

Trusting God for Your Children's Sake

Last Sunday, I spoke on "An Appeal from a Christian Father." This message was for our young people. Today, "Trusting God for your Children's Sake." This message is for parents.

Christian YOUNG people are facing the question, "Can I trust God with my life?" We are told through the world system around us the following lies:

1. You CANNOT trust the Bible (TRUTH)
2. You can live however you want and still be a Christian (SEPARATION)
3. You need more than what God gave you (CONTENTMENT)
4. You can replace a personal, growing and intimate relationship with Christ with religious experiences (WORSHIP)

ADULTS are facing a different set of questions and doubts regarding the question, "Can I trust God for my family?"

Psalm 128 is a powerful psalm describing *the blessings of trusting God*. In these six verses we discover that when we trust the Lord, He provides:

1. Sufficiency. (Psalm 128:1-2) *"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours."*
2. Abundance. *"blessings and prosperity will be yours"* (128:2b)
3. Happiness. (Psalm 128:3) *"Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table."*
4. A legacy. (Psalm 128:4-5) *"Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem"*

The question for us is, can I trust God to provide these things? The world is telling me that pursuing a Christian lifestyle is foolish and will result in a diminished life. Can I really trust God?

I. Challenges to Trusting God

- A. The first area where we are challenged to trust God is in the area of **BIBLICAL VALUES**. We are influenced by the Media, the education system and popular psychology
 1. **What values are under attack?**
 - a. **PARENTAL AUTHORITY**
 - (1) Home school parents are under attack
 - (2) IF the Senate ratifies the UN Convention on the RIGHTS of the CHILD, UN rules would dictate how

we raise our children

- (3) The GOVERNMENT thinks it know more than parents
- (4) One example of this is the push for a mandatory vaccination against HPV. The HPV virus causes cervical cancer. The vaccination for HPV has proven to be effective in preventing the HPV virus from developing into cancer. The only problem is that there is only ONE WAY to get the HPV virus. It is a sexually transmited disease. Young women who remain virgins, and who marry young men who are virgins face no danger from the HPV virus. Yet the government thinks it knows better than parents. There is a push today for mandatory HPV vaccinations, even when parents are raising their children to be sexually pure.

b. **The second area where Christian face attack is in Biblical MORALITY - Here, Satan know how to use three of effective tools against the family.** They are IMMORALITY, ANGER, and INSENSITIVITY. *“Whether it is the couple’s sex life, unresolved conflict (ANGER), inconsiderateness toward’s ones wife, or some other area, the New Testament makes clear that all are part of spiritual warfare, and that husbands and wives must make the necessary precautions in order not to lose the spiritual war that rages concerning their marriage.”* (Andreas J. Kostenberger, *“God, Marriage and Family,”* 166-7). I would add FINANCIAL STRAIN to this list.

- (1) We need go no further than the morning newspaper for evidence of Satan’s effectiveness in these areas. In the past several weeks, two prominent pro-family, conservative politicians were discovered in their sexual immorality. SC Gov. Mark Sanford, and Nevada Senator John Ensign. Both men were rising stars in the Republican party. Both were strong voices for family values. And both succumbed to Satan’s most successful tactic against men.
- (2) You OUGHT NOT THINK you can win these battles without ACCOUNTABILITY, CONFESSION, SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

B. The second test for a Christian family is “Can I trust God in the area of

EDUCATION?"

1. Society places education as a GOVERNMENTAL responsibility
 2. The education of our children is a PARENTAL responsibility
 3. Today, there exists three CHOICES in education
 - a. Home school
 - b. Christian school
 - c. Public school
 4. We need Christian teachers in Christian schools AND public schools
 5. If you are asking "Where to send my children to school," consider the following.
 - a. Parents are responsible before the Lord for raising their children.
 - b. Parents must know their children.
 - (1) Children who are **followers** face great danger in the public school system.
 - (2) Children with **unique education needs** might not be well suited for home school.
 - (3) The **EXPENSE** of Christian school, or the **TIME REQUIRED** for Home School should **NOT be the reason** we send our children to **Public school!**
- C. A Third major "Can I trust God regarding His instructions on **DISCIPLINE?**
1. Society says that all you need to do is to learn to **speak to your child in the right way.**
 2. Are you getting your parental information from OPRAH, Dr. Phil, and THE VIEW?
 3. No means NO!
 4. Spanking is NOT an old fashioned way of discipline
 - a. (Proverbs 23:13) *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die."*
 - b. (Proverbs 23:24) *"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him."*
 - c. (Proverbs 29:15) *"The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother."*
 - d. (Proverbs 29:17) *"Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul."*
 - e. **Hebrews 12:7-11**

D. **Finally, Christians must decide in these volatile and uncertain times, *Can I trust God for my finances?***

1. Wealth comes from the Lord. (Deuteronomy 8:18) *"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."*
2. The Lord Provides!!! (Psalm 37:25-26) *"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."*
3. The Lord is Good to those who trust in Him. (Nahum 1:7) *"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,"*

II. **Biblical Parenting for Parents**

Examine the following commands from Proverbs regarding a parent's responsibility in the training of children.

- A. Moral and sexual purity. Two entire chapters deal with this! (Proverbs 5 and 7)
- B. Money and work. Proverbs 6:1-11; (Proverbs 22:29) *"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men."*
- C. Choosing friends Prov 13:19-21

(The following 5 points are from Kostenberger, 104)

- D. Choosing a spouse! (Proverbs 18:22) *"He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord."* **(31:10-31)**
- E. Control anger. (Proverbs 14:17) *"A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated."*
- F. Refrain from a lifestyle of pleasure. (Proverbs 21:17) *"He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich."*
- G. Self control with food. (Proverbs 23:20-21) *"Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags."*
- H. **Guard your heart. Prov 4:20-23**
- I. **I began 3 weeks ago by speaking about intentionality. If I could do one thing over, I would be more intentional about teaching my children.**

How do you do this? How do you resist the attitudes of the culture?

By TRUSTING GOD

- III. Moses provides an Example of Trusting God. Hebrews 11:24-28 describes his decision to forsake the temptations of Egypt for the hope of something he could not see. Egypt was real. His power was real. His future legacy as a prince of Egypt was the greatest height anyone achieve. There was nothing greater from a human point of view. Yet Moses gave it all up simply on a promise from God for a future blessing. This is exactly what we are to do today. We are to follow God's command, even when there is nothing more than a promise giving us hopw that the way He commands will be good fur us. This is a decision of faith. This is how we are to parent for God's glory. This is how we trust God for our children's sake.