

Proverbs 22:6

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

The way things are now a days, today's verse should be something we all put more into practice. And I think for the most part we do try to, "*Train up a child in the way he should go*" But when we do, we need to ask ourselves, are we training up our children for "eternity," or the "temporary"? Think about that, what are we really teaching or training up our children and grandchildren in?

Here in Texas where I live, sports are huge, and even though there seems to be a church on every corner here in Texas, so many games for kids happen on Sunday, be it baseball, basketball, soccer, etc. Now I am not against sports for kids, my oldest son was big into baseball growing up and he is even now, and if he didn't get injured in the military, I think he would have gone a long way in his baseball career. Even his son (my grandson) is also into baseball, and he is really good at it, and has been on all-star teams and has been an MVP several times, even as a young teenager.

My youngest grandson plays piano (taking after his grandpa, me) and has learned how to play complicated songs on the piano, by ear.

Maybe you have talented kids or grandkids. But think about this; No matter how well our children play any sports, how well they can sing or play an instrument, no matter how great of a dancer they are, or how well they can draw a picture, are we investing more into these things with our children, which are temporary things, or are we focusing them more and investing into their eternity, in heaven... or hell?

We know that Jesus was raised to be a carpenter by Joseph, because back in the day, dads taught their kids to do what they (their dad) did. Even for me, my dad painted cars, and that is what I did for half of my life, I painted cars and airplanes for a living. But did Joseph invest in Jesus' eternity? We don't know, but we know that the Jewish boys were taught the scriptures growing up.

What about for me, did my dad train me up and help prepare me for my eternity in heaven? The answer is no, and yes. My dad did not invest in my eternity in heaven until he got saved, and even though he died at an early age (I was in my 20's) he played a part in my coming to Jesus.

So, are we (especially as men) raising our children to be like Jesus?

† **Mark 10:45** *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

Are we teaching them to be a servant, to help others and to put God and others first, or are we training them up to be the best they can be in their sports or careers, teaching them how to put God in the backseat, because their careers and future here on earth are more important than their eternity in heaven?

But do you know what, God is not impressed with the trophies that we obtain here on earth, those trophies we are so proud of when our kids or grandkids get them. Trophies play absolutely no part in anyone getting into heaven, yet we put so much emphasis on them here on the earth.

† **1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (MSG)** *You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.*

So, let's teach (train up) our children and grandchildren to lay up treasures in heaven, not here on this earth, just like Jesus taught us to do!

† **Matthew 6:19-21** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*