Children from a biblical perspective: By Erica Jermanus

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Introduction

In this book, I talk about why children are a blessing and gift from God. I also talk about how having children requires you to make sacrifices. I talk about the importance of waiting on God for the right marriage partner and children. I talk about not settling for a counterfeit and not having sex outside of marriage. In addition, I talk about how to care for children. I talk about how children learn from others and how we can set the example that Christ set for us.

I also talk about how children face the consequences of their own bad decisions. Furthermore, I talk about why children suffer and go through struggles and hardships. In addition, I talk about how children are influenced by secular and worldly media and by the enemy satan. Lastly, I talk about abortion and how it is a sin. I also talk about how we should speak up for the unborn because the unborn cannot speak up for themselves.

Chapter 1: Children are a blessing and a gift from God.

Children are a blessing and a gift from God. There are many blessings that come with having children or even just being around someone else's children. Children bring so much joy, love, and laughter to a person's life, whether that be a parent, teacher, or friend. Children are humble and teach us to be humble as well.

Little children are pure and innocent, and there is no sin in them because they do not know right from wrong. Jesus Christ is pure, innocent, and without sin. Jesus Christ loves little children and calls them great in the kingdom of heaven. We can learn from little children because of their humility, reliance, and dependence on their parents, which can be likened to us relying upon God for his daily strength and provision.

When a child gets hurt, they go to their parents to bandage the wound. That is the same with us. Jesus Christ wants us to go to him when we are hurt or in pain. Jesus Christ wants us to talk to him about what we are going through and allow him to heal our hurting hearts and wounds. He already knows what we need

before we ask him, but he still wants us to come to him as little children. He still wants to hear our hearts cry. He still wants us to present our requests to him. He wants a loving relationship with us, just like a parent has with its son or daughter.

Many people in the world do not want to have children or may not even like children. Many associate children with stress and burdens. Yes, children can come with a lot of work and responsibility. You are not only caring for yourself, but another human being. Children require you to sacrifice your own wants and desires, and that is the same with marriage too. But having children does not always have to be stressful or burdensome. It can be a big blessing. It is a blessing when you have children with the right person and not a counterfeit.

If you have a desire for children, then God has given that to you for a reason and purpose. Having children and becoming a mother may be a calling. Ask the Lord if having children is part of his will, plan, and purpose for your life. Having children and raising them in the Lord is a job, and it can be a love and passion for many women. A woman may have the gift of teaching and may be very good with teaching children because that

is her calling and purpose. Her purpose is to raise the children in the Lord and to teach them the Bible and about God.

There are people called to singleness and celibacy. Also, if you desire children, you want to make sure you are with the right man or woman and not a counterfeit. If you have children with a counterfeit, that man may leave you and your children, and you end up being a single mother. So make sure you are with the right person that God has ordained for you to be with to have children.

Also, you do not want to have children outside of wedlock or marriage. This is a sin, and it's called fornication. If you do have children, you want to make sure it is within the confines of marriage with your God-ordained spouse. You do not want to be with the wrong person or counterfeit. So it is important to wait on God for the right man at the right time.

Not every woman is called to work a job while raising children. Many women are called to be homemakers. Many women are called to stay home with their children and take care of them and the home while their

husband works a job and provides for the family. The husbands are called to be the breadwinners of the home and family. The husbands are called to provide, support, and protect the wife and children. The wives are called to love, care, nurture, and teach their children the ways of the Lord. The wives are called to teach their children biblical principles and standards.

For those who are called to be mother's and father's, children are not a burden but a blessing and a privilege from the Lord. Psalm 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." The Lord may want to start a new generation in your family because he knows that you are the one that can change the outcome of your family generation. You are the one that can make an impact and a difference for future generations. You are the one that can teach your children the truth and raise them in the truth instead of the devil's lies.

Chapter 2: How to care for children

You can care for your children by teaching them the gospel truth when they are young. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he

is old, he will not depart from it." When you teach your children the gospel truth when they are young, they are likely to stay with Jesus Christ when they get older. Also, you want to discipline your children when they are young. This will save them from getting in trouble with the law or going to jail or rehab when they get older.

Proverbs 13:24 says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." You can teach your children good morals and values, but also teach them about what the Bible says and help them to live out biblical truths in their lives.

