

How Does God Want Me to Teach My Child?

I. The Content of Our Teaching

- Teach
 - The Greek Word *didasko* is translated teach, teaching, taught, instruct, and instructed.
 - II Timothy 2:2; Colossians 3:16
 - Deuteronomy 6 places the spiritual instruction of our children firmly into the parents' lap, and — more specifically — on the father's shoulders.
- Teaching
 - This word is translated “teaching,” “teachings,” and “instruction” a total of nine times. But it's translated “doctrine” and “doctrines” twelve times.
 - II Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:7; II Timothy 4:3
 - We parents must take full responsibility for what our children know and understand about the Bible.

II. The Authority of Our Teaching

- Instruct
 - The Greek work *paraggellō* is translated many ways in the English Bible including instruct, instructed, instruction, and instructing. But it's also translated order, charge, command, commanded, commanding, direct, directed, and prescribe.
 - Biblical instruction should be more than mere impartation of knowledge. Accompanying the truth we teach is an *expectation* that the truth be learned and followed.
 - I Timothy 4:6-10
 - Teaching encompasses telling our kids what is right and what is wrong and charging them to do what's right.
- Preach
 - Luke 8; Matthew 5:13,16; I Timothy 4:1-2
 - All of God's people should be salt and light in this world, proclaiming the glories of what God has done for us, so that when they see our good works, they can't help but glorify our Father Who is in heaven.
 - We need to be ready at all times (rising, walking, lying) to proclaim the word, reprove, rebuke, and exhort our kids with great patience and instruction.
- Encourage
 - Though the Greek word *parakaleo* has been translated in our Bibles as “encouraging and comfort,” it has also been translated as “implore, implored, imploring, entreat, plead, pleaded, appeal, appealing, making appeal, beseeching, exhort, exhortations, exhorting, exhorted, exhorts, conciliate, invited, beg, begging, urged, urging, requested.”
 - Hebrews 3:12-14; Romans 12:1; II Corinthians 7:6
 - Exhortation is a strong urging to do something. It's not merely an encouraging word to keep on keeping on, it's a call, a proclamation, and imploring to continue . . . or change.
 - We need to encourage our kids, not with empty words they may take or leave, but with truth to which they need to submit.

III. The Purpose of Our Teaching

- Edify
 - The Greek word *oikodomeō* is often translated edifies, edified, built, build, builders, building, rebuild, and strengthened because the term is an engineering or construction term.
 - I Thessalonians 5:8-11
 - It's used primarily of building houses and erecting buildings, but it's also used metaphorically to communicate founding something or promoting something or causing something to grow and be strengthened. But what is the final product?
- Make Disciples
 - This Greek word is translated "become a disciple," "made . . . disciples," or "make disciples."
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - We must first evangelize our children, and when they commit in faith to God as their Creator, Savior, and Lord, they are to be baptized and then they are to be taught everything that Jesus has commanded us.
 - The word "teaching" is the very word with which we started. Once again, we see the content of our teaching. And that content has a purpose . . . that our children would become disciples of God and grow in their conformity to Him.
- Bring Up Your Children
 - This Greek word is used only twice in the New Testament, and each time it communicates the idea of bringing something to maturity, or nourishing it.
 - Ephesians 6:4; Ephesians 5:28
 - God calls all parents to be His Ambassadors. And He gives them the Bible to use to do the job. And the first task for which the Bible was created is to teach.
 - But teaching is not simply relegated to our letters and numbers. The content of our teaching must be primarily focused on the precepts of God, the spiritual instruction of our children.
 - But that instruction is not a passive process where we allow our kids to think whatever they want about what we're saying. It's not a laidback hope that our kids might one day agree with what we're teaching them . . . it's a passionate urging. Our teaching is to have authority.
 - But the purpose of this authoritative teaching is not conformity to my standard. It's not so that I can live my life through my kids or somehow benefit from them in the future.
 - The end goal of this kind of teaching is that my children will become something . . . not necessarily a great athlete or a surgeon or a preacher, but a follower of Christ whatever occupation to which He may call them.
 - We teach our kids the truths of God with the authority of God so that they may be servants of God.
 - We teach our kids what is right and what is wrong, and we urge them to do right and flee from wrong because God demands that we conform to right and refuse to do wrong.
 - That must be the goal of our teaching.