

April 14, 2016

How To Evangelize Our Children

Luke 18:17, **“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

One of the most vexing questions for Christian families is how to evangelize their children so that their faith is a genuine faith that grows into maturity? For many believers, the concept of fulfilling the Great Commission, Christ’s command in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples of all nations, begins in our own homes. In fact there are few experiences that bring greater joy to Christian parents than witnessing their child come to a saving faith in Christ.

The process of sharing the gospel with your own child can be a very intimidating and daunting task. For many parents, the questions are many and they are of a practical nature and are disconcerting at the same time: How should I present the gospel to my child? What’s the best approach to take? How do I know if I’m doing it right? There are many pitfalls in our minds, both real and imagined that intimidate virtually every single parent who thinks at any level about this issue. On the one hand, there is the danger of leading our children to having a false assurance. On the other hand, there’s the risk we run of unduly discouraging children who have expressed a heartfelt desire to follow Jesus Christ.

How should we then evangelize our children? The answer to this question is a difficult one and it begins with recognizing and avoiding some of the most common dangers in child evangelism.

The first one is the *Oversimplification of the Gospel of Christ*. We do this because of the fact that a child’s comprehension is much less developed than that of an adult’s so the temptation for parents is to oversimplify the message of the gospel when they are evangelizing their children. Sometimes the problem arises because we rely too heavily on canned or programmed approaches to child evangelism, which often present abbreviated gospel messages and they tend to downplay the demands of the gospel, or they leave out very key aspects of the gospel altogether.

Just as adults need to be able to understand the gospel clearly, so do children before they can be saved. This involves being able to grasp the concepts of good and evil, sin and punishment, repentance and faith, God’s holiness and His wrath against sin, the deity of Christ, His atonement for sin, and the resurrection and lordship of Christ. It is absolutely true that parents need to use terminology that their children can understand and comprehend and they need to be clear in communicating the message, but when the Bible talks about teaching children spiritual truth, the emphasis is on being thorough. In Deuteronomy 6:6-7 it says, **“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk to them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”** Oversimplification is a greater danger than giving a child too much detail. It is the truth which is found in God’s Word and we must never forget that. This truth saves but it must be understood.

Over the next few days we will continue to look at the very vital issue of evangelizing children.