

Theme: Leadership in the family

Topic: The role of a parent as a spiritual leader – Asaolu O. S. (asaolu@yahoo.com)

Lesson Presented at church of Christ, UNILAG, Lagos, Nigeria on 10/08/2025

Introduction: I have delivered several exhortations related to this subject within the last two years including:

Children: Raise them well and treat them right – Asaolu O. S. (asaolu@yahoo.com)

Sermon Presented at church of Christ, UNILAG, Lagos, Nigeria on 3/11/2024

The role of grandfathers and grandmothers in children upbringing and challenges – [Asaolu O.S.](#)

Teaching @ COC UNILAG [April 14, 2024]

Qualities of Christian Mothers – [Asaolu O. S.](#)

Teaching @ COC UNILAG [Sept 17, 2023]

Thus, this Teaching is more or less a recap, to emphasize what the scriptures expect of a father or mother in the moral and religious upbringing of their offspring, that is sons and daughters. Firstly, a parent is a man or woman who has procreated or adopted another human being and is responsible for the care and guidance of that child, especially in the formative and adolescent years. Spiritual leadership is the mobilization and orientation of others to align with the expectations and commands of a deity. We are interested in the function (what, how) a parent is to lead a child in the way of Jehovah, the God of the Bible.

Most parents value and prioritize their kids' secular education, physical and mental development and rightly so. They provide and nudge the children to attend school, extra coaching, inter-house sports, picnics, parties, etc. However, many of such parents do not apply similar diligence to the children's spiritual growth by neglecting their attendance in church or Bible related activities. We need to give children direction as well as balance. Recall: *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* –Prov 22:6

Thesis: Regardless of the circumstances of one's birth, no human came into this world by accident but is here by divine permission to fulfill God's will –Psalms 139:16. Parents are mere custodian and trustees, not true owners of children because such *"are the heritage of the LORD"* –Psalms 127:3. Consequently, parents are required to disciple or 'teach and mentor' children in the way of the Lord. They can do so via:

1. Verbal instruction – Gen 18:19, Eph 6:4, Tit 2:3-5
2. Regular Scripture reading –Deut 6:6-7, Psalms 78:5-7, 2 Tim 3:15
3. Taking children to religious festivals – Lk 2:40-45, and assemblies -Mt 14:21; 15:38, Acts 21:3-5
4. Observing religious rites/rituals (such as Circumcision, Passover OT), Praises (NT –Heb 2:12-13)
5. Righteous living as example –Deut 5:29; 30:2 & 1 Tim 3:4-5; 5:10,14
6. Exercising discipline for correction –Prov 29:15, 23:22, Heb 12:9-10
7. Equipping children with resources for spiritual growth especially prayer – Gen 49:1-2, Mt 7:9-11

Job who is believed to have lived before Abram was a spiritual leader in his family –Job 1:5. Eli and Samuel were spiritual leaders in their homes, the former was rebuked and held for failing in his duties unlike the latter though the sons of each man were wayward -1 Sam 2:12-18,22-25; 4:11-18 vs 1 Sam 8:1-5. NT converts who led their entire households into Christ and continued in faith are worthy of emulation e.g. Cornelius and Stephanas –Acts 10, 1 Cor 1:16; 16:15. Godly mothers include Hannah (1 Samuel 1), as well as the mom and grandmother of Timothy. (2 Tim 1:5) – *"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."* Ahaziah, king of Judah, was wicked because *"his mother [Athaliah] counseled him to do wickedly"* (2 Chro 22:3)

Conclusion: Parents should help facilitate the spiritual development of their children, it is a divinely assigned responsibility. They should be able to tell their kids the words of Paul in 1 Cor 11:1 & 2 Cor 12:14b-15