

Now That I Am a Grandparent..

Prov. 13:22; 17:6

Introduction:

- A. “Grandparent(s)” not in Bible
 - 1. “Grandmother” once in KJV, twice in NKJ, thrice in NIV.
 - 2. “Grandfather” once each in NKJ, NIV.
 - 3. Does have others expressions referring to them.
- B. I believe grandchildren are God’s way of compensating parents for raising children.
 - 1. Have come to understand why they are called “grand.”
 - 2. Have more time to enjoy, with less responsibility.
 - 3. Great entrainment to watch “replay” of own experience of child rearing.
- C. Now that I am a grandparent, there are four basic things that I want to do...

Discussion:

I. Help Raise My Grandchildren.

- A. By insisting that the parents meet their responsibility (cf. Eph. 6:4).
 - 1. It not the state’s, the church’s, nor grandparents responsibility.
 - 2. Will not make it easy for them to shift responsibility.
- B. By reinforcing the parent’s work of teaching and training.
 - 1. By not allowing grandchildren to play parents against grandparents.
 - 2. By not undermining parents efforts to teach responsibility (cf. Teen asks grandma for car loan)
- C. By not interfering unless either life or soul is endangered.
 - 1. As the responsible parties, my children have to handle their children as *they* see fit.
 - 2. As the interested parties, we have to give them that freedom – until God’s will is violated.

II. Instill Genuine Faith into My Grandchildren.

- A. Timothy’s genuine faith was first in his grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).
 - 1. Had know Holy Scriptures from child (3:15)
 - 2. My own grandmother’s faith.
- B. Genuine faith cannot be merely tradition based (cf. Woman’s roast)
 - 1. Second and third generation “Christians” – “church of Christers”
 - 2. Practice has to be reinforced by teaching or it becomes tradition.
- C. Genuine faith must be Bible based (Rom. 10:17).
 - 1. Not “whatever you do, do in the name of grandparents.”
 - 2. Genuine faith must pass three tests: Authority test, trust test, and works test (cf. Abraham - Heb. 11:17; Gen. 22:1-5).

III. Demonstrate Sound Doctrine Before My Grandchildren (Tit. 2:1-5)

- A. Aged men and “things which become sound doctrine” (v. 2).
- B. Aged women and “things which become sound doctrine” (vv. 3-5).

IV. Help My Grandchildren Appreciate Their Heritage (cf. Josh 4:1-7, 21-23).

- A. By sharing life’s experiences and family history with them.
- B. By sharing our American heritage with them.
 - 1. Explain American story to them.
 - 2. Explain the reasons behind American customs and symbols.
- C. By sharing our Christian heritage with them.
 - 1. Explain the story of Christ and His church to them.
 - 2. Explain the scriptural reasons behind the practices of Christians and the church.

Conclusion:

- A. If children are a heritage from the Lord, surely grandchildren must also be.