

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 57: THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward. – Psalm 127:3*

Main Idea: *Children are a blessing from the Lord, given to families as a stewardship to be raised in the discipline and instruction of the Lord that they might become, by His grace, true worshippers for His glory.*

I. Blessing of Children

- A. God commands married couples to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:27-28; Gen. 9:1,7)
- B. God is sovereign over the miracle of new life (1 Cor. 3:6-7; Heb. 11:11-12; Ecc. 11:5; Ps. 139:13-14)
 - 1. Fruit of the field and fruit of the womb are blessings from Him (Deut. 7:12-14; Psalm 127:3-5)
 - 2. Danger of pride, jealousy, and circumventing God's design (Gen. 16:1-5; Gen. 29:31- 30:22)
 - 3. God's good purposes and timing (1 Sam. 1:1-19)
- C. Joy of children (John 16:21)
 - 1. Privilege of imaging God to little ones (Ps. 103:13, Isa. 49:15)
 - 2. Reality of sin and pain in raising children due to the Fall (Gen. 3:16-19)
- D. Fight worldly views of children (Rom. 12:2)

II. Stewardship of Children

- A. Children come from and belong to the Lord (Gen. 33:5; Eze. 18:4)
- B. Parents have primary responsibility for training children in ways of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:20, 21; Pr. 1:8; Deut. 31:12,13)
- C. The role of the church in encouraging parents and blessing children (1 Tim. 3:15)

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III. Jesus and Children

- A. Jesus delights to receive children (Matt. 19:13-15)
- B. We must become like little children to enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:17; Matt. 11:25-30)
- C. Warning against causing little ones to sin (Mark 9:42)

IV. Spiritual Children

- A. God makes us His spiritual children (John 1:12-13; James 1:17-18; 1 Peter 1:23-25)
- B. Greatest desire is our children would be born again and become God's children (3 John 1:4)
- C. Apostle Paul's example as spiritual father (Philemon 10; 1 Cor. 4:15)
- D. Greatest blessing is to be an adopted child in God's family (Rom. 8:15-17, 23; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 1:5)

V. Application

- A. Rest confidently in the sovereignty and goodness of God whether you have children or not
- B. Pray for children in the church and in your life and actively sow gospel seeds among little ones
- C. Encourage one another to keep God's view of the blessing of children, not the world's view
- D. Rejoice that you've been adopted into God's family! God is our Father, and we're siblings with Jesus, our perfect older Brother. Jesus longs to come again to take us home to be with Him and our Father forever!