

The Growth Institute

11/1/2023

Special Issues in the Family

Church and Families

Is the church a family of families (Matthew 10:34-37, John 19:25-27, 1 Timothy 5:1-8)?

How much should the church teach the family together?

Having Children for the Glory of God

Are children a burden to be avoided? (Psalm 127 & Mark 10:13-16)

Abortion: if the fetus is a child, then it is wrong, whether or not inconvenient. When personhood begins and how you measure it is difficult. Ex. 21:22-25 says it is at some point in the womb that personhood occurs.

Are all efforts at contraception wrong?

Are any efforts wrong?

Are all methods for increasing the likelihood of becoming a parent wrong?

Are any methods for increasing the likelihood of pregnancy wrong?

Christians have been adopted by God and should be prone to adoption (and foster care).

Raising Children for the Glory of God?

Discipline and Discipleship: the task of parents (Prov 3:11-12).

Methods of parenting have value, but so does the relationship method!

Children are not merely disobedient; they are disobedient because they are sinful and they need salvation, not just discipline.

Levels of discipline, from Wegner (Köstenberger and Jones, 145):

1. Encourage proper behavior
2. Inform of improper behavior
3. Explain the consequences of sin
4. Gently exhort (advise and exhort against sin that can become a pattern and encourage them to use wisdom).
5. Gently rebuke or reprove
6. Punishment that does not cause physical harm (Prov. 13:24, 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:15)

You are the parent and God has put you in charge, not your selfish desires in charge or your selfish kid in charge!

Wise parents use the least amount of punishment necessary to curb improper behavior.

Discipline must be consistent, age-appropriate, fair and just and fit the offense, child-specific, administered in love and not anger, future-oriented and forward looking, as part of relationship with you (Köstenberger and Jones 147-148).

Discipleship: partnering parents and the church

We want kids who have an independent life of personal worship and devotion, a desire for corporate worship, a pursuit of fellowship in the body of Christ, and openness to discuss spiritual things, who approach decision making from a biblical perspective, who have a desire to serve others and share their faith, who have a desire to give of one's financial resources to support God's work, and an appetite greater for God than cultural idols (Köstenberger and Jones interacting with Paul David Tripp, 151).

Raising Parents for the Glory of God?

For Further Study:

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003.

Danylak, Barry. *A Biblical Theology of Singleness*. Cambridge, UK: Grove, 2007.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.