

Tips for Raising Little Boys in the 21st Century (Part 1)

First of let me say that although I have two little boys, I certainly do not want to make it sound as if I have parenting figured out! I certainly do not and I don't even have much experience. There are many bridges I haven't crossed that many of you have. Not even close. However, I have found a Book that offers a great deal of wisdom on the subject, and I wanted to give you a few things that I have learned and that I try to apply in raising sons. While I will give these in the context of raising little boys, they can certainly be applied to daughters, helping new believers, etc.

1. **"...be strong therefore and shew thyself a man; keep the charge of the Lord thy God."** 1Kings 2v2. When King David was about to die, he gave Solomon some great advice. He told him to act like a man, and then went on to define what it is to truly be manly. He said to **"keep the charge of the Lord thy God."**

Now I like a good John Wayne western as well as anyone, but although his characters have aspects of what a man should be (courageous, true to your word, standing up for what's right, etc), he's not the epitome of manhood. The most important thing a man can do to improve his "manliness" in this crazy, backwards world is to OBEY WHAT GOD SAID. Believing that God has preserved His word perfectly and without any mistakes for us in the old Authorized Version Holy Bible is essential to being able to identify what He said and then take a stand upon it.

2. Spend a lot of time with those boys! The prophet Samuel was a very Godly man, but spent a lot of time away from home and presumably from his family. 1 Samuel 7v16 says that **"he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places."** That's a lot of traveling! Just a few verses later, the Israelites said **"thy sons walk not in thy ways"** then proceeded to ask for something that they had no business asking for. Now Samuel was doing the Lord's work, and I'm not going to talk bad about him or anything like that because the Lord didn't give us the whole story, but I do want to point out that he was away from his boys a lot, and they did not grow up into Godly men. It seems that his absence was at least part of the reason for that. There were probably many factors, but my devotional application of this passage is to make sure that I am spending time with my boys. (We like taking walks around our place and I'll point to different things and say "who made those trees? Who made that moon? Who made those stars? and they'll always shout 'GOD!'" The eldest of them is not quite three years old, and no doubt neither of them has much comprehension or understanding of anything, but they're already talking more scientific good sense than Richard Dawkins ever has! Spending time with them gives a parent more chances to introduce them to **"the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"** 2 Timothy 3v15.

We've all got lives to live and jobs to work, but I encourage you to spend all of the time that you can spare with them!

3. **"Flee youthful lusts"** 2 Timothy 2v22

Sexual temptation is something that a young man should **"flee."** He shouldn't try to stand and fight or sit and pray about it. God has already given His guidance- GET OUTTA THERE! It starts with entering **"not into the path of the wicked"** Proverbs 4v14, but when trouble does find you out while you're doing **"the work of the Lord"**, it would be good to follow Joseph's example, where he **"fled, and got him out"** Gen 39v12! Now fleeing the clutches of a strange woman certainly won't earn you any "cool points" with the fellows at work or at your school or military unit etc, but **"do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"** Galatians 1v10 I got laughed at many times while in the Army for "fleeing" certain situations, but I'm thankful that I wanted to please the Lord more than I wanted to please those heathens!

Now of course there are other lusts to be avoided, like being too caught up with school or sports or anything that would distract a kid from seeking the Lord, but **"a whore is a deep ditch"** Proverbs 23:27 and a healthy young man may find that this is his greatest threat to living a life that is **"well pleasing in his sight"** and would do well to have a game plan in place to identify and **"flee"** women like that.

The rest of 2 Timothy 2v22 says to **"follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."**

Focusing on seeking the Lord and His righteousness, and finding friends that love the Lord that will help a kid with that, and will certainly help keep the mind **"stayed on thee"**, and like the old hymn goes "temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh."

So anyway, these are three things that I've looked at lately and I hope that you will find them as helpful as I did as I try to apply them in raising my boys. Please pray for me if you think about it! Pray for my boys John William Tyndale (3) and Charles Wesley (1) that they trust the Lord Jesus Christ to be their Saviour from sin and want to walk well pleasing in His sight! We've got a long ways to go through a sick, wicked world if the Lord doesn't come back, and I need all the prayers I can get!