **trials** good?

- **Review** the reasons for **trials**.

- One of the best ways to have our kids **remember** a key principle is to have them **memorize** Bible **verses** that go with it.

- Which of the **reasons** for **trials** do you think you are **experiencing**?

- You don’t have to **act** the way you **feel**.

- Teach your kids to **ask** God for **strength** and peach whenever they are **stressed**.  
**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

*“Dear Lord, please help me to be* ***strong*** *and* ***act*** *in a way that* ***pleases*** *You.”*

- Life’s **problems** are God’s primary way of bringing us to **maturity**.

- Very few **adults** do **well** at responding well to **trials**.

- If we can teach our kids how to **respond** to **difficulties** correctly they will **grow** rapidly all of their life.  
  
4. God is **creator** of **heaven** and earth.  
**Exodus 31:17** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth.  
**2 Kings 19:15** “O Lord, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, Thou art the God, Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth, Thou hast made heaven and earth.”  
**Psalm 115:15** May you be blessed of the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.  
**Psalm 121:2** My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.  
**Psalm 124:8** Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.  
**Matthew 11:25** At that time Jesus answered and said, “I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth.”

- Every **created** thing we see around us can be a **reminder** of God’s **power** and wisdom.  
**Psalm 69:34** Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

**Psalm 8:3-4** When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou has ordained; What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him?   
**Psalm 19:1** The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.  
**Romans 1:19-20** Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, Being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- God’s **creation** is a fundamental **key** to being aware of His **presence** all around us.  
**Isaiah 40:21-31** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. Scarcely have they been planted, scarcely have they been sown, scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth. But He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the storm carries them away like stubble. “To whom then will you liken Me that I should be his equal?” says the Holy One. “Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; “Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing. “Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God’? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

- **Evolution** is a subtle but very dangerous **destroyer** of our children’s faith.  
**Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- The **devil** knows how to **counter** one of the most important of God’s ways for us to get to **know** Him.

- Parents need to teach their kids to **look** at **creation** and **see** God.

- Teaching our kids to see God in **creation** is a great way to be **pro-active** because **nature** is everywhere reminding us to teach our kids apart from their behavior.

5. Developing **self-control** as a strong character trait.  
**1 Corinthians 9:24-25** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

- The ultimate act of **self-control** is controlling what we **speak**.  
**James 3:2-6** For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. Now if we put the bits into the horses; mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well. Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, whenever the inclination of the pilot desires. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body. And sets on the fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

- **Controlling** what we **say** is the most important area of **modeling** for parents.

- Training our kids how to **talk** is an **easy** area because it is so **obvious** to us how they are doing.

- **Controlling** what we **say** is obviously very important to **God** because of the volume of ***scriptural*** teachings and commands.  
**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.  
**Proverbs 21:23** He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles.   
**Matthew 12:36-37** “And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. “For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”

- Learn to speak to your child’s **heart** concerning how they make others **feel** by their **speech**.  
**Ephesians 4:29-30** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, That it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- The place to start in teaching how to **talk** to others is in **honoring** their **parents** by their speech.

- Work at asking questions that would prompt **self-examination**. Help your child **hear** what they are **saying**.

- As a parent, carefully think through how the **world** is influencing our **standards** in **speech**.  
**James 1:27** This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, To visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.   
**James 4:4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.  
**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world.

6. **Standing** strong against the **influence** of **peers** even if it means **standing** alone.

**Exodus 23:2** “You shall not follow a multitude in doing evil.”  
**Proverbs 1:10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.  
**Proverbs 1:15** My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path.

- Parents today are overly **concerned** with their kids being **liked** and **accepted**.

- Talk to your kids about what is **right** and what is **wrong** according to God’s **standards**.

- **Evolution** is a major culprit in **undermining** our kids’ faith in the **authority** of the Bible.

- Teach clear Biblical **commands** with **discussions** to establish **convictions** in your kids.

\* What do you **believe** is **right**? Why?

\* What does the **Bible** have to **say** about this?

- Talk about these **convictions** and **ask** **questions** so that your kids become very **committed** to them. Repetition. Repetition. Repetition.

- Learn to use **role play** to prepare your kids for **temptations** they will face.

- Good parents work hard at **controlling**, as much as possible, the amount and seriousness of the **pressure** and **temptations** their kids will face.

**Proverbs 13:20** He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**Proverbs 2:20** So you will walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of the righteous.  
**Psalm 119:63** I am a companion of all those who fear Thee, and of those who keep Thy precepts.

* As parents, don’t be **naïve** and remember that your kids have a **sin** **nature**.

**Romans 7:17-21** So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; For the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

7. **Confession** and **repentance** from sin.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.   
**Psalm 32:5** I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord” And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.  
**Luke 18:9-14** And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted n themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. “The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: ‘Swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ “But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ “I tell you, this man went down to his justified rather than the other; “For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.”

