

Godly Grandparenting in an Ungodly Age

I. Introduction: God's all-sufficient Word contains principles of wisdom. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

II. The ideal – Three generations work together harmoniously.

A. Grandchildren are a great blessing to grandparents. Dt. 4:25 Ps. 103:17 128:6
112:1-2 Pr. 17:6 Job 42:16 Ruth 4:14-17

B. Grandparents are to be a blessing to their grandchildren.

1. A spiritual heritage. Deut. 4:9 6:1-9,20-24 12:28 Ex. 10:1-2 II Tim. 1:5 Ps. 145:4-7
71:16-18 78:1-8

a. Instruction – recounting the great redemptive acts of God.

b. Example. Rom. 12:1-2 Mt. 5:16 1 Co. 11:1 1 Pe. 5:4

c. Prayer. Gen 48:9 Eph. 6:10-18

d. Communication/connection. Phil. 1:8 Rom. 1:11 2 Tim. 1:4

e. Kindness, affection, unconditional love and affirmation. Phil. 4:8f 1 Co. 1:4-5
Pr. 31:29

f. Gentle correction. Gal. 6:1

2. An earthly heritage/inheritance. Pr. 13:22 19:14

C. Grandparents can be a blessing to their adult children – counsel and help. Pr. 4:1,10,20

D. Grandparents should be honored. Ex. 20:12 Pr. 23:22 1 Tim. 5:18,1 Lev. 19:32

III. Beware of common danger spots for grandparents. Col. 3:21

A. Ungodly grandparents can be a bad influence. 2 Ki. 17:41 Ex. 34:6-7 Ps. 78:9ff

B. You must respect the right of the parents to run their families and raise their children according to their own consciences – even when you disagree. Gen. 2:24

1. Don't nag or try to control.

2. Don't undermine parental authority – make it clear to the parents that you will honor their standards and wishes when you deal with their children.

C. Don't show favoritism. Deut. 1:17 Acts 10:34 James 2:1 Gen. 37:3-4 1 Co. 1:26ff

D. Beware of in-law problems.

E. Don't be selfish. Luke 22:26

IV. Some grandparents experience exceptional challenges in the face of sin and unbelief.

A. The gospel sometimes divides families. Luke 12:51-53 Gen. 4:1ff

1. You may have adult children who are not believers, thus they don't wish to raise their children (your grandchildren) as Christians.

2. You may have grandchildren who rebel against God and their parents.
3. Don't be shocked when some family members reject you because you follow Christ.
John 1:9-11 3:19 15:18 Mark 3:31-35 1 John 3:13 Mt. 10:22 Ps. 27:2,10
4. You even may be faced with having to choose between Christ and your relatives.
Deut. 13:6-9 Luke 14:26 9:57-62 Mt. 10:37-39 1 Sam. 2:29,12-17,22 2 Sam. 13:11ff
19:4-7 1 Ki. 1:5-6
5. Unbelieving family members can be extremely moralistic, judgmental and intolerant.
John 16:1-4 Mt. 10:24ff Luke 14:27ff
6. Even if your family members reject you, keep loving them. Luke 6:27ff Mt. 5:43f
Rom. 2:4 12:20

B. Why do kids (and grandkids) turn out the way they do?

1. Parents (and grandparents) are an important influence. Eph. 6:4 Col. 3:21
Pr. 23:13-14 29:17 1 Sam. 2:12-17,22-25,29 3:13 4:11 2 Sam. 13 1 Ki. 1:5f
 - a. While they influence how their children turn out, they do not have control.
 - b. What about Proverbs 22:6? Pr. 10:4
2. The world, the flesh and the devil also seek to influence our grandchildren and children.
1 Jo.5:19 Ro. 12:1-2 Pr. 7:1ff 9:1-6,13-18 13:20 1:20ff 1 Co. 15:33 Gen. 34
 - a. The whole book of Proverbs seeks to persuade the young person to reject the voice of folly and to heed the voice of Wisdom.
 - b. No matter how much we try to shelter our children (and grandchildren), the voice of folly will seek to appeal to them. Gen. 4:5-7 Mark 7:20ff Gen. 34:1ff
3. Children are responsible for the choices they make. Pr. 20:11 Ezek. 18:5-13
 - a. Not all rebellion is the fault of the parents. Ps. 51:5 Pr. 22:15 Gen. 4:1-9
Mark 7:18ff Deut. 21:18-21 Jer. 2:30 5:3 7:28 Isa. 1:2
 - b. As our children enter adulthood, they are responsible to make their own life decisions. Pr. 1:21ff 20:11 9:1ff Ezek. 18:5-13 Eph. 6:2 Ex. 20:12
4. God's sovereign grace is needed to save our kids. Eph. 2:1-10 Rom. 8:6-8
John 6:37,44 1:12-13

V. Wisely navigate difficult situations with you children and grandchildren.

- A. What spiritual influence can you have if the parents aren't believers? 2 Tim. 1:5 Ezek. 18
- B. What can grandparents do when access to their grandchildren is restricted? Mt. 7:1ff
Rom. 12:18
- C. What do you do when the parents act irresponsibly and it affects your grandchildren?
- D. What can you do when your grandchildren turn away from the Lord? 1 Jo. 4:19 Rom. 2:4
- E. Some may have to rescue their grandchildren from a dangerous or abusive situation.
Sometimes grandparents have to take over the parental role.

VI. Conclusion.

- A. Old age can be a time of great blessing. Ps. 92:12-15 Isa. 46:4
- B. Jesus incorporates you into His heavenly family. Ps. 27:10-14 Jer. 17:5-8 Luke 18:28-30
8:19-21 Mt. 19:29 Mark 3:31-35