

Children's Blessing

Ten Things Our Children Need

1. **Our children need a stable home in a very unstable world.** Some times we leave the impression that everything is all about us and our needs. Our world too often operates on the basis of selfishness and not self-giving love. It is important for our children to live in a home where there is not even the shadow of a doubt that mom and dad will be together until death they do part. They need to live in the security of absolute commitment. They need to know that they live in a home where mom and dad work through their problems through prayer and sacrifice. They need stability.
2. **Our children need moms who enjoy being moms.** It should be obvious to our children that their moms prayed for their children before they arrived on the scene and that they are praying still. If it is at all possible our children need to have mom at home when they are little and at home before and after school. It is worth the sacrifice that must be made for children to be nurtured by their moms during the critical early years of life. I may be a little old fashioned but I still believe that Titus 2 is still good advice today that moms should be "busy at home." What an incredible blessing it is for a woman to have as her primary job in life to mold and encourage her children.
3. **Our children need dads who know what it really means to be a man.** So many forces try to define men today and many of those definitions are truth. Real men work hard to provide for their families. Real men love their wives and spend time cultivating that love as the years pass. Real men spend time with their children. Real men think that some of the best fun they can have is with their family. Real men would rather recreate with their kids than with their friends. Real men never put the job before their family. Real men know that success in life is not found in a title and paycheck but that real success comes from being a good mate and dad. And real men love Jesus.
4. **Our children need moms and dads who love each other.** Love between moms and dads should be obvious to the kids. They should witness their moms and dads being affectionate to each other. Moms and dads need to demonstrate a healthy and wholesome love for each other that includes disagreements and decision making and forgiveness and change. They should be assured that one thing upon which they can depend is a loving mom and dad.
5. **Our children need a Christian home.** They need the nurture of being reared in a home where God is loved, listened to, and obeyed. Our children need to have biblical principles instilled into them at an early age. God should be at the center of every conversation. Children should learn from an early age that we are committed to encouraging our Christian family by habitually attending worship services and being personally involved in Christian ministry. Ethics and morality

should never be optional but should be the normal way of life for our families. Children should be taught right from wrong at a very early age and they should be familiar with the Ten Commandments and Sermon on the Mount from a very early age.

6. **Our children need to experience unconditional love.** They need to grow up in families that know no other kind of love. They need to understand from an early age that the family's love for them is not dependent on their good or right actions but that they will be loved regardless of what they do. With that love comes proper response and action. If correction is needed, then in love correction will be given but always in a loving way. There should never be a time in our child's life when they wonder if their family still loves them.
7. **Our children need a good spiritual family in which to mature in the Lord.** They need dedicated Bible teachers who are committed to passing on their faith to all their students. They need a spiritual family that respects and loves each other and lives the way that Christ expects. Our children need to experience how devoted Christians work through their problems with commitment and love for each other. They need to see forgiveness demonstrated and continual confession. They need to be taught to pray and to be given over to good works. They need to experience real Christian life.
8. **Our children need to be inspired to live their lives in ministry for the Master.** We should find ways to fan into flame the incredible gifts that God has given our children and find outlets for those gifts. We should encourage life-long ministry. We should encourage our children to find occupations that will allow them to best live their faith in Christ. We should teach them to seek first the Lord in all that they do and to truly believe that God will take care of them. All of life should be centered around Jesus.
9. **Our children need to learn to be generous.** We live in such a selfish world that first considers self. Our children desperately need to learn how to give sacrificially to those who are less fortunate. They need to have their hearts pricked by the suffering of this world and they need to be given opportunities to help those who are hurting. We often become jaded because of past experience and we tend to pass on our prejudices and our disillusionment to our children. Our children need to understand that pleasing Jesus means that we feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, give drink to those who are thirsty, visit those who are in prison, and help those who are sick. If you model this life before your children, just think of how much easier it will be for them.
10. **Finally, our children need our prayers.** They need persistent and sincere prayer from their moms and dads and from their spiritual families. It is hard to imagine what our kids have to deal with today. The temptations are so harsh and the path is so hard that even good grounded kids sometimes are tempted to go astray. Our kids need our prayers. They need us pleading before the throne of God for help

and aid as they face temptations and as they make decisions. Mom and dads, the most important thing you can do for your children every day is to pray for them. Church family we need to commit ourselves in prayer for these children. Why not go through the directory once a week and pray for every child. Or why not pick two or three of our children to concentrate on? Do it for our children. Cover them with prayer. Pray about their teachers and pray for their parents and pray that God will protect them from the evil one. Pray!