

NINE THINGS YOU MUST NOT TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Sylvester Onyemalechi

The training of children is the responsibility of parents and not just the secular school and Sunday school teachers. The family is the first school of relationship every man born into this world has. What happens in the family teaches the child what life is all about and how to live and relate with others. The education that takes place in the home makes stronger impressions on the mind of the child as he or she strives to become somebody in life. How you instruct your child and the examples you set for the child determines the values and principles he lives by, his habits, character, behaviour and lifestyle.

Prov 22:6

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

KJV

There are many things that children pick up from their parents that were not intended by their parents to pass on to them. You as a parent must understand the fact that your children learn from you formally and informally. They study you and apply what they learn. It is important that you have this at the back of your mind, and watch your life and words, especially at home. Some parents have taught their children that lies are not bad and necessary sometimes by the instructions they give their children to lie on their behalf especially when they don't want to see a particular visitor. There are things you must not teach your children by instructions or by actions.

1. Do not teach your children to live in fear.

Fear is deadly. It is of the devil and not of God. Fear of evil, failure, loss, the unknown, death, animals, darkness, heights and demonic people are destructive to man. Fear arrests and paralyzes a man and makes it difficult for him to move forward and accomplish great things. Fear limits a man and imprisons his faith. To teach a child to fear by showing and manifesting fear, and speaking words of fear or that produces fear is counterproductive. Every word of fear or contrary to faith from you the parent plants fear in the child and limits him in life. To program a child to live in fear is to program a child to be a failure and live a defeated life. Your child needs faith to grow and be successful in life.

Build your child's faith and mould him to be a positive and optimistic person. Train him to have faith in God and in himself. Train your child not to be afraid of the unknown, but to trust God completely that God's love and care for him will take care of things for him. Teach your child to believe that God will never abandon him but make a way of escape for him when he gets into a difficult spot. So, there is no need to worry or be anxious about tomorrow. Kill fear and build faith.

John 14:1

*14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
KJV*

Mark 9:23

*23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."
NIV*

Phil 4:13

*13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
NIV*

He must have a positive attitude about himself, life generally and God's plan for him. It takes a positive mind and a heart filled with faith to face life's challenges and overcome. Your child needs faith and not fear. Therefore, be careful what you say and do so you don't build fear in him but faith.

2. Do not teach your children to lie.

Lying is not acceptable to God, and so, He condemns it. Lying is destructive. It destroys trust, deceives, opens the door for evil to happen, and enslaves. Lying leads to hell and brings one under the power of Satan. To teach a child to lie is evil and counterproductive. It will not be long, the child will start lying to you also, and this will make it difficult for you to trust him or relate with him.

Satan is the father of all lies. Lying is of the devil and opens the door for the enemy to come into the life of a man. To teach your child to lie by word and actions is opening up the life of your child to the devil.

John 8:44

*44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
NIV*

Liars will end up where the devil the father of lies end up. The lake of fire is the decreed end of all liars. To teach your child to lie is preparing the child to go to hell.

Rev 21:8

*8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all **liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
KJV*

Liars have no conscience. If they do, they will not lie – deceive, cheat, misrepresent, falsely accuse another and give false witness.

1 Tim 4:2

2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

NIV

Do not deaden your child's conscience by training your child to be a liar. Teach your child to tell the truth at all times no matter the consequences of telling the truth. Teach your child not to allow fear to stop him from speaking the truth. Teach your child to own up to his actions whether they be good or bad. Teach your child to stand up for what is truth and never to give a false witness in his life. Truth sets free, and God always stands by the truthful. Teach your child that.

3. Do not teach your children to keep malice and hate people.

Malice is rooted in unforgiveness and bitterness of heart. Jesus who saved us from sin and its power, taught us to forgive all who offends us as God through Him has forgiven us. He taught that if we do not forgive, our heavenly father will not forgive us. It is therefore wrong of a parent to teach or instruct the child to keep malice with someone who has offended him. The parent may not verbally instruct the child, but does so by practicing malice with those whom he or she has problems with. The child being watchful and learning from his parents, cultivates the same lifestyle, and become a bitter and difficult person to relate with.

Matt 6:9-15

9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' 14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

NIV

Eph 4:29-32

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

NIV

Teach your child carefully. Never forget that your child is observing you and learning from your words and actions. Speaking evil of those who have offended you in the presence of your children is programming them to be bitter with people and unforgiving. As you snub, ignore, and turn away from those who have

offended you that they are aware of, is teaching them to keep malice with their offenders. You are your child's most important teacher and trainer, and you teach and train them by instructions and examples. The worst thing you can do to your child is to instruct your child not to greet or relate with one you are not happy with. Think of the future of your child – what that could make of your child in future.

