

God Guarantees You Godly Children?

The third in the series:
Urban Myths: Debunking Christian Clichés
May 29 & 30, 2010

Prov. 22:6 -“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

1. What this verse is:

Proverbs 22:6 is a _____, and proverbs speak _____, generally speaking.

2. What this verse says (and doesn't say):

Train a child

in the way he should go,

and when he is old

he will not turn from it.

3. What we shouldn't do with this verse:

•Let's not blame _____, judging them as _____ parents because their kids _____.

•Let's not blame _____, feeling like _____ and wallowing in undeserved _____.

4. What we should do with this verse:

•Let's realize that we have a big influence in the _____ of children's lives.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. What is the point of Larry's story about the two very different girls from the same family?
2. What is the difference between a proverb and a promise? Is God free to use both in his communication with us? Why do we want to make this proverb into a promise?
3. Take a very careful look at Prov. 22:6. What does it say and what doesn't it say? What did you see that you have not noticed in the past?
4. Have you heard blame being shifted onto parents for the stupid choices of a young person? Have you judged other parents this way, thinking poorly of their home life due to the way their child or children act?
5. Do you blame yourself for how your kids are turning out? What do Ezek. 18:20 and Rom. 14:12 say about who is responsible for a child's choices? What are the implications of this fact?
6. You may have made some real mistakes. What does 1 John 1:8-10 have to say to parents who are convicted about what they've done wrong?
7. Read Deut. 6:4-9 to see the basis for the Jews' practice of incorporating God's Word into their daily family life. What can you begin to do in your home in order to train your child in the way he should go?
8. See Eph. 6:4. You want to raise your kids to love and serve God, but might you also be exasperating them in some way? Take inventory of your life and commit your home to Christ in prayer.

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3. What we shouldn't do with this verse:

•Let's not blame others, judging them as bad parents because their kids spin out.

•Let's not blame ourselves, feeling like failures and wallowing in undeserved guilt.

4. What we should do with this verse:

•Let's realize that we have a big influence in the direction of children's lives.