

# Our Children: Today's Joy, Tomorrow's Hope

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Greetings,

I'd like to talk to you today about our children – today's joy, tomorrow's hope.

Surely God is in the plans when a woman conceives and brings forth a beautiful, healthy baby. If God is present then love must be present because God is love. Babies are the objects of love in a family but are so helpless at birth, totally dependent upon its parents for love, care, protection and survival. Loveable, and easily spoiled if it receives quantity love and not quality love.

Babies are impressionable, in that it easily picks up the vibrations of happiness, joy, sadness, anger, impatience or whatever feelings that the parents exhibit. Babies are plastic in that they can be molded or shaped into any fashion that parents choose, good, bad, or indifferent. In the first three years of a child's life, the parents have

done more than half of what they will ever do for their child. Therefore, formative years must be filled with quality love. Since babies are God's greatest gift to husband and wife, and babies are a visible expression of love between them, they owe the child and not vice versa.

One of the greatest writers said that the greatest thing in the world is love. This is true, but there is something even greater and that is life. There must be life in order to express love, freedom, power, happiness, knowledge, possession, etc.

God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Christ gave us the choice/chance to eternal life by His coming. He came as a little baby so that that by His examples set forth we would know how to rear our children.

He was the perfect example because He was God's incarnate. Christ loved little children and when He was teaching He made it perfectly clear to His followers that children were the center of His attention and that they were to be loved and accepted as children, and to be nurtured and tolerated.

The Jews principal care today is the education of their children. They know that their future depends upon the children and that children can hold their own anywhere with the proper tools of survival.

We cannot stop here with these cuddly, loveable, likeable babies that we can hold and enjoy and proudly show off. We must decide early or at the birth of these children that we must make a life for them that will be rewarding, fulfilling, successful and lasting and that most importantly they will have God at the head of their life.

You know, babies are born with the capacity to know God and an instinct to worship Him. They are not born atheist or agnostic. By neglect they can become so. Children are born religious leaders of mankind and since he is born with this instinct to worship God, he must see examples of praise and worship by his parents such as Bible reading, singing hymns and attending church. He may not understand initially but will as he grows older. (He must see God working through his parents because mommy and daddy are the most important people in his life). He must see, hear, feel, think and know LOVE through his parents in order to be godly.

This business of molding and shaping the child's life must supersede the making of a living and acquiring material worth. We must know that it is our responsibility to rear children in the most harmonious, orderly and productive atmosphere possible and that we must put aside our personal dreams and aspirations that were interrupted at the child's birth. It is said that "we take great care of our goods but throw away our children".

Yes, the decision to follow God is decided in infancy by the parents because the recipient is already there (the child) waiting for the proper ingredients to be instilled in him/her. The knowledge of God will become more real and meaningful to the child as he grows older. Where would you attempt to write your name on a brick so that it would remain, before you bake it or afterwards?

Babies draw the family together and are the builders of the home because they are the necessary ingredient in making the home. They are ministers of mankind and by their breath the world is preserved. Without children the race would drift into pessimism and hatred and despair. The child needs a loving home, a caring community, an effective school system and last but not least a church that worships a true and living God for his life to be one that will be strong and courageous and able to carry on the responsibilities of the future.

If we pay more attention to the highchair there would be no need for an electric chair. We must train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Many children have been told.

Some have been taught.

Few have been trained.

Education of our children is more than a telling process. It is more than a teaching process. It involves training. There is a difference.

Telling is helping to know.

Teaching is helping to know and grow.

Training is helping to know and grow and do.

Jesus loves the little children. It is the child that keeps the world sweet and happy. Therefore, it is important for parents, grandparents, teachers, preachers, friends or whoever plays a part in informing our children to instill in them all of the positive fundamentals that are needed for successful growth; knowing that in them lies our hope for the future.