

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Nowadays it seems like the children have taken control of the home, dictating what the rules should be that make them happy, what food they should or shouldn't eat, what video games and TV shows they can watch, and even if they should go to church or behave while in church or Sunday School. They even dictate how they are to talk to their parents and even other adults. But nowhere in the bible does it teach us that the children should decide what is right or wrong, what is good or bad, or even that the children should tell a parent what to do or how they should be raised.

Yet how many cater to their children, giving things up so that their children can have the best, while they have the worst or go without. What they have done is teach their children that everything will be handed to them, and that they do not have to earn their way in life. We even give them trophies for simply participating in something, which tells them no matter what they do, they'll get something, so why bother working hard for it, sure it's a smaller trophy, but nevertheless, it's a trophy, so they are satisfied with not having to even try, yet receiving a reward all the same.

But beyond that, even in regard to spiritual things, will you allow your kid to miss church every Sunday so that they can participate in a sporting event, yet you do not teach them that they should be serving (participating) in the church and that God and spiritual things always come first? Are you afraid they will reject God because you did not allow them to play baseball on Sunday because you made them go to church instead? Will being the best on the baseball, football, basketball field/court get them into heaven and teach them about God?

Yes, there are many great athletes making good money that are Christians, but they did not learn how to be a good Christian by missing church or being taught to put all their efforts in their sport, while God and His word takes a backseat. No, they will tell you that they were raised that GOD comes first, even before their sport, because they were taught what Jesus said, which is to, ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*** Matthew 6:33

Now don't get me wrong, having your children participate in sports is a good thing, because it teaches them how to work with others, and not only how to win, but also how to lose, and that they do not get a trophy just for being on the team, but that they have to work hard together as a team to receive the prize, just as we work hard together as the church for the kingdom of God and His glory. But more important, the children of today need to be taught priorities and that is

that God and Jesus come first, their parents and family next, school and/or work (if they are old enough to work) then their sports.

† **Philippians 3:14 (NLT2)** *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

So we should teach our children what the bible says, or maybe some parents need to teach themselves what the bible says, so that they are bringing up a child in the ways of God and not allowing the children to dictate how they are to be brought up, because our children are the future church.

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

† **Ephesians 6:1** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

† **Deuteronomy 6:5-7** *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*