

"Hear this, ye fathers and mothers, that your upbringing of children shall not lose its reward [...] **It was on account of his children that Eli perished** (see I Samuel). For he ought to have admonished them, and indeed, he did admonish them, but not as he ought; but from unwillingness to give them pain, he destroyed both himself and them. Hear this, ye fathers, bring your children up with great, great care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **Youth is wild, and requires many governors, teachers, directors, attendants and tutors; and after all these, it is a happiness if it be restrained. For as a horse not broken in, or a wild beast untamed, such is youth. But if from the beginning, from the earliest age, we fix in it good rules, much pains will not be required afterwards;** for good habits formed will be for them as a law. Let us not suffer them to do anything which is agreeable but injurious [...] Let us admonish them. Let us employ sometimes advice, sometimes warnings, sometimes threatening. Let us bestow great care upon them, and do everything, that the Evil One may not rob us of them." (St. John Chrysostom)

"Fathers and mothers, Go and lead your children by the hand into the Church." (St. John Chrysostom)

"Rear your children in the Lord [...] Teach them from infancy the Word of God. Discipline them when needed, and render them respectful to legitimate authority. **Never let them exercise authority over you.**" (The Apostolic Constitutions)

"With us **everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children, and their upbringing** in the instruction and teaching of the Lord." (St. John Chrysostom)

"**Young people must be made to distinguish between helpful and injurious knowledge,** keeping clearly in mind that Christian's purpose in life. So, like an athlete or the musician, they must bend every energy to one task, the winning of the heavenly crown." (St. Basil the Great)

"**Seek out with much care and thought, a teacher** who will be a safe guide to you in your manner of life; one who knows well **how to lead such as are journeying towards God; a teacher who is rich in virtues [...] and wise in the Holy Scriptures.**" (St. Basil the Great)

"Discipline must always be applied to the wrong-doer after the manner of physicians, who are not angry with patients, but fight the disease [...] Treat the disease, not the person. Pride therefore will be corrected by ordering the practice of humility, aimless talk by silence, immoderate sleep by wakefulness in prayer, slothfulness by work, greediness by abstinence from food, discontent by separation from the other brethren." (St. Basil the Great)

"It is not the amount of learning that must be our aim, but the quality of learning. Better to learn two verses with understanding, than a whole page with wandering thoughts." (St. John Cassian)

"As to the importance of learning by following excellent example, Abbot Anthony said to a monk: <Behold , brother, stay and learn from me.> The brother replied <If there is anything more you can show me, I do not know; for **I can do easily those things I have seen you doing.**> Let it be understood that those who do not teach, not live by Christ's commandments, are not Christians at all--even though they might profess his teachings with their lips." ([St. Justin Martyr](#))

"The primary lesson for life must be implanted in the soul from the earliest age. The **primary lesson for children is to know the eternal God, the One who gives everlasting life.**" ([St. Clement](#))

"It is good to teach, if he who teaches also acts with good example." ([St. Ignatius](#))

"How much better it is for children, from the very start, **not to desire forbidden things, than to obtain their desires.**" (St. Clement)

"If a child learns without preconceived and worldly ideas, he has ears to hear the true." (St. Clement)

"I have already told you that vice is hard to drive away, for this reason--that no one takes thought for his children, no one talks to them about virginity and sobriety, or about contempt for wealth and fame, or of the precepts laid down in the Scriptures." ([St. John Chrysostom](#))

"A man **becomes** a Christian with sound teaching; he is not born one." ([Tertullian](#))

"True wisdom is virtue united with knowledge." ([Lactantius](#))

"Mankind should love the things which are dear to Almighty God." ([St. Cyprian](#))

"There is no more pleasant food for the soul than the knowledge of truth." (Lactantius)

"The things that parents teach their children cannot have any weight unless they are the first to practice them." (Lactantius)

"It is the course of true wisdom to acquire for ourselves those things that neither humans, nor death itself can take away." (Lactantius)

"Let nothing be taught to children except those which nourish the soul and make one a better person." (St. Cyprian)

"Teach your child this lesson: the rewards of evil are temporary; the rewards of Godliness (good character) are eternal." (St. Cyprian)

"**The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God**, therefore let no one glory simply because of his preeminence in human learning." (St. Clement)

"As to discipline, do not have recourse to physical discipline, constantly. The stick should be used in extreme cases only. Rather, **teach your child by good example, as it takes only a few months for bad habits to grow.**" (St. John Chrysostom)

"**An important part of a child's education is story-telling, since good stories excite the imagination and strengthen the bond between parent and child. Stories from the Bible are preferred, and the child should repeat them often, to underscore full comprehension.**" (St. John Chrysostom)

"**The human family constitutes the primary and essential element of human society [...] Peace in society will be a direct**

result of peace in the family; order and harmony in the secular, political realm will be in direct result of the order and harmony which arises out of creative guidance and the giving of real responsibility to children (by assigning specific tasks to the children)." (St. John Chrysostom)