

Laying the Foundation in the Early Years

Prov 1.7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.

Eph 6.1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

* **The early** years are when you lay the _____
in your children for everything else.

* **In our** little ones, we have _____ children whom he gave to us, forming them in the womb, and whom we bore to him.

Eze 16.20 "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, 21 that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire?"

Psalms 139.13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

* **God has** entrusted them to us to bring them up in the instruction and training of the _____ (Eph 6.4).

* **What do** we have in the hearts of these little ones growing up in our Christian homes?

1) _____

Mat 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. 6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

2) _____

Prov 22.15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

* **What is** "folly" in the Bible?

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* **The duty** of Christian parents in a nutshell is to _____
the faith and _____ the folly.

* **How does** this happen? (Prov 1.8; Eph 6.1-4)

Prov 3.1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you ... 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

* **What are** some characteristics of biblical obedience?

1) Biblical obedience _____ (Acts 12.13).

2) It responds _____ & _____.

Psalms 119.60 I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.

Phil 2.14 Do all things without grumbling and disputing,

3) It is part of an overall attitude of _____ & _____.

* **You want** to require the same kind of obedience & honor the
_____ will require of your children when they are grown.