



# Children

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Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

## First, Let's Understand God's Purpose for Marriage and the Home.

### 1. To Mirror God's Image

*"Then God Said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.: And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them."*

- Genesis 1; 26-27

- God made mankind to mirror His image on Planet earth.
- God made two distinctly different humans (male and female) so that together they would reflect the image of God.
- Oneness is necessary in order to mirror the image of God.

### 2. To Multiply a Godly Heritage

*"And God blessed them; be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. . ."*

- Genesis 1:28a

*". . . do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

- Ephesians 6:4

### 3. To Mutually Complete One Another

*"Then the Lord God said, 'it is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable or him.'"*

- Genesis 2:18

*"However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.*

- 1 Corinthians 11:11

*". . .and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

- Ephesians 5:21

The phrase "be subject to" is a controlling participle in Greek that has control through the middle of chapter six. "Be subject to" describes the process of completing one another or the meeting of each other's needs.

### 4. To Model Christ's Relationship with the Church

Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the church. "The Home is the Church in miniature."

*"This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."*

- Ephesians 5:32

# A Word about Multiplying a Godly Heritage

**“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”**

- Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

**“Create within your child a hunger and thirst for the things of God and when he/she is old he/she will continue to have a heart for God.”**

- Proverbs 22:6 (TCV)

## Encouragement from Scripture

**Psalm 78:1-8, TLB** - <sup>1</sup> O my people, listen to my teaching. Open your ears to what I am saying. <sup>2</sup> For I will show you lessons from our history, stories handed down to us from former generations. <sup>4</sup> I will reveal these truths to you so that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah to your children and tell them about the mighty miracles he did. <sup>5</sup> For he gave his laws to Israel and commanded our fathers to teach them to their children, <sup>6</sup> so that they in turn could teach their children too. Thus his laws pass down from generation to generation. <sup>7</sup> In this way each generation has been able to obey his laws and to set its hope anew on God and not forget his glorious miracles. <sup>8</sup> Thus they did not need to be as their fathers were—stubborn, rebellious, unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

### 1. Teach your children God's Greatness.

**Psalm 78:1-4, The Message** - <sup>1</sup> Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you. <sup>2</sup> I'm chewing on the morsel of a proverb; I'll let you in on the sweet old truths, <sup>3</sup> Stories we heard from our fathers, counsel we learned at our mother's knee. <sup>4</sup> We're not keeping this to ourselves, we're passing it along to the next generation— God's fame and fortune, the marvelous things he has done.

**Psalm 78:4, NIV** - <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

- **“His praiseworthy deeds”**—*The awesome things He as done!*
- **“His power”**—*Nothing is too difficult for Him!*
- **“His wonders”**—*He is a God of miracles!*

### 2. Teach your children God's Word.

**Psalm 78:5-7, NLT** - <sup>5</sup> For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, <sup>6</sup> so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. <sup>7</sup> So each generation should ... obey ... his commands.

### 3. Teach your children to trust God.

**Psalm 78:7, GNT** - <sup>7</sup> In this way they also would put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments.

### 4. Teach your children to obey God.

**Psalm 78:7-8, The Message** - <sup>7</sup> can trust in God, Never forget the works of God but keep his commands to the letter. <sup>8</sup> Heaven forbid they should be like their parents, bullheaded and bad, A fickle and faithless bunch who never stayed true to God.

## Basic Discipline Guideline Chart (Minirth-Meier)

<b>Infancy</b> (Birth to 15 Months)	The best possible environment for an infant is a home that is loving, joyful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. Lots of holding is needed without “discipline” per say.
<b>Toddlers</b> (15 to 36 months)	Toddlers need lots of touching, hugging, eye contact, smiles, and gentle words. Discipline: A simple “no-no,” then divert to positive environment.
<b>Preschoolers</b> (3 to 6 years)	To correct a child’s bad behavior or affirm (reinforce) a child’s good behavior, the rebuke, physical punishment, hug, or praise must be immediate and directly linked to the child’s actions. Don’t respond in anger. Be fair and consistent. A good pre-discipline tool is the “time out.”
<b>Elementary</b> (Age 6 to 12)	Children begin to model themselves after their parental example. Opportunities (i.e. time) to see the good “model” is important. “Unity” from parents is important. Boundaries and consequences must be clear.
<b>Teenage years</b>	Parents must begin “letting go.” Choose battles carefully. Some absolutes should be maintained but other “discipline issues” should be “contracted” (via “let’s make a deal” meetings between parents and teenagers).

### FYI:

- A goal of parenting should be *“First Time Obedience”*
- A principle in parenting should be *“Obedience brings freedom and disobedience brings consequences.”*