

Raising Children

When parents have their first baby, the question is usually, "How do I ...?" "How do I feed them?" "How do I change a diaper?" Etc. Thousands of books are in print concerning the raising of children, from new-borns to adolescents. Here are three things you need to know about raising children. Get this down and the rest will fall into place.

First, **KNOW YOUR GOD**. Know that God has made you as a parent. He has made you in his image (Genesis 1:26-27) and he has told you and your child how to live (Judges 13:8-14). He must first be seen in your life (2 Timothy 1:5).

Second, **KNOW YOURSELF**. Know that God has given you the capability and the primary responsibility to raise your child (Genesis 18:19). Know what God expects of you as a parent: a mother (1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:3-5) and a father (Ephesians 6:4).

Third, **KNOW YOUR CHILD**. Know that your child needs molding in the right way of life (Proverbs 22:15) and he/she needs faith in God (2 Timothy 3:15).

If you will take the time to know your God, know yourself, and know your child, you will be a successful parent. The rest (the feeding, diapering, etc.) will take care of itself with a little common sense and help from those who love you. Go out now and be a great parent! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- If you want to "keep your feet on the ground", carry some responsibility on your shoulders.
- No amount of riches can make up for a poverty of character.
- The man who is rowing the boat has no time to rock it.
- As a person grows older and wiser, he or she talks less and says more.
- Let love be without hypocrisy.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Sowing Your Wild Oats

A Bad Example

Sometimes people describe one who is out living a reckless life as one who is “sowing his wild oats”. There are those people who would expect this reckless behaviour as natural. They might say something like, “Boys will be boys”. Others would even encourage this reckless behaviour believing that it is necessary to equip a person for life.

But, according to God’s word, “sowing your wild oats” will bring a bitter harvest. Proverbs 22:8 says, “He that sows iniquity will reap calamity...” Yes, you can go out and “sow your wild oats”, but understand you will reap some bitter things if you do. Let’s consider some of those bitter things.

A Scarring Memory

One who goes out and “sows his wild oats” will carry the haunting, scarring memory of those reckless actions throughout his life. King David remembered his adultery with Bathsheba (Psalm 51:3), Judas remembered his betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 27:3-5), Peter remembered his denial of Jesus (Luke 22:62), and the apostle Paul remembered the terrible things he had done to Jesus Christ and to Christians (1 Timothy 1:13). “Sowing your wild oats” comes with a cost.

One who goes out and “sows his wild oats” may cause others to follow his reckless example and influence. He may cause others (children, friends, family, etc.) to stumble and fall into sin just like he did (Matthew 18:6). “Sowing your wild oats” comes with a cost.

Unintentional Consequences

One who goes out and “sows his wild oats” often reaps unintended consequences. He gets more than he bargains for. It has been said that “sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”

The one “sowing his wild oats” may lose his job. He may rack up enormous amounts of debt. He may have his physical property confiscated. He may be put in jail or prison. He may slowly kill his body with drugs or alcohol. He may take his life. He may lose his children to Foster Care. He may end up in divorce. He may contract some STD. He may end up living on the street. Etc. Like the prodigal son who ended up living with the pigs, this person may get more than he really wants (Luke 15:11-16). “Sowing your wilds oats” comes with a cost.

Wastes Time

One who goes out and “sows his wild oats” wastes his time and deprives God and Jesus of precious years of service (1 Corinthians 15:9-10). “Sowing your wild oats” comes with a cost.

Forfeits Blessings

One who goes out and “sows his wild oats” forfeits the great blessings of living the Christian life. The Christian life is the absolute best life to live with its love, peace, forgiveness, answered prayer, hope, godly company, etc. (1 Timothy 4:8). But, reckless living forfeits all of this. “Sowing your wild oats” comes with a cost.

Eternal Loss

One who “sows his wild oats” may never obey the gospel (Acts 24:25; 26:28), or he may never be restored to Christ (Hebrews 6:6). Jesus may come or he may die and then he will be eternally lost (Luke 12:20; 16:22-23; Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14). “Sowing your wild oats” comes with a cost.

The Bible says we reap what we sow and nothing good comes from “sowing your wild oats”! - Chris Reeves