



# The Parent Partnership

by David Boyd

In today's society, parents will choose a home in a school district where they feel their child will have the greatest chance to learn, grow, and succeed. Often they will sacrifice their finances to ensure their children have an opportunity to participate in the many activities the community offers to enhance the physical and social well-being of their children. Parents become commuters who transport their children to soccer practice, band practice, drama practices, and many other events. Often times, parents invest in summer sports camps for kids, hoping to give their children that extra edge in their future and present sports endeavors.

## Where Does God Fit In?

What are the responsibilities of the parents to guarantee the spiritual well being of their children?

Most Christian parents endeavor to take their children to church at least once a week. Will taking a child to church once a week guarantee he will live for Jesus the rest of his life? Is this the parent's sole responsibility? Does taking children to school guarantee they will be

well educated, or does the parent also want to make sure they do their homework, get plenty of rest, and study hard? Obviously parents understand that just taking their child to school doesn't guarantee an education, nor does taking him to church guarantee a spiritual upbringing.

Children have to see their parents' faith. They must hear their parents pray. They must



hear their parents worship God. They must understand their parents' trust in God's Word as a guide for their lives.

In 1 Kings 9:4, God instructs Solomon, saying, "Walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father

did." Children cannot follow in their parents' spiritual heritage if that heritage is never shown to them.

## Establish Good Spiritual Habits

As children's leaders, we are responsible to encourage the parents within our churches to "pass the spiritual torch." Encourage your parents to establish good spiritual habits with their children. This would include:

- 1 after church, discussing what each member of the family learned;
- 2 having a regular prayer time and Bible reading time with their children (think of it as spiritual homework);
- 3 asking the children questions about spiritual things;
- 4 including children in difficult decisions so they can seek God for His answers as well;
- and
- 5 making spiritual opportunities a priority—such as Christian camps, Christian retreats, and regular church attendance.

Encourage parents to engage their children in spiritual

