

**Children**  
**Fairview Church of God**  
**November 3, 2007**

Today was a special day where we had special music from 2 people (Nancy Amburgy and Brent Kern), 37 attendees, pot luck and a baby shower for Carissa Smith and her expectant son, Colson. Thus, our theme on “Children”

**Proverbs 31:**

- 10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.
- 12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.
- 13 She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.
- 15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.
- 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night.
- 19 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.
- 20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.
- 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.
- 22 She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.
- 25 Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.
- 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
- 27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:
  - Have you noticed that, when the TV camera is on the football player after a good play, he always says “Hi mom!”?
  - Likewise, the bond between a mother and daughter can be special, too
  - The bond between a father and daughter is special
  - But, the bond between a son and his mother is very unique – no matter what either of them ever does – it is stronger than description
- 29 "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."
- 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.
- 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

A good wife and a good mother make a wonderful person to be praised by God.

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Once, when my mother was quite upset with me, she blurted out “You just don’t understand. You’ve never been a mother!”

Of course, I did the wrong thing. I laughed. That made her even more upset. But, in retrospect, her ranting really did make sense. There are many things that men will never understand about being a mother and the emotions that it carries with it.

But, we can all understand more about being a child.

**Matthew 19:**

- 13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.
- 14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
- 15 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

You parents with children here should know by now that having these children be children during our services is more than ok.

We remember:

- Will holding his hands over his ears during one of our songs.
- Or
- Lily standing in front of me staring at me while I was talking.

**Luke 18:**

- 16 But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

**John 13:**

- 31 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.
- 32 "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.
- 33 "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.
- 34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
  - Notice that, during his last hours, he referred to His disciples as “little children”
  - They weren’t young; they weren’t children, but in their knowledge and understanding

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In 1 John, John refers to his readers as “little children” eight times:

1. 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
2. 2:12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.
3. 2:13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.
4. 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.
5. 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
6. 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
7. 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
8. 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

In Chapter 3, John explains much of his meaning of referring to us as “children”

**1 John 3:**

- 1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
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- 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
- 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
- 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

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The book of Proverbs gives parents several statements of instruction of raising children:

- 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
- 19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.
- 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
- 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.
- 23:13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
  - We had a retired judge from Singapore as a presenter to our Rotary Club this past Wednesday
  - Singapore has no jury system – everything is done by the judges
  - They have a caning policy which limits the number of cane hits to 24
  - Many offenses require as little as 3 swats of the cane
  - The first swat is the most brutal and effective
- 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.
- 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

These instructions are paralleled with God's relationship to us in:

- 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.
- and
- 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.
  - Just as God has left an inheritance to us, through the death of His Son

**Matthew 24:**

- 6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
- 7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.
- 8 "All these are the beginning of sorrows.
  - The word translated here as "sorrows" should be read as "birth pains"
  - These events are the beginning of the birth process when we will be literally "born again" as spiritual beings

**1 Corinthians 15:**

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- 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--
- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**Matthew 18:**

- 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,
- 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Colson Smith is near to being converted from a fetus to a little child.

And we look forward to the day when we will be converted from our physical being to a little spiritual child.