

Spoiling Your Children? (part two of a two part series)

In last week's segment we attempted to cut through a persuasive fund raising ploy designed to undermine the importance of a parent's inheritance for their children. In this week's segment, we will learn how Proverbs 13:22 is supported from a New Testament text, namely 2 Corinthians 12:14, where we read the following –

“Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.”

The apostle Paul, in not wanting to be a financial burden to the church at Corinth, views them as his spiritual children, and himself as their spiritual parent. He describes that relationship in 1 Corinthians 4:15 –

“For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.”

While affirming this spiritual relationship between himself and these converts to Christ, Paul also confirms an important aspect of parenting in general: “for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.” On the most practical level, this indicates that an inheritance for one's children will require a savings plan on the part of the parent. It will demand a measure of unselfishness that takes us above and beyond the level expressed in that infamous bumper sticker: “I am spending my children's inheritance.”

The bottom line? A Christian's financial responsibility will involve a balance between giving and saving. The focus of our giving should be the local church fellowship to which we belong. The emphasis of our saving should be upon our children; not for the purpose of spoiling them, but for blessing them during the course of their lives and even after we are gone.

The only way to keep from being distracted in fulfilling this two-fold purpose? Make certain that you are being *guided* by the Word of God rather than *manipulated* by the opinions of men.