

Your Children's Lives Are Meaningless and They Need to Know It

I. The Futility of Life

- Ecclesiastes
- **Everyone needs to learn the lessons of Ecclesiastes . . . including our children.**
 - Ecclesiastes is not merely the autobiographical ramblings of an ancient philosopher; the truths presented in it are repeated all through the Scripture.
 - That means that if we parents are going to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and parent them in a Deuteronomy 6 fashion, we need to increase our Parenting Bibles to include the vanity of Ecclesiastes.
 - The first reason “they need to know that” is that it’s part of God’s Word to us.
 - The second reason they need to know that their life is meaningless is so that they can do something about it.
 - If your children mistakenly go through life believing their life has value when it doesn’t, they’re delusional. They may “die happy,” but to die after living a meaningless life from start to finish only results in an eternity separated from God. *“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his own soul?”*
 - Also, if your kids believe that their life has value, and that value contradicts God’s Word, now they’re not only living a meaningless life, they’re sinning against God and will receive the additional consequences of their destructive lifestyle.
- **Depending on your identity, life has no meaning.**
 - Because your kids were born separated from God in their sin, and because they’re only capable of worshipping themselves, their life will amount to nothing more than another name that will never be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. They will live a vain, futile existence doing nothing more than using everything at their disposal to experience a paltry, superficial satisfaction.
 - Age has no affect on this reality. A child who becomes an adult doesn’t all-of-a-sudden achieve purpose when they get married, have kids, buy a huge home, or win a gold medal. It’s still meaningless because the pleasures of sin only last a tiny season in the scope of our mist-like lives, and though winning a gold medal may not be inherently sinful, doing so for our own pleasure as an act of self-worship is.
 - If your children are not yet born again followers of Christ, their life has no real, lasting, God-honoring meaning.
- **Depending on your identity, life has eternal meaning.**
 - The only way our kids can have any meaning in their life is to fear God and keep His commandments. That’s the only way anyone can have any meaning.
 - We need to stop worshipping self, and we need to start worshipping God. Every moment spent worshipping the Lord is a life of meaning and purpose.
 - This doesn’t simply apply to our unbelieving children. Yes, there’s nothing they do that has eternal value as long as they’re not born again, but even believers can live futility. Every time they sin, they’re slipping back in worthlessness. However their sin manifested itself, that was a destructive and otherwise empty pursuit.
 - Therefore, even our born again children need to realize that there is no cosmic guarantee that everything they do will have value simply because they made a decision to follow God. Our futility is tied to our choices. Christ-honoring choices made as an act of worship to God have meaning, all the rest don’t.

II. The Purpose of Life

- Philippians 1:1-11
- **Life has meaning when we participate in the Gospel.** (Philippians 1:4)
 - This participation in the Gospel is the first step. It starts when we are grieved by the fact that we are spiritually destitute, and we not only recognize Who God is in His perfection, but we also humbly turn to Him for forgiveness, life, power, and meaning. Only as we are justified and sanctified by God can our children's lives have meaning.
- **Life has meaning when our love abounds.** (Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:9; II Peter 1:3)
 - The word "abounds" has the idea of increasing and being in abundance.
 - The knowledge that causes our love to abound is the knowledge of God from His Word.
 - We must not merely have head knowledge, we need to be able to discern how to use the knowledge in a Christ-honoring way. Another word for that idea is wisdom.
- **Life has meaning when we approve that which is excellent.** (Philippians 1:10)
 - To approve something is to examine it, test it, and see if it's fit for use.
 - There is a lot of stuff in this world. There are trillions and trillions of possessions and entertainment choices and relationships and experiences and philosophies. But — in order to live a meaningful life — true followers of Christ must test each one that crosses their path in order to discern if it's biblically excellent. The word excellent refers to truly valuable and worthwhile. Basically, it refers to that which is Christ-honoring.
 - Your kids' lives will only have meaning and value as they are able to use the knowledge and understanding of God to wisely live for Him.
- **Life has meaning when we are sincere and blameless.** (Philippians 1:10)
 - "Sincere" refers to that which has been judged pure. It's like subjecting something to the harshest light, interrogation, and testing only to find that it is completely unadulterated and pure.
 - And "blameless" refers to both not stumbling into sin ourselves as well as not causing another to stumble into sin.
 - Our kids' lives will only have meaning as they growing in their knowledge and love for God so that they can wisely discern what pleases Him and therefore live a sincere and blameless life accordingly.
- **Life has meaning when are filled with the fruit of righteousness.** (Philippians 1:11)
 - To be filled with the fruit of righteousness is the natural outcome of living a sincere and blameless life. And we will only be able to live such a life as we diligently test all the choices that are presented to us in order to participate in those which are biblically excellent and reject the rest. And we're only ever going to be able to do that as accumulate the biblical knowledge and discernment of God. And we're only every going to pursue that kind of life as we love God.
 - And this all boils down to our identify.
 - Are your children worshippers of God, or are they worshippers of self.
 - The answer to that question will reveal what parts of their lives are meaningless and which parts are full of eternal purpose.