



## Raising Kids of Integrity in Times of Prosperity

Lesson 20 • Job 1

In Good Times and Bad Times the Desire of Every Parent Is to Raise Kids with  
**BLAMELESS INTEGRITY!**

Question: Is it Harder to Raise Kids in Times of Prosperity or Adversity?

“...Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, “Who is the LORD?” Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8

### The Delights of Parenting with Integrity in Times of Prosperity

*“It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.” Proverbs 10:22*

Parents with Blameless Integrity Delight in...

1. God-**FEARING** purity (1:1, 8; 2:3)

2. God-**GIVEN** posterity (1:2, 4)

*Children are a gift from God. Have as many your quiver can possibly hold. But if God in His sovereign grace has chosen to not give you children, remember that Jesus was a childless single man who lived a fulfilled life, overflowing with God's approval and blessing.*

3. Guilt-**FREE** prosperity (1:3)

4. Grace-**BASED** provision and protection (1:5, 10)

*“Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? (= God's protection) You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (= God's provision) Job 1:10*

### The Dangers of Raising Kids in Times of Prosperity

*“Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Job 1:5*

Cursing God in Our Hearts Can Mean...

1. Having a **PRIDEFUL** heart toward God.

*Taking personal credit for one's blessings versus glorifying God as the Giver of all good things.*

2. Having an **IDOLATROUS** heart toward God.

*Living for the blessings versus living for God who gives every good gift.*

3. Having an **UNGRATEFUL** heart toward God.

*Taking God's blessings for granted versus thanking God for everything He gives.*

4. Having a **SELFISH** heart toward God.

*Keeping our blessings for ourselves versus sharing them with others in need as God requires.*

5. Having a **WORLDLY** heart toward God.

*Measuring success by how rich one is now versus how rich one will be in eternity and the coming kingdom.*

Job's Concern for His Rich Kids was the Same as the Apostle Paul's for the Rich Christians in the City of Ephesus.

*“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited (prideful heart) or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches (idolatrous heart), but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (ungrateful heart). Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share (selfish heart), storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed (worldly heart).” 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

# The Discernment Required for Raising Kids of Integrity in Times of Prosperity

## Be Wise Like Job and...

1. **AUTHENTICATE** blameless integrity **FOR** your children and spouse in times of prosperity and adversity.

*"...and that man was blameless..." (1:1)*

### Suggested Resource

"A Guide to Biblical Manhood" by Randy Stinson and Dan Dumas // **FREE PDF @** [www.sbts.edu/a-guide-to-biblical-manhood/](http://www.sbts.edu/a-guide-to-biblical-manhood/)

"Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood" by Dennis Rainey

"The Power of Integrity: Building a Life Without Compromise" by John MacArthur

2. **ACCENTUATE** with your children that integrity **BEGINS** with a love-based fear of God that lives upright and rejects evil.

*"...upright, fearing God and turning away from evil." (1:1)*

### Suggested Resource

"The Knowledge of the Holy" by A. W. Tozer // **FREE PDF @** [ntcg-aylesbury.org.uk/books/knowledge\\_of\\_the\\_holy.pdf](http://ntcg-aylesbury.org.uk/books/knowledge_of_the_holy.pdf) or get it at Amazon Kindle for 99 cents.

"Knowing God Devotional Journal: A One-Year Guide" by J. I. Packer

3. **CONCENTRATE** on your children's **INNER** heart versus their outer behavior.

*"Perhaps they have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." (1:5)*

### Suggested Resource

"Shepherding a Child's Heart" by Paul Tripp

4. **COMMUNICATE** regularly with your children (even as adults) to **INFLUENCE** them to pursue blameless integrity.

*"When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send [for] them...Thus Job did continually." (1:5)*

### Suggested Resource

"How to Really Love Your Child" by D. Ross Campbell

"How to Really Love Your Teen" by D. Ross Campbell

5. **CONSECRATE** your children by calling them to a pattern of consistent public **WORSHIP** in times of prosperity and adversity.

*"Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning...Thus Job did continually." (1:5)*

### Suggested Resource

"I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference" by Thom S. Rainer

"Why We Love the Church: In Praise of Institutions and Organized Religion" by Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck

6. **DEMONSTRATE** for your children on a consistent basis how **TRUSTING** the promises of God in the gospel of Jesus brings forgiveness and life change.

*"...offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all;...Thus Job did continually.." (1:5)*

### Suggested Resource

"Family Worship: In the Bible, in History, and in Your Home" by Donald S. Whitney

"Gospel-Centered Life" Group Study

7. **VALIDATE** for your children that living with integrity in times of prosperity and adversity always pays in the **END**.

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.' Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God. Job 1:20-22*

*"Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!' But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips." Job 2:9-10*

## Live So that You Leave Your Children the Legacy of a...

- ☐ **HUMBLE HEART** that glorifies God as the Giver of every good thing in good times and in bad times.
- ☐ **WORSHIPFUL HEART** that lives for God who gives every good gift in good times and in bad times.
- ☐ **GRATEFUL HEART** that thanks God for everything He gives in good times and in bad times.
- ☐ **UNSELFISH HEART** that shares God's blessings with those in need in good times and in bad times.
- ☐ **GODLY HEART** that measures success by being rich in the coming kingdom regardless of present prosperity or adversity.

## Next Steps

**DISCERN** where you and your children are in relation to these seven priorities. **DETERMINE** to get the one resource you need most.

**DO** the next thing that will help you raise your kids to live with integrity in both prosperity and adversity.

**DEPEND** on the LORD to help you persevere as a parent in the process just like Job did!