

Why Teach Your Children and Grandchildren Biblical Doctrine

By Brannon Howse



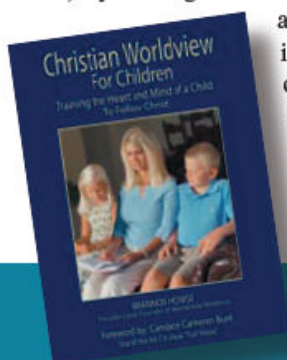
Doctrine is all about the will of God and the Gospel—Jesus taught doctrine during his earthly ministry. To ignore doctrine is to ignore God’s commandments, the teachings of Jesus Christ, and what the Bible reveals concerning salvation.

As you train the heart and mind of your child, use the moral law to reveal to your child his or her inborn sinful and lost condition, to communicate the need for repentance, and to explain the grace and mercy of our holy and just God. The moral law reveals the disease as well as the need for the cure which is only found in salvation through Jesus Christ. I’ve identified 14 specific benefits to families and children by teaching them Biblical doctrine and I’ve detailed them below.

- 1) By training our children in the foundational doctrines of sin, the accuracy of the Bible, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are preparing their hearts to seek God.
- 2) By training our children at an early age to recognize their sinfulness, we inculcate them with them the understanding that sin has serious consequences and that doing God’s will bring blessing.
- 3) When we don’t address the sin natures of our children, we are left with merely addressing behavioral problems that are symptoms of their heart condition, not the root cause.
- 4) By training our children with Biblical doctrine at an early age and living it out before them, we are showing them the importance it plays in our home and life.
- 5) By training our children with the Scriptures at an early age we are building into them a Christian worldview and preparing them to be thoroughly equipped for every good work, regardless of what vocation God may call them to (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 6) By training our children in Biblical doctrine, we are teaching them that God is sovereign—that He is in control and never caught by surprise. God’s sovereignty gives us and our children hope, comfort, and peace in all circumstances, even

when others are fearful, depressed, and defeated by the troubles of this world.

- 7) By training our children that we live according to the Bible because Scripture is a reflection of the character and nature of God, we encourage them to obey God’s Word from a heart that desires a deeper relationship with their heavenly Father instead of fostering legalistic obedience.
- 8) When we train our children that God has placed them under the authority of their parents for protection and training in accordance with God’s Word, we teach them to obey us from the heart so as to honor and obey God.
- 9) By training the heart of a child to obey God, we train our children to be pleasers of God, not of men. Training children with man-centered behavior modification only gives us the human equivalent of Pavlov’s dogs rather than God-honoring young men and women. Children that are trained from the heart will seek to do the right thing even when we are not watching because their motivation for doing right is not us but God.
- 10) By training our children in the essential doctrinal truths of Christianity, we prepare them to withstand the deception of false teachings and worldviews that will vie for their allegiance as they grow older. We are also equipping them with the knowledge they need to defend and contend for a Biblical worldview.
- 11) By training our children in a Biblical worldview we grow in them Biblical values which produce Biblical conduct.
- 12) By developing in our children a love of Christian doctrine, we teach them to love knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge is the acquisition of truth, and wisdom is the application of truth.
- 13) By training our children in the ways of the Lord, we prepare them to seek a godly spouse and raise Godly children which produces a family that honors God and results in the blessing of a close-knit family.
- 14) By training our children in Christian doctrine we lay the foundation for a spiritual legacy that can reap benefits for generations to come and ultimately, eternal rewards for those that come after us.



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