

Engraving Character Into Our Children

Hebrews 1:3

Introduction:

“A **good name** is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.”

Proverbs 22:1

- A. A “good name” is the quintessential of every Christian.
 1. While far from perfect, Christians are commanded to strive for it. “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” **Matthew 5:48**
 2. Faithful Christians understand the value of true “character:” **it is priceless.**
 3. While many scoff, ridicule, and mock at Christian ideologies, God Himself will exalt you if your character – **the very essence of who you are** – is engraved into the image of His son.
- B. Engraving Character (‘a good name’) is of the utmost importance.
 1. A deliberate, accurate, and thorough employment in raising our children is necessary to create an **imprint** of our Savior into their lives. “And He is the radiance of His glory and the **exact representation** of His nature ... ” **Hebrews 1:3**
 2. The seriousness of this endeavor is manifested by faithful and diligent living and parenting.
 3. The fruit of your labors seen in the lives of your children will **further engrave** our own character as God’s children.

Discussion:

- I. Engraving Character Into Our Children
 - A. Important to engraving character: **getting rid of sinful behavior.**
 1. Chisel out their desire to lie and deceive. “The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.” **Psalms 58:3**
 2. Chisel out: talking back, disrespectful tones when speaking, rolling eyes, grumbling, etc. “The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.” **Proverbs 30:17**
 3. In the process they are able to fill the void with godly characteristics: addressing and speaking to others respectfully, fulfilling their obligations with excellence and maturity.
 - B. Bring Out the desired outcome of your children. **Lk. 2:51-52**
 1. The practice of **joyful obedience.** **1 Jn. 5:3**
 2. **An expectation of moral excellence.** cp. **2 Pet. 1:5**
 3. **A heart of a servant.** **Jn. 13:14-15**
 4. NOTE: as **parents** we need to set forth **an example** of these virtues if we are to chisel out the unwanted (sinful) behavior and bring out these Christ-like virtues into our children.
 - C. **Character Through Trials and Tribulations.**
 1. Toil, pain, and difficult trials are the necessary ingredients for character growth. “We also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.” **Romans 5:3-4**
 2. **Through these trials and tribulations children learn the virtuous quality of perseverance.**
 3. **In turn, perseverance brings about proven character.**
 4. **Test their character and “reward” them according to their deeds (good and bad).** **Gal. 6:7-8**
 - D. Foundation for engraving character: **God’s Word**
 1. When a child has a problem with forgiving others. **Col. 3:13**
 2. When a child is spoiled; always wanting “things”. **1 Jn. 2:15**
 3. Training the concept and mindset of obedience. **Eph. 6:1-3**
 4. **Enhancing roles:** training daughters to become virtuous wives (and sons godly husbands). **Proverbs 31:10-31**

II. Blessings of Engraving Character Into Our Children

- A. One of the quickest ways to learn about ourselves comes through parenting.
 - 1. **We may find that we lack the very behavior we expect from our children.**
 - 2. **In this way we either live by a double standard (cp. Matt. 23:1-4) or refine our character so that we can be godly examples to our children. Eph. 6:4**
- B. **The end result:** having children in the express image of our Savior.
 - 1. All the necessary time, energy, diligence, perseverance in “training up your children in the way they should go” is nothing more than an act of genuine love.
 - 2. When children are trained up in the Lord they become a blessing to their parents. “Let our sons in their youth be as grown-up plants, And our daughters as corner pillars fashioned as for a palace.” **Psalm 144:12**
- C. The end result: the express image (**true character**) of our Savior.
 - 1. When Christians are engraving true character into their lives and those of their children, God’s name is magnified among the “Gentiles.” “For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations ... ” **Malachi 1:11**

Conclusion:

Engraving character into your children may be the most difficult task you ever do as parents. The fruit of your labors, however, will last an eternity.