You can care for your children by spending time with them and having family time. You do not want to abandon or forget your children or even leave them out. You want to make them feel that they are loved, cared for, and appreciated. You want to find time to do fun things with them as a family. Go on trips or have them get involved in a church. You can also have them discover their unique gifts and talents so that they can serve their purpose on earth.

In addition, you can care for your children by respecting them. Respecting them is to treat them with love, mercy, grace, and compassion. It is to represent the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your words and actions towards them. Instead of being short-tempered, impatient, or angry with your children, you can be gentle, loving, and nurturing with them.

You may want to discipline your children not to punish them for what they did wrong, but you discipline them because you love them and you do not want them to end up in jail or worse, hell. Heavenly Father disciplines us in the same way because he loves us and wants us to share in his holiness. Hebrews 12:6 says, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Hebrews 12:10 says, "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."

Also, you can care for your children by taking time to listen to them. Take time to listen to what your children are feeling on the inside. Your children may want to voice their thoughts, feelings, and concerns. Maybe

they do not have someone to talk to, and you are the only person who understands them besides God. Let them know that they can talk to you and talk to God about their problems, thoughts, needs, and concerns too.

Teach your children how to develop a relationship with Heavenly Father. Teach your children how to pray by talking and listening to the Holy Spirit. Teach your children how to read the Bible and apply it to their lives. Jesus Christ in you is the example that you are setting for your kids. When your children see Jesus Christ in you, then they will better represent him in their thoughts, words, and actions. You are a light and a reflection of Christ to your children.

You can also care for your children's physical, emotional, spiritual, financial, and relational needs. I talked about spiritual needs, but also you want to make sure that you are taking care of your children physically by providing them with food, water, clothing, shelter, transportation, etc. Also, ask the Lord to provide for you and your family those needs that need to be met. He is always faithful to come through right on time. Also, you

can care for your family emotionally by supporting them, loving them, and respecting them.

As far as relational care, you want to pray that the Lord will provide your children with friends that are sent from God as destiny helpers. Pray against anyone in their life that is sent from the enemy. Pray for protection over your children from the wrong people in their lives. Try to be there for your children when they are young and old. But you want them to have their own independence, just not apart from God.

Chapter 3: When children are influenced to sin and why children struggle

When children are young and have not reached the age of accountability, they are innocent and have not sinned. But once they reach the age of accountability, then the children know right from wrong and good from evil. The children are then responsible for their own bad choices and decisions. When a child is around bad company, that child may be influenced to sin.

For example, let's say a parent smokes cigarettes and marijuana. Then, the child is around that parent and is learning from that parent. Children are imitators. Children pick up on their parents' bad habits. A child will follow what a parent or teacher is doing, whether it be good or bad. That is why it is so important that we set the example that Christ set for us. When we are following Jesus Christ, then our children will also want to follow him too and walk in his footsteps.

When children are around us, they should be able to see Christ in and through us. Children should be able to see Christ not only in our words but in our actions. When a child is sinning and goes on sinning willfully, it is because they picked it up from someone else. That person who caused that child to sin will be held responsible and accountable. That child now needs to confess their sins to God, repent, and turn away from those sins. So does that person or parent that taught them to sin.

Matthew 18:6 says, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Sometimes, children go through struggles and hardships because of sins in their lives. A child may be taught by their parents to eat a lot of junk food and to give into gluttony. The parent may not want to buy their children healthy, nutritional food. So now the child has developed illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, or heart disease. The children suffer as a result of their own parents' decisions.

A child may also have a bad habit that they picked up from someone else, and now that bad habit has become an addiction. Now that child or teen is trying to get free from the bad habit or addiction passed down from their parents. That child, teen, or adult may need to go to Jesus Christ for healing, deliverance, and freedom from that sin or addiction. John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty."

There are literal children in hell today because of sin. It could very well be that their parents led them to hell because of sin. These children are crying and blaming their parents for sending them to hell because the

parents opened doors for their children to sin. Now the children cannot come back to earth to repent and get it right. It is too late for them, and the same for the parents too, dying in their sins and spending eternity separated from God. It is not God's will for anyone to perish in their sins. He wants everyone to be saved and to repent.

