

PROMISES TO JULIA

INTRODUCTION

A. Psalm 127:3-5

Children are a blessing from God.

B. Alan Moeller brought to my attention a sermon given by Bryan Dockins, a preacher from Las Vegas, when his fourth child was born

C. It seemed to me a very appropriate subject for the consideration by new or not-so-new parents

D. What are our responsibilities to our children? What promises should we be making to our children that, if kept, will result in us accomplishing God's will for us in the lives of our children?

E. Please consider with me five promises

I. WE PROMISE TO LOVE HER

A. Titus 2:4

Rachel knows that loving our daughter is her job.

B. Colossians 3:21

I will try to avoid discouraging Julia.

II. WE PROMISE TO PROVIDE FOR HER MATERIAL NEEDS

A. 1st Timothy 5:8

Failure to do so would render us worse than infidels.

B. Matthew 7:7-11

It is only natural that we know how to give good gifts.

C. 2nd Corinthians 12:14; Proverbs 13:22

To the best of our ability, we will save up for her future.

D. 1st Timothy 5:4

In so doing, we expect a return on our investment.

III. WE PROMISE TO TEACH HER THE VALUE OF HARD WORK

A. Lamentations 3:27

1. Young people should not be excused from labor.
2. Julia will learn to do chores, just as her older siblings are being taught to do.
 - a. In our home, after breakfast time comes chore time.
 - b. Our older children know how to clean up their rooms.
 - c. They can set the table on demand.
 - d. They often help their mother in the kitchen and around the house.

B. 2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12

She won't have to wait until she's an adult to learn how to work.

IV. WE PROMISE TO INSTRUCT HER IN GODLINESS

A. Joshua 24:15

Like Joshua, my household will serve the Lord.

1. This will involve us attending the assemblies of the church as a family, no exceptions.
2. If, by exercise of her free will, our child ever chooses not to serve the Lord with us, she may expect to lose her place in our household.

B. Ephesians 6:4

As the father, I am charged with the duty of instilling within my child the word of God.

C. 2nd Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15

Rachel is familiar with the example of Eunice and will teach Julia the scriptures early so that she will know the way of salvation when it comes time to obey it.

D. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

1. Her instruction will not be occasional.
 - a. Bringing our daughter to church is not sufficient alone.
 - b. Expecting her to prepare her lessons for Sunday and Wednesday studies will not be enough.
 - c. In our home, after chore time comes Bible time
2. Instruction will be constant.
 - a. She will hear prayers in our home every day and will be taught to pray.
 - b. She will hear scriptures recited in our home and will be expected to learn them.
 - c. More often than nursery rhymes, our daughter will hear psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
 - d. When she earns money, before she may spend it, she will know to set something aside for the first day of the week collection.

E. Proverbs 22:6; 3 John 4

We expect a return on our investment.

V. WE PROMISE TO DISCIPLINE HER

A. Hebrews 12:7-11

In our chastening she will observe the love of God.

B. Proverbs 13:24; 19:18

Julia can expect us to be swift in delivering any punishment she may deserve.

C. Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17

It is for her good that we have committed to disciplining her.

CONCLUSION

A. Review promises

- i. There are many things that are not on this list
 - a. That doesn't mean they are not good
 - b. But they are not essential as these are
 - c. They represent the duties laid upon parents by God Himself
- ii. May every mother and father realize their responsibilities to their children.
- iii. May children learn to appreciate what their parents do for them.

B. Let us understand that our Father in heaven takes care of us.

1. 1st John 3:1; 4:8-9

God our Father loves us beyond our comprehension.

2. James 1:17; Matthew 6:33

God our Father provides for our every need.

3. Matt. 25:14-30; John 9:4

God our Father provides us with talents and abilities that equip us to do work that is fruitful for this life and eternal life . Jesus taught us we must be busy with His works

4. Psalm 119:12; 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

God our Father instructs us in His ways.

5. Hebrews 12:6; Revelation 3:19

God our Father disciplines us.