

SEARCH ME.

TRY ME.

LEAD ME.

cm1
CHANGE ME FIRST

PSALM 139:23-24

Newsletter
February 2010
Issue 1

Recommended Resources

- **Six-Point Plan for Raising Happy, Healthy Children**
By John Rosemond
- **Don't Make Me Count to Three**
By Ginger Plowman

Coming Events

- **Elementary**
February 12-13
Truth Trackers 4th-6th
Grade Sleepover
- **Elementary**
June 28-July 2
VBS
- **Junior High**
February 20
Bricklayer Activity
- **Senior High**
February 19
Bricklayer Activity
- **Junior and Senior High**
March 27
HonorU Parent
Appreciation Dinner

Calvary Baptist Church
3810 Grandview Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29680
www.calvarysimpsonville.org

God's Purpose for Parenting

If you were to ask the average parent for his/her purpose or main goal of parenting, you might receive a variety of answers. Some just hope their children become respectable, law-abiding citizens. Others desire to see their children become honest adults who try to help others. Still others would say, "Frankly, I'm trying to help my children out of my home and life." Of course, we understand they don't mean "out of their life" to the point they never see or speak to them again but to the point they are not dependent on their parents on a daily basis for decision-making, material provision, or even social interaction.

While these are admirable goals, isn't there more to childrearing than this for Christian parents? Or is that good enough? How should Christian parents respond to the same question concerning the purpose or goal of parenting? **I believe for Christian parents the answer to that question can only be one thing, namely, to do everything in their power to help their children become more like the Lord Jesus Christ.** That is not to say they rely on their power alone because we understand the absolute necessity of depending heavily on the power of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:13), the truth of the Word of God (John 17:17), and the wisdom of other like-minded believers (Prov. 11:14). I say this can be the only answer for Christian parents because God's Word is clear that man exists for God's glory (I Cor. 10:31; Isa. 43:7; Rev. 4:11). And what better way is there to bring glory to God than by emulating, becoming like, His Son (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18)?

So then the question becomes, **how do Christian parents accomplish this purpose.** Thankfully, the Scripture does not leave us guessing. It doesn't tell us what to do without telling us how to go about it. There are multiple passages that address different aspects of parenting and, of course, as God's inspired Word, each are vitally important. I want to focus on just one for now found in Deuteronomy 6:1-7 where Moses tells God's people that he has just relayed to them all of God's commands, rules, and guidelines. Moses said the purpose of these guidelines was to enable the people to fear the LORD which would result in obeying His commands thus leading to His blessing on their lives.

These commands were all centered around one main truth that there is one God and He is Jehovah (vs. 4) and one main command to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (vs. 5). And immediately he says these words (the main truth, the main command, as well as all the other commands) are to be in your heart. Did you get that? He didn't say these words are to be in your head but in your heart. Too many professing Christians know in their head what is right, but it hasn't taken root in their heart to the point that it changes their desires so that they please God rather than themselves. **Having God's Word, God's laws, God's commands in your heart so that they affect your desires, and thus your attitudes and actions, is an absolute must and the first step toward parenting as God intends it to be done.**

But you have not fulfilled the commands of this passage just because you have it in your own heart directing your own life. Notice the order here. **Only when the commands are in your heart are you then able, and indeed commanded, to teach them diligently to your children.** It is obvious by the comprehensive wording of the command to teach them diligently...talk of them when you sit...when you walk...when you lie down and when you rise (vs. 7) that this teaching is to be a way of life for parents. In the daily situations of life, you are to be consistently teaching your children from God's Word how He expects them to live. This involves showing them how their words, actions, thoughts, etc. align with God's Word. This is how your children can become like Christ. It is an absolute must if you are to fulfill God's purpose for you as a parent.



John Hutcheson is the Pastor of Student Discipleship at Calvary Baptist Church, Simpsonville, SC