4. Do not teach your children to be lazy.

Prov 10:4

4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

NIV

Teach your children that it pays to be a hard worker. Hard work brings success and prosperity, while laziness brings poverty. Give responsibilities that will drive in this teaching to your children. Do not in any way encourage your children to be lazy. The fact that you have house helps does not mean your children will have no work responsibilities in the home. Share responsibilities for all your children. Make sure they have work to do, including those who hate house work. You have to make them love work. Let them know that God loves His people to be hard workers. That is why He spoke a lot about the effect of laziness and hard work in the Bible. He even instructed that the one who will not work should not eat. Teach and give responsibilities and make sure they are practicing, so they will grow up to be hard workers. Their success and prosperity is tied to their diligence in work.

2 Thess 3:10

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

NIV

5. Do not teach your children to be dirty.

Godliness and cleanliness go together. God is clean, organized and tidy. And He wants His children everywhere to be like Him. The Law of Moses dealt a lot with areas where hygiene is required. That they came in Law form should not blind our eyes to the fact that God is only protecting us from unhygienic practices that create health problems for us. God addressed washing of hands and feet to get rid of dirt and germs, menstrual cleanliness, contact with dead bodies and those with infectious diseases, how to dispose excrement (human waste), clean and unclean animals for human consumption in His law to Israel through Moses. It is the duty of every parent to teach their children to be neat and tidy. Do not allow your children to wear dirty dresses especially when they are going outside your home. Check on them until cleanliness becomes part of their lives.

Give hygienic lessons and instructions to your children. Guide them, especially the females as they reach puberty so they know how to take care of themselves during menstruation. Teach your children to wash their hands after visiting the toilet or play. Teach them to brush their teeth regularly especially after eating

chocolate candies or sweets. Teach your children to make their beds on waking up from sleep. Teach them to keep their room, clothes, and bed sheets neat, tidy and organized. Teach them how to handle their books so they don't get them turn all the time. Teach them to wash their plates and cups after use. Teach, show by example and supervise closely to make sure they are learning and improving on this.

6. Do not teach your children to be worldly minded.

1 John 2:15

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

NIV

James 4:4

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

NIV

Friendship with the world is enmity with God. It is therefore important that we teach our children not to love the world but God who gave us life that we may live it for him. Teach your children to be heavenly minded so we can successfully live the life of Christ here on earth and qualify to stand before Him at the end of the journey.

Col 3:1-4

3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

NIV

Be careful what TV programs or movies they watch. Be careful the kind of dance they are interested in. Do not allow evil desires to build within them. Watch them closely and counsel them as you teach them to drop what is not good for them and concentrate on what is good and godly.

7. Do not teach your children to doubt God and His word.

Mark 11:22

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered.

NIV

Many times we confess unbelief in God while we are teaching our children that God is worth our trust and worship. This is confusing to the child. It makes it difficult for them to have confidence in the God we have introduced them to. To build strong faith in your children, you will not only teach them from the Bible,

but talk and act faith for them to see and understand how it works and the result it produces. Teach them to trust and not doubt God and His word. Teach them to live by it daily.

8. Do not teach your children to be selfish and self-centered.

Selfish and self-centeredness makes a child to be a non-giver. Sometimes parents stop their children who like giving and sharing what they have with their brethren and friends. Discouraging them is programming them to be stingy and hard hearted. When a child is discovered to be holding unto what he has, it is a sign of selfishness. You as a parent have to discourage such attitude and practice by teaching the child the benefit of giving and reaching out to others with what he or she has. Remember, it's more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35

35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: `It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

NIV

9. Do not teach your children to be violent.

Many children show some sign of violence in their lives, and it is the duty of the parents to control it and keep them from becoming full blown violent people. Sometimes, parents scold their children for allowing another person to take advantage of them or bully them. In the process they program them to fight back, defend themselves and possibly do serious harm to the person so that the person will keep away from him or her. I do agree that no one wants the child to be weak and bullied by others; the only problem here is that some times this kind of motivation turn some of them into violent children and adults as they grow up. Be careful how you handle such matters as they come up in the life of your children.

Do not teach by the violence displayed in your home that violence is normal and a good thing. A little boy was said to have told his grandfather that he cannot wait to get married so he can be punching his wife. He said this because this is what he has been witnessing in his home between his father and mother. So, to him, marriage is for the husband to be punching the wife. What examples are you setting for your children right now? Remember, you are programming them for tomorrow. How do you want your children to be when they grow up? The answer is with you.

Teach by instruction and example what you will like to see in the life of your children as they grow. You program your children to become what you have taught and shown them life is all about. Teach them what God has commanded in His Word and practice it for them to see how it works and its effect. Through discipline make them to practice the truth you teach them. Be strong and be diligent in this matter. Remember, you have no right to discipline a child you have not adequately instructed. Remember also, that you will give account of

your children's life to God who gave them to you. Train them up in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it. Lay the right, strong, and biblical foundation for them to build on. And you will be happy you did.

Remember this:

- Training is both theoretical and practical. Make sure your life is the same with the theory you are giving your children.
- Children learn by observation as well as by instruction.
- Mould your children well. Be a good example to them.
- Your home is your children's most important school.
- No matter what you say and do, keep in mind what you want your children to become in future.
- The nine things discussed, you must not teach.