

Christian Parents are often asking for both practical and specific guidelines which could assist them in framing their biblical commitments to shepherd their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Whether you are considering your parental responsibilities toward a new child or even reaffirming these biblical principles toward your older children (or even Grandparents toward their grandchildren), the following principles from God's Word could serve your church and/or parents in an important way. These commandments of parenting have also been used as a vehicle to remind parents of their responsibility during their child's dedication/baptism service. May God continually remind all of us of our solemn task to leave a legacy of godly faithfulness to the next generation and beyond.

— Lance Quinn, General Ministry editor, Journal of Modern Ministry

Ten Commandments of Parenting

I will seek, as God enables me, to show my children how a husband loves his wife, as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25), and how a wife subjects herself to her husband in everything, just as the church willingly subjects herself to Christ (Ephesians 5:24);

I will seek, as God enables me, to confess my sinfulness to my family (Proverbs 28:13), as well as seek their forgiveness when necessary (Matthew 6:14–15; Colossians 3:13), for the ultimate desire to be pleasing to God in all my ways (2 Corinthians 5:9);

I will seek, as God enables me, to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3–8), and to promote sexual purity in my home (Proverbs 5–7);

I will seek, as God enables me, to manage the Lord's money and resources with the utmost integrity (1 Timothy 6:5–10), delighting in ways to be a better steward of all my time, talent, and treasure (Proverbs 31:10–31), while always looking to Him to provide for my basic life needs (Matthew 6:31–34; 1 Timothy 5:8);

I will seek, as God enables me, to do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5), witnessing to those with whom I come in contact, of the love and mercy provided alone in Jesus Christ, and to instill in my children the same desire to share this eternal message (1 Corinthians 15:1–4);

I will seek, as God enables me, to raise my children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4);

I will seek, as God enables me, to teach my children the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:4–9) and to endeavor to be a model of Christlikeness for them (1 John 2:6);

I will seek, as God enables me, to consistently provide my children with the rod of reproof, for their correction and training, so that they will cease their foolishness and become wise (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13–14);

I will seek, as God enables me, to speak with godly wisdom (Proverbs 4:24; 6:12; 10:32; 19:1), and to continually train my children not to speak unrighteously (Ephesians 4:29–31);

I will seek, as God enables me, to love my God with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself (Matthew 22:37–40), seeking to live a pure and undefiled religion by visiting orphans and widows in their distress, and keeping myself unstained by the world (James 1:27), all the while desiring to see the same in my children and theirs.