

We should urge our children to come to Christ without delay, to recognize it as a temptation from the pit of hell to put spiritual needs out of mind for the moment and think about that "some other time." It's one of Satan's best tricks. We must warn our children that it becomes increasingly difficult to turn to the Lord with passing years, as sin has a hardening effect and tightens its grip on a life each day that the truth is spurned.

We should appeal to our children's consciences, to allow resistance to God no space in their hearts. Show them how it breaks your heart, unimaginably, that they would not live for God and would lose the blessing! Like Paul, who said in Galatians 4:19, "My little children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ be formed in you!" Tell them, as Paul did, "Now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord" (1 Thes. 3:8). In other words, be earnest with your children! Urge, appeal, compassionately exhort them to not halt between two opinions, but to choose this moment who they will serve. Let no parent hold back from

urging your children to now make the right decision to come to Christ, to bow the knee, to make no delay but repent today. The way Paul writes in 2 Cor. 5:20, "We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!" is the same spirit as we find in the proverb, "My son, give me your heart, and let your heart delight in my ways."

If Paul were to say that to any child, he or she would know what his "ways" are - Paul's ways were clearly and decisively paths of pursuing Christ. So, to the parent reading this article, I pose the question: What are your "ways"? What would your child tell us Dad's ways or Mom's ways are, if we asked him or her to inform us?

Does your child know more about your opinions on sports than about the gospel from you? Does he or she understand more about your political preferences than about the word of God from you? Are your children better informed about dad's opinions about good investments or the value of a good education, or a dozen other things, than on what Paul could call

"my gospel"? It was abundantly clear to all who knew Paul that this gospel was what he really loved and stood for. It should be clear to our children that this is what you most live for as well.

If you want your child's heart to delight in the gospel, does yours? No one can stir a passion for something he is not seen to be passionate about himself. Make that delight evident to him, as your great passion - for if you are a burning and shining light to your children, they will have reason to follow the path of that light. ●

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