

BAKING CAKES AND RAISING CHILDREN

James Dobson in his book “The Strong Willed Child” said, “Child rearing is like baking a cake. You don’t realize you have disaster until it’s too late!” But success in both child rearing and cake baking is best achieved by following the recipe closely.

Here is a recipe for successful parenting:

“Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come
and the years approach when you will say,
"I find no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1

And here is another:

Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old,
he will not depart from it.” (Prov. 22:6)

The idea that good parents always produce good children and bad parents always produce bad children, although generally true, is not true in every case. We all know families where the parents were a walking disaster and yet out of that family one or more children turned out to be very decent people, good citizens and responsible adults. But they are the exception, not the rule. By the same token we’ve all seen godly parents who tried to raise their children up to know the Lord, yet one or more of those children ended up in serious trouble in spite of a godly home life.

Scripture gives us governing principles for training our children, not guarantees. Parents who apply these principles are far more likely to produce godly children than those who do not.

The bottom line then, is to know and model God’s Word, teach it, trust it, pray consistently for your children, love them deeply, take nothing for granted and cling to the Lord through thick and thin.

Gen 18:19 says of Abraham, *“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”*

Cakes and Kids – it’s the ingredients that you put into them that makes them turn out the way they do. God’s recipe, when followed, will make a successful parent and a godly child.