Text: III John vs.#4 - "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

Does it really matter how successful and prosperous our children are if they are lost and going to hell?

So many parents concentrate on providing for the physical, emotional, material and financial needs of their children, but overlook the most important part, the spiritual.

HOW CAN WE RAISE OUR CHILDREN TO BE BORN AGAIN, GODLY MEN AND WOMEN WHO RESPECT GOD AND LIVE A SEPARATED LIFE FROM THE WORLD?

We train our children and grandchildren in the natural. (EX: Brush your teeth. Say "please" and "thank you". Wash your hands. Do your chores. Get a bath, etc.) Are we really teaching them spiritually? Taking them to church is great. It's a start. Children need to be daily taught from the Word, just like they need daily food nourishment.

WHAT ARE THE SECRETS?

1) Have daily devotions - Joshua 1:8.

   Daily prayers, not just at mealtime, but before the children leave for school, and before they go to bed.

3) Live the christian life before them - II Tim. 1:5

4) Teach them from the Word - Deut. 6:7 / Prov. 22:6

5) Loving Correction -
   Prov. 13:24
   Prov. 19:18
   Prov. 22:15
   Prov. 23:13
   I Tim. 3:4

   Get out of the 'war zone'. Don't be recalling their past sins and mistakes continually. (especially notice Luke 15:20)

7) Not provoking your children - Eph. 6:4 /
Col. 3:21
How do you provoke your children? By verbal abuse, unnecessary spankings, etc. It's being harder on your children than you ought to be. Expecting too much out of them for their age. We should have high expectations out of our children, but not unreasonable requests.

8) Giving them attention - Matt. 19:13-15/
Mark 10:13-16
Children need to be played with. Buying your child's attention is not the same as giving it.

9) Giving them their space - Luke 15:12-14
Letting your children grow up. Encouraging your children to go out and work. Teach them to survive in the world, but not be a part of the sin's of the world. Allow them to start a family of their own. Don't interfere in your children's lives as they grow into their adult years. Godly counsel is good for your child, at any age they may be, but being domineering and possessive is not healthy or normal.

10) Never giving up that God will change them - Prov. 22:6 / II Cor. 5:17
Eliminate nagging. It will only divide the adult child (or teen) farther away in your relationship with him/her.

11) Don't let your adult child use you as a slave
John 8:32/ John 8:36
Often, adult children think that their parents need to tend to their desires (like they did when the child was younger). It is only hurting the adult child if the parents continue to support them (financially) and have them depend on the parents instead of depending upon God, as their Source. Teach your child while they are young that we to lean on God. More than likely, the children will outlive the parents. The child needs to know how to live and survive without being dependent upon their parents in an unhealthy way.

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