

“Gifts To Our Children”

Luke 11:11-13

Introduction:

- A. As a rule, even *evil parents*, know how to give *good gifts* to their children. (v. 13).
 - 1. Freely give them a living and care until they can provide and care for themselves.
 - 2. Freely give them good gifts even beyond necessities - even after they are “on their own.”
 - 3. Rarely give them anything harmful -- if they knew it to be harmful.
- B. Often, even *good parents*, do not know how to give the *best gifts* to their children.
 - 1. May be able to afford all the gifts money can buy, but still not what child needs most. (cf. “Buy him one”)
 - 2. May focus too much on child’s temporal needs and wants, not enough on spiritual needs.
 - 3. May not understand greatest need of child: To be equipped to live in present world and the world to come.
- C. As Christians, let us encourage young parents to give *priceless gifts* that money cannot buy.

Discussion:

II. The Gift of *Oneself*. (Duet. 11:18-21).

- A. Not by rare appointment, but ready access. (walk, talk, sit).
- B. Not as a “pal” or peer, but as a mature parent.

III. The Gift of a *Stable Home*.

- A. A *peaceful* home. (Jas. 3:16; Mt. 12:25).
 - 1. Children don’t need constant crisis.
 - 2. Parents need to settle and/or forget disputes (cf. 1 Cor. 7:15).
- B. An *orderly* home.
 - 1. Well-defined *rules* based on Bible.
 - 2. Well-defined *roles* based on Bible.
 - a. Father’s role (Eph. 5:28)
 - b. Mother’s role (Tit. 2:5; 1 Tim. 5:14).
 - c. Child’s role (Eph. 6:1).

IV. The Gift of a *Godly Influence*. (cf. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).

- A. Good *personal* influence.
 - 1. By being “an example to the believers.” (1 Tim. 4:12).
 - a. “In word” - Watch language, choose words carefully.
 - b. “In conduct” - “Monkey, see, monkey do.”
 - c. “In love” - (cf. 1 John 3:18) For God, family, neighbor, brethren (church).
 - d. “In spirit” - Disposition.
 - e. “In faith” - True trust in the Lord.
 - f. “In purity” - Morally pure and genuineness of character.
 - 2. By keeping priorities straight. (Mt. 6:33) - cf. S.Hall’s story of homecoming.
 - 3. By “confess(ing) your sins to one another” - even to your children.
- B. Good *outside* influences.
 - 1. Their associations, your associations. (1 Cor. 15:33).
 - 2. Their T.V., literature, entertainment and yours.

V. The Gift of an *Understanding Heart*. (cf. 1 Thess. 2:7-11; Heb. 2:18;5:2)

- A. Understand child’s *limitations and feelings*. (1 Cor. 13:11).
- B. Understand child’s *need and desire for guidance and authority*.
- C. Understand child’s *pressure from peers*, give the an out.

VI. The Gift of a *Firm Hand*. (cf. Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13,14; cf. Heb. 12:5-11)

- A. Refuse to accept disrespect and rejection of authority.
- B. Refuse to give permission for what you disapprove.
- C. Refuse to be swayed by child’s tears (Prov. 19:18 KJV), society’s standards, or too much “free advice.”

VII. The Gift of an *Independent Adulthood*.

- A. Avoid extremes: Make them adults too soon nor let them be children forever.

- B. Gradually prepare them to stand alone - Morally and spiritually. (1 Cor. 16:13)
- C. Encourage married ones to “leave and cleave” (Mt. 19:5).
- D. Don’t expect them to “pay their dues”.

Conclusion:

- A. Your child is free agent, may turn away in spite giving all these things.
- B. Your child has much better chance, if carefully reared.