2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Parents and teachers should be godly role models in their children's lives. Parents and teachers should set a godly example for their children. Those children are watching their parents and teachers. Those children will pick up on their parents and teachers' words and actions. That is how children learn from others. Children do not know everything, and they want to know more, so they will go to the adults. The adults can set the right example by being obedient to the Holy Spirit and following his leading and guidance in their lives. Then, the children will be led correctly because the parents are led by God and the word of God.

When children go through struggles and hardships, it is to grow and mature them. It is also to make them stronger in their faith and character. That is the same with adults too. God allows children to suffer for a good reason and purpose. Some children may become homeless or lose their parents when they are young. But children learn to overcome challenges by having Jesus Christ in their lives. When they have God in their life, they are better able to handle the struggles and hardships that come about.

Chapter 4: Children are influenced by secular and worldly media

Parents allow children to watch and listen to whatever they want. The majority of the media is run by Satan. Satan wants to infiltrate the minds of these children when they are young. The enemy wants to instill fear and lust in these young children today. A lot of secular music, movies, and TV shows are about drugs, alcohol, drunkenness, sex, violence, crime, cursing, and evil. Our children in today's generation are being exposed to Satan's agenda. Many children and young adults are deceived by the enemy. Instead of filling their minds

with the truth of God's word, they are filling their minds with lies.

So many children are headed for hell and destruction because of what they are allowing into their ear and eye gates. The music, movies, and TV shows of the world are leading many children and adults to hell. Parents are influencing their children to listen to secular music on the radio instead of listening to music that glorifies God. A lot of the secular music on the radio is about getting drunk, high, partying, and having sex outside of marriage. So many young teens and adults have been influenced to act on what they listen and watch. Then, the teens and adults allow music, movies, and TV shows to shape their identity instead of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 says, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

So many children are being introduced to pornography when they are young because their parents watch it. That is when young children's minds have become corrupted by sin and Satan. These parents and children need to confess their sins and repent. Young teens and adults are having sex outside of marriage because it runs in their family. Parents fornicate or have sex outside of marriage, and so the teens and young adults follow in their parents footsteps too. That is why many young teens and adults are not saved because of unrepentant sin.

There are children that watch violent movies and play violent video games, and then they end up violent or with anger issues. Children that watch scary movies end up with nightmares. Satan instills fear in the children because of the movies and TV shows that they are watching. These scary movies and TV shows have demons, devils, and witchcraft in them. Also, these movies and shows are influencing teens and young adults to get into the occult or to practice witchcraft. We need to expose these things to our children and let them know to stay away from these types of things.

Children should be listening and watching things that are wholesome, edifying, and encouraging. We should have our children listen and watch things that build them up and tear them down or destroy them. Have your children watch and listen to things that are true, lovely, pure, and of good report. (Phillipians 4:10)

Children need to know their true worth and identity growing up so that they do not find their identity in the world. Children can find their identity by spending time reading the word of God and surrounding themselves with other like-minded believers that are sent from God. Children that are immersed with secular media will find their worth and identity in that media instead of God and his word.

Also, I would not allow your children to have technology or devices when they are young. Let them learn how to be kids and to enjoy their childhood outside and in nature. Nowadays, children are on their phones and computers all day long. Children should revisit the old days before there was any technology and go outside and ride a bike or go for a walk or run.

Chapter 5: Abortion and speaking up for those who cannot speak up

Many women today are pregnant out of wedlock and are thinking of having an abortion. There are also women that have gotten raped and are thinking of having an abortion. I want to let you know that abortion is a sin, and it is the same as murder. Abortion is murder, no matter if the baby is a cluster of cells or a fetus. As long as there is a heartbeat in the womb, there is another human being. That human being represents life. That life matters to God. That human being in the womb has a purpose.

If you are pregnant and thinking of having an abortion, please consider adoption. Do not abort the baby because there are consequences to murder. Murder leads to death and hell if it is not repented of. There are literal women in hell for committing abortion. So please repent and ask God to have mercy on you and to forgive you. We as women are called to speak up about these issues because the unborn baby cannot. The unborn baby does not have a voice to speak, but we do and can. We are called to be advocates for the unborn.