**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP DEEPER CHRISTIAN LIFE MINISTRY NORTHERN EUROPE**

**PRECEPTS FOR GODLY PARENTING**

**EPHESIANS 6:4; PROVERBS 22:6**

God sets the solitary in families (Psalm 68:6). Thus, in His wisdom, He has deliberately put children in the home setting where they can be raised up to become responsible and God-fearing adults. But God's goal for our children can only be realised if we, parents rise up to this highly important, very demanding divine assignment of raising up our children for Christ. 'Like begets like', says an adage, therefore to aim at raising up godly children, parents must strive to be godly themselves. Our children are God's heritage (Psalm 127:3) and they have been entrusted into our hands for a short time (from childhood to adulthood), and we must certainly give account of what we have done with them as God's property (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

**PORTRAIT OF GODLY CHILDREN Psalm 144:12**

The outcry of every sincere and godly parent is to be successful in raising up godly children. But what do we really want in our children? What should we see in children/youths before we call them godly? The scriptures supply us with a list of godly children/youths like Isaac, Joseph, Samuel, Esther, Jeremiah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Mary (the mother of Jesus). A close look at the lives of these youngsters gives us a picture what our children should be. The men among them were solid, mature, principled and disciplined and the women among them were cornerstones indeed used to fulfil important tasks in their lifetime. In summary, they fulfil Psalm 144:12.

Godly children therefore are: 1. Children that know the Lord like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Timothy (Daniel 4:4, 8, 11-14; 2 Timothy 3:5). 2. Children that combine the knowledge of the scriptures with salvation like Timothy (2 Timothy 3:15). 3. Children that will serve God from their youth like Samuel and Jeremiah (1 Samuel 3:1; Jeremiah 1:4-8). 4. Children that will be bold for the Lord and defend/deliver His people like Esther (Esther 4:16; 5:16, 17). 5. Children that will permit/encourage their parents to do God's will like Isaac (Genesis 22:5-10). 6. Children that fear God have godly convictions and will not compromise like Daniel and his companions and Joseph (Daniel 1:8, 1:4; 3:16-18; 6:10; Genesis 39:7-10). 7. Children that will obey godly instruction from their parents and follow their godly path like the sons of Rechab, and Timothy (Jeremiah 35:5-8; 2 Timothy 1:5). 8. Children that will accept divine commission and bring the word of the Lord to others like Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5-10). 9. Children that will demonstrate spiritual gift like Joseph, Samuel, and Daniel (Genesis 41:38; 1 Samuel 3:4; Daniel 2:47). 10. Children whom God will use to fulfil His purpose like Esther, Mary, the mother of Jesus and all the other youngsters mentioned before. 11. Children in whom is no blemish like Daniel and his companions (Daniel 1:4; 6:4). 12. Children who will keep themselves from immorality like Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus (Genesis 39:10; Matthew 1:18, 23). 13. Children that will bring revival to nations like Daniel and his companions (Daniel 6:25-27; 3:28-29). Our sons should therefore be 'plants grown up in their youth' and our daughters 'cornerstones polished after the similitude of the palace'.

**PRECEPTS FOR GODLY PARENTING Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6**

In order to raise up our children so as to attain the picture we have described above, there is work for us to do. Below are some of the guidelines we should follow so as to obtain the desirable result. 1. Dedicate your children to the Lord while yet in the womb (1 Samuel 1:11, 28; Luke 2:22). 2. Identify with God's goals for your children (Proverbs 29:18; Psalm 40:7, 8). 3. Make specific action plans for your children so as to achieve God's goal (Luke 14:28-32). 4. Teach your children from early childhood the Biblical principles of godly living, obedience ad respect for authority, and discipline (Genesis 18:17-19). 5. Bring your children early to a personal encounter with Christ (Matthew 19:14). 6. Instruct your children daily in the scriptures both in conversation and daily devotion (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:5-7; 2 Timothy 3:15). 7. Establish your children in a spiritual church where the truth of God's word is preached. (Psalm 119:63, Acts 5:29). 8. Lift your children to God by constant and fervent prayer (Ephesians 6:18, Gal 4:19). 9. Be a godly example for your children (1 Timothy 4:12). 10. Agree with your partner on child training (Amos 3:3). 11. Provide adequately for your children and where there is a temporary shortage give them adequate explanation (1 Timothy 5:8). 12. Discipline your children when they do wrong (Proverbs 29:15). 13. Supervise the books they read and the friends they keep (Proverbs 31:27). 14. Do not allow them to watch corrupt films/movies. 15. Be an understanding parent. 16. Give time and attention to your children. 17. Provide a healthy home environment and adequate privacy for your children. 18. Read good books on child training so as to know the nature of children and effective methods of child training (Proverbs 13:20). 19. Have such love and concern for your children that will sacrifice anything to deepen their faith and make their lives acceptable to God (Philippians 2; 17; 2 Corinthians 12:14). 20. Do not do anything that will provoke your children (Ephesians 6:4).

Though the task of godly parenting may be great, it is not impossible. There are examples of godly parents in the bible such as Abraham (Genesis 18:17-19), Job (Job 1: 5), Joshua (Joshua 24:15), Eunice and Lois (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:17). You can be a godly parent that will raise up godly children too!