

Do Our Children Bless or Curse Us?

"Her children rise up and call her blessed [happy, fortunate, and to be envied]; and her husband boasts of and praises her..."

Proverbs 31:28 Amplified



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What a joy it must have been in this lady's heart to see the rewards of a lifetime of living to glorify God. Her children blessed her. Galatians 6:9 (NAS) reads, *"Let us not lose heart in doing good for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."* Even the most loving parent grows weary at times, day after day trying to teach and train their children. Sometimes we see instant fruit of our labors; sometimes we wonder if they hear anything that we say to them. When we have one or more strong-willed children we can often be tempted to lose heart and grow weary, sometimes many times in one day. That's why we have to cling to the promise in this verse, *"...in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."*

Genesis 3:15 (NAS) reads, *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise Him on the heel."* As believers, we know that this was after Adam and Eve sinned. God was speaking of the battle that would come between Jesus and Satan and of Satan's defeat. As we read the Bible, we also see that from this point on there was a war between Satan and every generation of children.

All through the Bible we see this war, starting with Adam and Eve and their children. We also see it with David, Samuel, Abraham, Jacob, Solomon, Eli the priest and many others with their children. They were servants of God, yet they were busy with their own ministry and their career. There was a great deal of compromise and sin in their own personal lives, so that they were not godly parents. The consequences of this were:

1) shame to the name of God; 2) millions have died without Christ; 3) destruction to countless families; 4) constant war in the Middle East; 5) their children did not bless them. That is to only mention a few of the consequences.

A woman told me that when she was thirteen, while her mother was a leader in her church (writing and teaching youth Bible studies, constantly at church meetings), she got involved with the wrong group at church and became pregnant. Her mother flew her to another state for an abortion. This mother had her grandchild killed on the altar of her pride and career. This young woman did not rise up and call her mother blessed.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV) reads, *"Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows, the one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction. The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."* If we sow to the Spirit in the lives of our children, we will reap by them calling us "blessed" one day.

Beloved, God's amazing grace is available to help us raise godly children who will rise up and call us "blessed." We need to trust our children in God's care and obey the Bible.

— Janice McBride

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