

...the value of children:

Scripture	What It Means	Our Response
<p>Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.</p>	<p>Children are valuable in reflecting the personhood of God.</p>	<p>God is honored when persons (children) created by Him and in His image are treated with love and honor for the sake of Christ.</p> <p>Therefore...</p> <p>It is our hope and prayer that at Integrity we will always welcome children, teach and minister to children, and love children because God loves children and He wants to save them and meet all their deepest needs.</p>
<p>Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.</p>	<p>Children are a blessing.</p>	
<p>Psalm 139:13-16 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.</p> <p>Job 31:15</p>	<p>God gives life; forming, knitting, and making each person while they are yet in the womb.</p>	
<p>Mark 10:13-19 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.</p>	<p>God loves and values children.</p>	

...the nature of children:

Scripture	What It Means	Our Response
<p>Romans 5:12-19 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... For, if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ... Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.</p> <p>John 3:3-8 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit..."</p> <p>Ephesians 2:3; Hebrews 10:14</p>	<p>Children have a sinful nature and are headed for destruction, unless through repentance and faith in Christ they are regenerated and recreated by God in the moral likeness of Christ to the glory of God.</p>	<p>Left to themselves children are sinful and spiritually dead.</p> <p>Therefore...</p> <p>We trust their salvation to God, abandoning all earthly devices and efforts to teach our children how to "be good people". Rather, our greatest desire is for our children to love and fear God.</p>
<p>Ephesians 4:14 ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 14:20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.</p> <p>Hebrews 5:12-13 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.</p>	<p>Children are immature – physically, intellectually, and emotionally. They are easily swayed. They lack experience in righteousness.</p>	<p>Children need to grow into maturity.</p> <p>Therefore...</p> <p>We will not belittle children because of their immaturity; Rather...</p> <p>We will lovingly and patiently nurture them toward mature adulthood.</p>
<p>Matthew 18:3-4 [Jesus said], "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."</p>	<p>Children are dependent upon their parents for what they need, accepting their limitations with natural humility and gladness.</p>	
<p>Psalm 53:1-3 ...there is none who does good. God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.</p> <p>John 3:19-20</p> <p>1 Samuel 16:7 ... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."</p> <p>Jeremiah 11:20 But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind...</p> <p>Romans 2:6-8 He will render to each one according to his works...</p>	<p>Children are accountable. All are dead in their sin and unable to obey God apart from His grace and accountable to God for their sin, including children.</p> <p>God sees our heart's intentions. God is just and good; he judges the world rightly. The guilty and the righteous will both receive their reward.</p>	<p>We know that our children are responsible for their hearts intentions, whether that be to love God or to love other things.</p> <p>Therefore...</p> <p>We will help our children to understand this responsibility as their age and ability allows.</p> <p>And...</p> <p>We will trust that God will rightly judge the actions and intent of our children.</p>

...the responsibility of parents:

Scripture	What It Means	Our Response
<p>Deuteronomy 6:5-9 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 11:18-21</p> <p>Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.</p> <p>Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.</p> <p>Proverbs 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1,10; 5:1,7; 6:1,20; 7:1,24; 8:32</p> <p>Deuteronomy 32:45-47 ..."Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. [47] For it is no empty word for you, but your very life..."</p>	<p>Responsibility to teach and model God's truth. Adults are taught the Word of God and expected to pass it on to their children. To be effective teaching children, the Word shall "be on your heart". Teaching should occur in every situation in life. Both parents are to be obeyed. Fathers are singled out as the one who should feel the main responsibility to teach and discipline.</p>	<p>Integrity Church must help parents understand their responsibility to instruct and discipline their children.</p> <p>We will help parents develop a vision of God and nurture them in the wisdom of the Scriptures that they may also do this with their children.</p> <p>We will assist and equip parents to rightly handle the instruction of Scriptures in their homes.</p>
<p>Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"</p> <p>Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.</p> <p>Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.</p> <p>Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.</p> <p>Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.</p> <p>Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.</p> <p>Matthew 10:21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,</p>	<p>Responsibility to discipline. Youth is favorable to forming lifelong attitudes toward God. Children are naturally foolish, not good or wise. Discipline will drive a child towards wisdom. Discipline is rooted in love. Teaching & discipline does not guarantee a child's commitment to Jesus, but is still commanded of parents.</p>	<p>We will assist and equip parents to discipline in ways that would honor God, honor their children, and honor their role.</p> <p>We will expect parents to take responsibility for teaching and disciplining their children and hold them accountable for doing so.</p>

