

Godly Children  
Malichi 2:15b



## Godly Children

- **Psalm 127:15 NLT**, “Children are a gift (*inheritance*) from the Lord”
  - Gift or Inheritance in the ancient Hebrew language emphasizes that a family's growth and survival are not the result of mere human effort or anxious toil, but an incredible, unearned blessing from God
  - Children are an incredible, unearned blessing from God
  - What about the child born outside of marriage – are they still an incredible, unearned blessing from God?
  - What about the abandoned child or abused child or unwanted child - are they an incredible, unearned blessing from God?

## Godly Children

- **Psalm 127:15 NLT**, “Children are a gift (*inheritance*) from the Lord”
  - This incredible, unearned blessing from God was never given to be redefine to what society or science dictates they should be
  - They were not given to be sacrificed on the altar of sinful desires or even to be made in our image
- Why did God bless us with children?
  - We have already read that all souls belong to God?
  - **Malichi 2:15b ESV**, “And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.

## Godly Children

- **Malichi 2:15b ESV**, “And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.
  - Children who know who God is, What God has commanded and learning to love and live through those commands
- This verse was written in the context of divorce within the family of God
  - How can your children grasp the covenant with God when you don't keep your marriage covenant?

## Godly Children

- **Malichi 2:15b ESV**, “And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.
  - **Malichi 2:15c-16 ESV**, So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. 16 “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence (*cruelty*), says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”
    - In this context the garment acts as a metaphor for a person's behavior, public character, or a concealed violent nature

## Godly Children

- Jesus changed the attitude of children within Jewish culture
  - **Mathew 19:13-14 NIV**, 13 Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. 14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them (*put up a stumbling block*), for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
- So, how can we prepare our children and the children we have influence over to be godly children

## Scripture

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

## Scripture

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV**, 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
  - 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 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.
  - 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## Train, not just teach

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
  - Train in biblical Hebrew carries the idea of dedication, initiation, and creating a restricted pathway
  - "Training up" a child means dedicating and setting them apart for a life of wisdom and life with their Creator
  - "Training" implies guiding a child through their initial steps, so they taste the incentives of wisdom

## Train, not just teach

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
  - Training also carries the idea of restricting or guiding someone into a specific, "narrow" path to prevent them from getting out of control or wandering into foolishness

## Train, not just teach

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
  - Notice the verse says train and not just teach
    - Teach: to provide knowledge, instruction or information
    - Train: to develop abilities through practice with instruction (*teaching*) and supervision (*usually to keep them practicing*)

## Train, not just teach

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
  - Notice the verse says train and not just teach
    - Train also carries the idea of “*according to their bend, character, ability*”
    - Not trying to pound a square peg into a round hole
    - In other words you’ve got to know your child

## Train, not just teach

- **Proverbs 22:6 ESV**, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
  - Here is the promise – they will never be able to get completely away from their godly training
  - Jesus trained His disciples
    - Teaching, Showing or demonstrating His teaching, Giving them the ability to practice
    - Set them loose to change the world

## Live, not just train

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV**, 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
  - You can't effectively teach or train or give away something you do not possess

## Live, not just train

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV**, 6 And these words (*not your opinions*) that I command you today shall be on your heart (*governing your walk so they can be seen in action*).
  - 7 You shall (*purposefully*) teach them diligently (*sharpening weapons on a whetstone, keep reminding*) 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.

## Live, not just train

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV**, 8 You shall bind (*fasten or make an alliance*) them as a sign on your hand (*governing how I respond*), and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (*how I see and process my world – everything coming to me and from me passes through these commands*).
- 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (*governing everything that happens within your home*).

## Live, not just train

- The whole Jewish culture revolved around constantly reminding the nation and children what God had done in their lives
  - We look and study the Law, Sacrifices, Feast to try and see what God is telling us
  - The Jewish family looked these to remember what God had done in the life of their nation
  - **Exodus 13:3 ESV**, Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place.”

## Live, not just train

- The whole Jewish culture revolved around constantly reminding the nation and children what God had done in their lives
  - **Joshua 4:6-7 ESV**, 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

## Godly Children

- It's never too late to start training
  - Like Queen Esther, you were created for such a time as this
  - Never give up a child or relationship to hopeless
    - Moses was a mess for 40 years
  - Give yourself some grace
    - Perfection doesn't exist
  - Train your eyes to acknowledge daily wins: Did everyone get fed? Did we lose anyone? Did you share a memorable laugh?

## Godly Children

- Understand that some phases are frantic and temporary. Focus on the core of your role rather than the clutter
- Not everyone is judging you and those who do, don't count or matter
- Your adult child's decisions are their responsibility and not yours
  - Can anyone say, Adam and Eve who had a perfect father

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