

Grace Fellowship Church

The Duty of Parents to Their Children

“And truly, God does not make known his will to us, that the knowledge of it may perish with us; but that we may be witnesses to posterity, and that they may deliver the knowledge received through us, from hand to hand, (as we say,) to their descendents. Wherefore, it is the duty of parents to apply themselves diligently to the work of communicating what they have learned from the Lord to their children.

In this manner the truth of God is to be propagated by us, so that no one may retain his knowledge for his own private use; but that each may edify others, according to his own calling, and to the measure of his faith. There is however no doubt, that the gross ignorance, which reigns in the world, is the just punishment of men’s idleness. For whereas the greater part closes their eyes to the offered light of heavenly doctrine; yet there are those who stifle it, by not taking care to transmit it to their children.

The Lord therefore righteously takes away the precious treasure of his word, to punish the world for its sloth ... we are taught that we must not only take care of our families, to govern them duly, while we live; but that we must give diligence, in order that the truth of God, which is eternal, may live and flourish after our death; and that thus, when we are dead, a holy course of living may survive and remain.”

John Calvin, “Commentary on The Book of Genesis”, Genesis 18: 19