

# Children - our Heritage from the Lord

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Last week we celebrated Mother's Day, and lifted up the value of mums. Today we will talk about what we already know, but should be reminded of, and that is – the value of children.

**Psalm 127:3-5 (CEB)** *No doubt about it: **children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a divine reward.** <sup>4</sup> The **children born** when one is young **are like arrows** in the hand of a warrior. <sup>5</sup> The person who fills a quiver full with them is truly happy! They won't be ashamed when arguing with their enemies in the gate.*

- “gift’ - inheritance, heritage (carries the idea of succession)
- There is no doubt about it – our children are our future (our posterity)
- As a society, and as individual families, children are our most important and precious asset

## **A couple of fun quotes:**

- The thing that impresses me most about America is the way that parents obey their children (Duke of Wellington, former PM of the UK)
- You cannot change your ancestors, but you can do something about your descendants (author unknown)
- Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children and no theories (Lord Rochester, 1675)
- A young expert of child behaviour frequently delivered a lecture called “Ten Commandments for Parents.” He married and became a father. The title of the lecture was altered to “Ten Hints for Parents.” Another child arrived. The lecture became “Some Suggestions for Parents.” A third child was born. The lecturer—so the story goes—stopped lecturing.
- The moral of the last story – be careful what parenting advice you offer to parents, especially if you have no children of your own

## **FOUR ENTITIES THAT HAVE (OR CLAIM TO HAVE) A STAKE IN OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES**

**4. Society**  
**3. The State (government)**

**2. The church**  
**1. Parents (& Caregivers)**

## 4. SOCIETY

- Many of today's social & societal problems are yesterday's parenting mistakes
- Societal breakdown is the result of family breakdown
- A strong nation is made up of strong families
- Therefore, to strengthen a nation, we must strengthen the family

As a society, we should do our utmost to:

- Support parents (and caregivers) in their task of raising good kids
- Demand the establishment of laws & policies that are pro-marriage & family friendly (traditional family)
- Bob McCoskrie is the founder and face of "Family First NZ". He presents excellent research & recommendations to strengthen marriages & families, and points out deficiencies & dangers of current laws & policies
- <https://familyfirst.org.nz/bob-mccoskrie/>

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- the gate – the place where elders of the city met, where courts convened and where legal and economic issues were settled
- not everyone "at the gate" is your friend
- there are enemies at the gate, such as:
  - abortionists (those who legislate [& promote] the killing of the Lord's heritage [children] before, and right up to birth)
  - sexually deviant people (gender identity, etc.) who are preying on our children
  - communists – those who try to legislate central government control over your children (education, medical procedures (needling), etc.)

**Proverbs 31:8 (NLT) *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.***

## 3. THE STATE (GOVERNMENT)

Our government is tasked by us, the people, to:

- govern & legislate laws & establish policies to promote the safety & wellbeing of its citizens

- The state is responsible to ensure the security of its citizens, from both external and internal threats (Army, navy, police etc.) [Romans 13:1–4]
- The government is responsible to ensure an independent judicial system, where innocent people are defended, and guilty people are held to account
- The government also ensures national systems for health & education, etc.
- The state has no direct business to interfere in your home (family), nor has it any claim (stake) on your children
- Unless parents mistreat their children, or do not properly care for them, biblically, the state (government) has no jurisdiction in your home to dictate to you how to raise your children

## **Government interference in families:**

There are multiple pieces of legislation & policies that interfere with individual families' values, and impede the task of good parenting today.

Examples:

- Anti-smacking law (2007)
- Abortion Legislation Act 2020
- Births, Death, Marriages, and Relationships Bill (allows changes to assigned sex on birth certificate based on preferred gender identity)
- Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill (2022)
- Relationships and Sexuality Education – Ministry of Education (2020)

All of the above, and more, is government interference in the families' autonomy to raise their children based on their families' values & beliefs.

## **2. CHURCH**

**1 Timothy 3:15 (NIV) ... *The family of God is the church of the living God. It is the pillar and foundation of the truth.***

- We, the church of the living God are the pillar & foundation of the truth
- We must uphold the truth of God's Word in the face of failing community standards
- We are the salt of the earth & the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-14)
- (As a local church, we spend considerable effort (and funds) to provide a space for our children, and to undergird parents in their parenting efforts)

## **1. PARENTS (& CAREGIVERS)**

- Parents, you are the primary authority in the lives of your children
- Your autonomy in raising your children should be celebrated & protected
- Do not let the state dictate to you its corrupt values and morals concerning your children
- Do not let the state invade your home (incl. demands of medical procedures [needle, etc.]
- <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/>

**Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV)** *He who spares his rod hates his son, but **he who loves him disciplines him promptly.***

Promptly - early (footnote in NKJ)

- Parents, do not fail your children (& society) by neglecting to discipline them
- Your primary task is to get your children to honour and respect you
- If you can't get them to respect you, you won't be able to get them to love you (they will despise you instead)
- If you want them to be your friends when they are grown up, you must first become their authority during their childhood years

### **Wesley's Mother On Child Raising**

John and Charles Wesley, were reared by a God-fearing mother (of seventeen) who laid down some excellent principles for child training. They appear in John Wesley's Journal:

"When turned a year old (and some before), they were taught to fear the rod, and to cry softly; by which means they escaped abundance of correction they might otherwise have had; and that most odious noise of the crying of children was rarely heard in the house; but the family usually lived in as much quietness as if there had not been a child among them.

"In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer the will and bring them to an obedient temper. To inform the understanding is a work of time, and must with children proceed by slow degrees as they are able to bear it; but subjecting the will is a thing which must be done at once; and the sooner the better. For by neglecting timely correction they will contract a stubbornness and obstinacy which is hardly ever after conquered.

"Whenever a child is corrected, it must be conquered; and this will be no hard matter to do, if it be not grown headstrong by too much indulgence ... I cannot yet dismiss this subject. **Self-will is the root of all sin and misery**, so whatever cherishes this in children insures their after-wretchedness; whatever checks and mortifies it promotes their future happiness."