

# If I Were a Young Parent

Psalms 127:3-5

## Introduction:

- A. Text speaks of “children of one’s youth”. (v. 4).
- B. Most young parents are anxious about being good parents.
  - 1. Shower their children with all kinds of gifts.
  - 2. Generally, even evil people, know how to give good gifts (Luke 11:11-13)
  - 3. The best gifts cannot be bought with money. (cf. Brother Claude Hall’s story about MS lad)
- C. If I were a young parent, I would try to give gifts that would prepare them for life and eternity.

## Discussion:

- I. I Would Try to Give Them *Myself*. (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.
- II. I Would Try to Give Them 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).
- III. I Would Try to Give Them 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).
    - 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.
- IV. I Would Try to Give Them 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 them an out.
- V. I Would Try to Give Them 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.”
- VI. I Would Try to Give Them 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 demand that they 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.