

Parental authority on time management of their children – [Asaolu O.S.](#)

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Introduction: Time management is about using or optimizing our time well, coordinating ourselves and our activities in a profitable manner. Only God is unaffected by time because “*He changeth not*”; is the I AM THAT I AM, He alone dwells in eternity. Recall 2 Peter 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

We as humans inhabit a universe where causes and effects takes place in space-time, where things seek to travel the shortest path or minimum time. Time is “*the progression of events from the past to the present into the future.*” Job 7:1 *Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?*

We plan our events using a yearly calendar, we map out our daily routine using a clock to mark the beginning and durations. And it doesn’t matter who you are, you have 1,440 minutes to spend every day. Punctuality and productivity are signs of self-respect and honor.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Thesis: Parents have a responsibility to teach their children about how to manage their lives and/or times. We need to let kids know it is best to start a day with spiritual devotion of scripture study, prayer and praises, no matter how short -Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 3:15. When we commit a day to God, He oversees it! In the Old Testament, the Israelites had template for child upbringing especially for sons. There was time or age range to memorize scripture, study in temple or with scribes, go to farm (till, sow, water, trim, weed, harvest) or to war, marry and enjoy honeymoon, raise a family, become a tribal or city-elder, etc. ***We inadvertently show kids how we appropriate time for God, family, church, work, rest/sleep, recreation, friends, hobbies, etc.*** They observe what we love doing or do regularly. Each parent must complement the other to bring balance into the home. Parents should lay a good pattern of activities and scheduling for children in their formative years -Prov 22:6. Yet, we must NOT be too controlling when children get into adolescent as they are discovering their personality, want some privacy and seek to try their hands on many things. Guidance via counselling and friendship would help at this stage, not authoritarianism.

Several negative emotions and traits are associated with time; we must be careful as individuals not to dwell too much on such e.g. *procrastination, idleness, nostalgia, regret, anticipation, anxiety.* We are to learn from the past, both the mistakes and the triumphs (1 Cor 10:11) but not let its negatives imprison and debar us (Phil 3:12-13). We hope and plan for the future, trusting God for better days ahead (Jms 4:13-16).

Ephesians 5:15-17 *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

When someone gives you his or her time, they are sharing or spending an irrecoverable portion of their life with you, value it. Time is the most valuable resource because once used, it is gone. We only go forward in time, practically and physically. Via memories and imagination, we do travel into the past or future, spending present time! Thus, we need to feed our mind with good and useful thoughts; “*as a man thinketh, so he is*”!

Conclusion: Responsible parents do not only care about their children getting good secular education, getting married on time or getting good jobs or promotions. They also care about their wards spiritual growth, past-times, and who they spend their free time with. [Watch video on [COC UNILAG Facebook Page](#)]