

# What is the Most Important Job in the World?

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Many may argue that the president of United States has the most important job on earth today, but I started to consider the many people who made inventions so that we can have the quality of life we now enjoy. There are many professions that are just as important as occupying the position of the president in the White House today. No, I don't think it is your surgeon. Sure he must have done a great job the day he replaced your kidney but let us think again. It is not your pastor, or lawyer, or the economist down the street that thinks he knows it all.

What job could possibly be more important in this world today than that of a parent?

Every word and deed of a parent becomes woven into the character of a child that ultimately determines how that child fits into the fabric of society. I want to express to my children my sincere apology for not exploring this revelation earlier in my life.

Many of us may not consider the weight of responsibility when we first held our children which goes on beyond the time of birth but through all their years until adulthood. The Bible in the book of Psalms says:

***Children are God's best gifts; the fruit of the womb his generous legacy. Oh how blessed are parents, with your quivers full of children! (Psalm 127)***

Really! Happy is a man whose "quiver is full of children"? You may say, 'Yes.' What about the mother?

It is safe to say that in present-day society both parents quiver at the thought of having a home filled with children.

I heard this once: "Three men were in the waiting room of a hospital awaiting news about the birth of their children. The nurse eventually came and said to one of the guys that his wife just gives birth to a pair of twins. He looked at her and said, "Wow that's funny, I work for the Minnesota Twins." A few minutes later the nurse returned and said to another of the three that his wife gave birth to triplets. He said to the nurse, "Isn't that wild, you know I work for the 3M Company?" The third guy just went ballistic, screaming, "Guess what? This is crazy; I work for the 7-Up Company!"

The most important aspect of the greatest job on earth is your children who spend 83% of their formidable lives observing, following, copying, and learning everything they can from their parents.

Please note: it is easier to build a boy than to repair a man, or it is much easier to build a girl than to repair a woman. For that reason, let us explore the Apostle Paul's address to the fathers of the Church at Ephesus.

***Ephesians 6:1 – 4: And, fathers provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nature and admonition of the Lord.***

"Fathers do not irritate and provoke your children to anger. Do not exasperate them to resentment – but rear them (tenderly) in the training, discipline, counsel and admonishing of the Lord.

In the era that the book of Ephesians was written there were two distinctive ways children were raised. The Jews paid particular attention to teaching their children the Torah and the Mitzvah. The Torah is called the Old Testament (which is the ceremonial and the morals Laws, the history of the kings of Israel, and the Prophecy the Messiah) and the Mitzvah is the Jewish religious duty or obligation, to the commandments of the Jewish religious Law. It can also be considered: acts of kindness.

The Romans on the other hand were less nurturing to their children. It was all about the commands of the ruler of the Roman Empire and having children was more of a civic duty. Fathers did not play such an important role but the state actually decided the future of the male children and the mothers were left with the females.

So parenting can be done positively or negatively. Parenting can be done negatively: "And you fathers provoke not your children to wrath"; I think that the reason the writer (Paul) is addressing fathers are as follows:

- If there is an area of neglect in a father, it is typically for his children. (During the time that this book was written children were considered an inconvenience. Men had children as a civic duty, but never spend much time raising them.)
- Of both parents, the father tends to be the least harsh.

The father has, and must bear, the responsibility of growing up the children in the home. They must be examples for their children. Must give the children the assurance that what they are doing is what would be expected of them in the future.

Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down too hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the master. Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger – do not exasperate them to resentment – but rear them (tenderly) in the training, discipline, and the counsel and the admonition of the Lord.

This actually means that over time resentment could develop when parents irritate, provoke, or come down too hard on their children. There are a number of ways that a parent can exasperate their children:

- I. Hypocrisy:** When children hear what parents say and see what parents do and it doesn't match, it provokes them. It creates resentment. Anger builds up in the child and they feel betrayed.
- II. Inconsistency (discipline):** It is very important to measure and be consistent when chastening children. The number one factor of preventing juvenile delinquency is the administering of firm, fair, and consistent discipline by parents.

- III. Discouragement:** If you are consistently critical of your children without congratulating them on their efforts, it brings exasperation. ***Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath; but grievous (harsh) stir up anger.***
- IV. Favoritism:** To favor one child over another.
- V. Over commitment:** When our jobs, our hobbies, our friends, or our activities take precedent over them, it provokes them. Kids may understand if you are busy but not if they are neglected. Just think about this – “went fishing with my dad today, what a blast.” “Went fishing with my boy today, a day wasted.”
- VI. Domineering** – A forceful, heavy handed overbearing authoritarian.
- VII. Minimizing:** Minimizing your children opinions.
- VIII. Overloading:** Expecting your kids to be overachievers (to be excessively or unhealthily dedicated to achieving success).

It could be done positively. ***Bring them up in the training and admonishing of the Lord.*** Move toward maturity in the teachings (guide them by taking their hand and leading them) and admonishing (reprove, caution, warn about, give a warning, reprimand, rebuke, reproach, scolding and chiding) of the Lord.

***Proverbs 29:15 – The rod of reproof (caution, admonish, rebuke, scolding, chiding) gives wisdom: but a child left to himself/herself brings shame to his or her mother (parents).***

*The parents* are the first teachers. It must be noted that our children do not only learn from observing their parents, but parents should make it their duty to take the time in the formidable years to teach their children. In Deuteronomy 6:7 – ***“Thou (you) shall teach them diligently (carefully, attentively, thoroughly, conscientiously, meticulously and industriously) unto thy children, and you shall talk of them when thou sit in thy house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lay down and when you rise up.”***

When we talk about the admonishing of a child we are actually speaking of the administration of discipline in the development of the child’s character. There are basically two types of discipline: corrective (corporal) and preventive.

- I. Corrective discipline is discipline** that expresses love and produces fruits. Proverbs 23: 13 – 14 says, *“Do not withhold corrective discipline from a child; if you punish with the rod he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.” P.S. – If a son is loved by his father, at some time that parent will administer some form of corporal or corrective discipline.*
- II.** Preventive discipline is discipline when the parents spend time with their children playing, praying, and developing a healthy loving atmosphere in the home where the children could observe, copy, and develop personal traits from them. It is a lot more than developing a lot of rules but more of developing relationships. *P.S. The Word of*

*God says that the parents should use a rod, not your hands, head, or feet. Your hands should be reserved for embracing, holding, or lifting your kids.*

Parenting should be done ultimately by partnering with God to disciple and discipline the child so that the eventual outcome is another disciple of Christ. Enjoy doing the greatest job on the earth today with diligence and the joy of the Holy Ghost.

Finally children don't try to take on responsibilities you are not prepared for: parenting is for adults who are experienced in the knowledge and the wisdom that are gathered throughout the years.

Humbly submitted by Rev. Stephen Llewellyn