

CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Dr. David J. Rodabaugh

- I. **Duties of Parents (gleaned and altered from John Charles Ryle, *The Duties of Parents, Christian Heritage, Choteau, MT 59422*) (Much more than the issue of children in church is covered in this booklet.)**
- A. Train up your child in the way he should go, not in the way he would go
 - 1. Children have a bias toward evil—Prov 22:15; 29:15
 - 2. This is a first principle
 - B. Train up your child with all tenderness, affection and patience—Col 3:21
 - C. Train up your child knowing that much depends on you
 - D. Train up your child knowing that the soul of your child is the first thing to be considered
 - E. Train up your child to a knowledge of the Bible—Ps 138:2
 - 1. Read it reverently
 - 2. Read it regularly
 - 3. Read it with understanding
 - F. Train up your child in a habit of prayer—Gen 4:26
 - 1. Prayer is the best weapon during difficulty.
 - 2. Prayer is the simplest means in coming to God
 - G. Train up your child to diligence and regularity in public services—Heb 10:25
 - 1. Children should to with you to church
 - 2. They should sit near you at church
 - 3. They should behave well in church
 - 4. Ryle specifically mentions his dislike of a “young people’s corner” in a church
 - 5. But, you say, they can’t understand
 - a. Such excuses are contrary to examples in scripture—Ex 10:9; Josh 8:35; At 21:5
 - b. Those in didn’t always understand God’s ways—1Sam 3:7; Jn 12:16
 - H. Train up your child to trust
 - 1. They should learn to believe what you say—e.g. Isaac’s trust of Abraham in Gen 22
 - I. Train up your child to obey
 - 1. Compare John 15:14; Gen 18:19
 - 2. Jesus when young—Lk 2:51
 - 3. Joseph—Gen 37:13
 - 4. In general—Is 3:5; 2Tim 3:2, 4, 12; Tit 1:6
 - J. Train up your child to speak truth
 - K. Train up your child to redeem the time—Ezk 16:49
 - L. Train up your child to fear over-indulgence
 - 1. Proverbs often talks of the need to correct a child—Prov 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 29:15, 17
 - 2. Eli—1Sam 2:22-29; 3:13
 - 3. David and Absalom—compare 1Ki 1:6
 - M. Train up your child to understand how God trains His children
 - 1. He withholds some things—compare 2Cor 12:8-9
 - 2. He chastens
 - 3. He blesses
 - N. Train up your child remembering the influence of your own example
 - O. Train up your child remembering the power of sin
 - P. Train up your child remembering the promises of scripture. (The question of Prov 22:6)
 - 1. Afterward—Heb 12:11; Matt 21:29 (repented and went)

2. Refers to when he is old, not middle-aged—Compare Eccles 11:1 (fruit much later)
- Q. Train up your child with continued prayer
1. Children are a gift from God (What does this imply for those who refuse to have children?)—Gen 33:5; 48:9; Ps 127:3
 2. Intreat God for them—Gen 17:18; Job 1:5; Judg 13:12
- II. Is Children's Church Biblical? (gleaned and altered somewhat from Bruce C. Davis, Missing Children: Is Children's Church Biblical?, Chalcedon Report, Oct 1993)**
- A. Saved to Worship
1. Father seeks true worshipers—Jn 4:23
 2. Christ came to save lost men—Lk 19:10
 3. Worship is an issue of salvation—Jn 4:24
- B. The Regulative Principle of Worship
1. This principle states that God regulates worship by His word!
 - a. Stated in some reformed confessions
 - b. Examples in the OT—Dt 4:2; 12:30-32; Ex 20:4-6
 2. All else is not sanctioned
 - a. Compare Lev 10:1
 - b. Children's church is an example of this.
 1. Children are missing from the worship and Bible teaching services
 2. It may be well-intentioned but it is wrong!
- C. Children's Church—origin
1. Came from modern, secular and humanistic psychology
 2. No appeal is made to scripture but to issues of psychology
- D. Biblical Teaching: The entire church community, young and old alike, is to be present during worship—Ex 10:8; 12:24-26; Dt 29:9-13; 31:10-13; Josh 8:34-35; 2Chr 20:5, 13; Ezra 10:1; Neh 8:1-3, 5-6; 12:43; Joel 2:15; Mt 21:15-16; Eph 6:1; Col 3:20
- E. Teaching the Word is the means of building up the saints and of communicating the gospel
1. The gospel—1Cor 1:18, 21, 23-24; Rom 10:12-17; Jn 10:4, 14, 16, 27-28
 2. Teaching the saints—Eph 4:11-13