

Training: Soulwinning

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

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”

From the moment our children were born, they were introduced to the importance of leading the unsaved to Jesus or “soulwinning”. We taught them the importance of telling the lost about Jesus, and we trained them in how to lead/”win” a lost soul to Jesus. When our church's soulwinning and visitation came around on Saturday morning, we took our kids with us. When we went shopping, eating, etc..., we helped our kids give tracts to the clerks as we paid for our things. As a result, our kids would play games as toddlers of passing out tracks and witnessing for Jesus. And **when our kids were 5-6 years old, they would play with other little kids on playgrounds trying to win their new friends to Christ!** How excited we were when our kids led their first soul to Christ at such early ages! However, our kids were soul-conscious because their parents were soul-conscious and trained their children to be as well.

This one area is a huge area that many parents are negligent in training their children. Now probably the main reason for this is that many parents themselves aren't leading souls to Christ in the first place. Most believers in general aren't soulwinners. **We allow lost souls to walk by us every day without even so much as a plea or tear from us about their eternal damnation.** A sad testament to a child of God. If you are saved, you are a watchman on the wall to warn a lost world of an eternal hell (Ezekiel 33:7-9). If you do not warn them, their blood is on your hands. If you are saved, you are a disciple of Jesus Christ who is expected to pass along the teachings of Christ (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8). If you are saved, you should not forsake your church's visitation time. If you are saved, you should witness to your co-workers during lunch breaks, and you should pass out tracks while you pay for your things at the cash register. Your whole focus as a child of God is to obey Jesus' great command and commission “preach the gospel to every creature.”

With this importance of soulwinning in mind, parent, you need to train your children in soulwinning. Why? First of all, because as we just noticed, soulwinning is commanded. Secondly, you are to train your child “in the way he should go” (Pro. 22:6). Leading lost souls to Jesus is “the way” every believer “should go”. **God Himself is “not willing that any should perish” (II Peter 3:9), and our Heavenly Father has taught His saved children to do likewise.** Every earthly parent should follow the Father's perfect example. When Jesus, God in flesh, came to earth, He led by example and came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Every true believing parent will lead by example to their children as well in seeking lost souls to save. Why? Thirdly, because if you are a “righteous” parent (our text Pro. 11:30), you will be producing “a tree of life”. Your children are just one of the many fruits a godly

parent should be growing. There are lost souls around you also. Leading a lost soul to be born into God's family and then nurturing that newborn babe is another way of bearing fruit for Jesus Christ. And, by the way, **if you are a “righteous” parent producing children who are “a tree of life”, that means your children will be producing fruit as well.** Trees produce more trees. Your children should be trained to win souls to Christ as well.

Fourthly, why should you train your children to be soulwinners? Because our text, Proverbs 11:30 stated soulwinning as wisdom. **Dear parent, you have not succeeded in passing “wisdom” to your children until you have trained them to win souls to Christ.**

Here are some suggestions for training your children to be soulwinners:

- Go to your church's soulwinning and visitation or bus-calling. **From infancy, take your children soulwinning.** Don't leave them behind in a church nursery. Yes, bringing babies and toddlers to soulwinning can complicate things, but no one said parents were supposed to take the easy path to training their children. **Some people don't take their offspring soulwinning until they are teens, but the Bible did not say to start training your offspring when they are teens. No, you are supposed to “train up a child.”** Infancy is the perfect time to train on soulwinning because your kids will enjoy it (if you do!) and not see it as a chore like so many teens and adults. Also, you do not need to have your young ones out for two hours. When our children were infants, we knocked on a couple of houses and finished for the week. We just made sure to actually give our children a constant taste of soulwinning.
- Carry tracks with you and show your children how to pass them out. Kids pick things up quick. If mommy and daddy don't talk about Jesus outside of church neither will they. However, **if mommy and daddy are constantly passing out tracks to the clerk at the gas station, at the grocery store, and at McDonald's, the kids will want to as well.**

Dear parent, if you are to truly be training your *children* in righteousness and wisdom (Pro. 11:30), you must include the winning of souls, too.