- If kids don’t experience **forgiveness** for their sin they will **justify** that sin, and **lower** standards of right and wrong.

- The practice of **confession** to God of our sins is the key to a **tender** heart. Kids with a **tender** heart are easy to **guide**.

- It is very important to teach our children to say to God, “**I sinned**.”

- It is very important to teach our children to say to God, “**I am sorry**.”

- It is very important to teach our children to say to God, “**I** **won’t do** **that any more**.”

- The ordinance of **communion** is a very powerful teaching tool to firmly implant the practice of **confession** into the **hearts** of our children.  
**Exodus 12:26-27** “And it will come about when your children will say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ that you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’ And the people bowed low and worshiped.

- Good parents will humbly and wisely **model** **confession** to God when they know their kids have seen or heard them sin.

- Teach your kids to make **self-examination** and **confession** a daily part of their life.

- If you can instill this **discipline** into the life of your kids, you have given them a basic **key** to being a **champion** for God.

8. **Forgiveness** of others.  
**Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

- Very few things will cause as much **damage** to our kids’ **heart** and soul as **bitterness**.

**Hebrews 12:15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

- **Forgiveness** is the essence of **love**.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; It does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered.

- Teach what “**I love you**” means.

- **Forgiveness** is one of the most **difficult** things for our flesh to do. Teach, repeat, teach, repeat.

- Teach that the basis of **forgiveness** is not what people **deserve**, but what **God** has done for us.  
**Colossians 3:12-13** And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, Humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

- Teach the **consequences** to ourselves if we do not **forgive** others.  
**Matthew 6:14-15** “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. “But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”   
**Matthew 18:21-35** Then Peter come and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his salves. “And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. “But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. “The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.’ “And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. “But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denari; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ “So his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ “He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?’ “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. “So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

- Good parents will **model forgiveness** by asking their kids for **forgiveness** when they have hurt them.

- When our kids become **quick** to **forgive** others they will have the foundation for an **intimate** relationship with God.

9. **Serving** others with **kindness**.  
**Philippians 2:3-11** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- As a parent we want **God** to **bless** our kids.

- Being a **servant** to others is right at the **top** of the list of the things God **blesses**.

- **Serving** others ahead of ourselves is totally **opposite** of our **fleshly** desires.

- The environment of the **family** is the best place to **begin** teaching about being a **servant**.

- Help your kids think up pro-active **acts** of **kindness**.

- When you have established a **servant’s** **heart** in your kids you have laid the foundation for **greatness** in their life.  
**Mark 10:42-45** And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. “But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; “And whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

10. **Moral Purity**.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality. The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.   
**1 Corinthians 6:18-20** Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.  
**Romans 6:12-13** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; But present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

- **Moral purity** is very important to God, but becoming less and less important in the **culture** in which we live.

- **Immoral** behavior has major **consequences** that come from God.  
**Hebrews 13:4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; That each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God. And that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

**1 Corinthians 10:5-8** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

- Raising a son or daughter that is **morally** **pure** and **holy** will take lots of faithful teaching.

- Surveys show that **40%** of Christian young people who are active in **church** are **sexually** active.

- Teach your children the importance of **controlling** their **thoughts**.  
**Proverbs 4:23** Watch over your heart whit all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.  
**Romans 8:6-7** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God;

For it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.  
**Matthew 5:28** But I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.  
**Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

- Teach them how to **control** their **thoughts** by **substitution**.  
**2 Corinthians 10:5** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, And we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

- A basic law of life is that we **act** the way we **think**.  
**Matthew 15:19** “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”  
**Genesis 6:5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- What we **put** into our **minds** on a consistent basis is what we **think** about.

- Parents must **control** TV, **movies**, video and **internet** use by their children.  
**Psalm 101:3** I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me.

- A major goal is to guide your kids to establish strong **convictions** about what they **watch** and **listen** to.

- Don’t allow the **world** to set the **standards** of **behavior** for your kids.

- The current **dating** standards and practices of our **culture** are a major reason why our young people are failing **morally**.

- Talk to your son or daughter and establish **standards** for their **relationship** with the **opposite** sex.

- The fellow always **asks** the father or guardian for **permission** to **date** his daughter.

- There is to be no **physical** contact until **permission** is asked for and **given** by a parent.

- All time spent **together** is to be in a **group** setting until **trust** is established.

- There will be no **discussion** of **marriage** until **permission** is asked for and given by a parent.

- Spend time **talking** and asking clear **questions** about your kids’ **relationships** and how they are going.

- Spend lots of **time** **praying** for your sons and daughters, and those they are going to **marry**.  
**Philippians 1:9-10** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, So that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.   
**2 Corinthians 13:7** Now we pray to God that you do no wrong.  
**2 Timothy 2:20-22** Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor, Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness.