



The 12 Tasks of an Effective Father

Task #11: A Practical Education

Proverbs 1:1-8:36

Questions

June 15, 2001

1. Where you a “clueless kid” or did you receive an intentional, practical education about “life”? How much of an advantage do you think the child with an intentional, practical education has over the child who does not? Explain your answer.
2. According to Proverbs 1:8, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 6:1, 7:1 and 8:32, to whom is Solomon writing? Why is he writing (Proverbs 1:1-7)? Obviously, Solomon had an intentional plan to give a practical education. How can today’s father use Proverbs with his children? Does this bring any other ideas to mind?
3. It has been suggested that it is not enough to simply “respond” to our children’s needs, though important, but also to have an “intentional” plan to give them a practical education? Do you agree that to not have an intentional plan is risky, and why or why not?
4. Which practical idea mentioned in this lesson most appealed to you, and why? Which one, if applicable, would you like to give a try, and what’s your next step?
 - *A written plan or file* of practical things you want your children to learn, perhaps doubling as a prayer list
 - To help them understand and develop *their unique type of intelligence*
 - *Regularly scheduled times* to build into their lives
 - *Create special occasions* to teach special lessons

Types of Intelligence

Howard Gardner of Harvard University proposed a theory of multiple intelligences in his 1983 book *Frames of Mind*. Eight types of intelligence are:

- Linguistic Intelligence—Special mastery of languages, meaning, and order of words. Language experts, writers, public speakers.
- Logical-Mathematical Intelligence—Ability to process logical problems and equations. Computer technologists, engineers, scientists.
- Musical Intelligence—Ability to perform, interpret and compose music. Musicians, composers, dancers.
- Spatial Intelligence—Ability to perceive and visualize world accurately and recreate or alter it mentally or on paper. Designers, architects, air traffic controllers.
- Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence—Special ability to use the body in skilled way to express self, attain goals, or entertainment. Athletes, dancers, actors.
- Interpersonal Intelligence—Ability to interact with, understand, and interpret other individuals' moods, desires, and motivations. Business leaders, politicians, teachers, therapists.
- Intrapersonal Intelligence—Ability to understand one's own emotions, values, and identity. Contemplative writers, counselors, inventors, religious leaders.
- Naturalist Intelligence—Ability to identify and classify patterns in nature. Biologists, naturalists, environmentalists, foresters, agronomists.

A Few Thoughts For You As You Head Off For College

CONTENTMENT: The great secret of contentment will not be getting what you want, but wanting what you get.

CHANGING YOUR LIFE: If you do what you've always done, you will be what you've always been.

DISCIPLINE: Do what you don't want to do and you will become what you want to be. Sometimes we need to substitute discipline for a lack of natural interest.

DISAPPOINTMENT: All disappointment is the result of unmet expectations. This will mean more as time goes on.

EFFECTIVENESS: Do fewer things better.

DECISION MAKING: The best insurance for making the right decision is to know how to not make the wrong decision. Never do anything you don't understand. Never do anything without consulting the Lord in prayer. Never do anything until you have peace—peace is the umpire.

HAPPINESS: Happiness does not mean a life free of difficulty, but an abundance and joy because hope burns in our hearts through Jesus. We have hope because we know who is in charge, we believe He knows what we're going through, we believe He will always take care of us, and we know how it will end.

HARD TIMES: Do not ask God to shorten the duration of your hard times. Rather, ask God to help you learn every lesson He has for you during the hard times, lest you have to travel that way again.

IDENTITY: What you do is who you are.

INTEGRITY: Integrity is a one-to-one correlation between my *Bible*, my *belief*, and my *behavior*.

LOVE: People will decide whether Christianity is true by whether we love one another. The height of our love for God will never exceed the depth of our love for one another. Love is the glue that holds us together, and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way.

MARRIAGE: If you want a nominal marriage, marry a nominal Christian.

MEANING: Are people so frustrated because life has no meaning? No, it is exactly because God has set eternity in our hearts that we have a "built in" sense that life does have meaning. Frustration comes when we have not yet found it. The simple fact that humans desire to believe in something means something.

PATIENCE: The price of pace is peace. There are very few things in life that can't wait two weeks.

PLANNING: Some say, "I'm too busy to take time to plan." If you're too busy, it's *because* you didn't take time to plan. Unless, of course, your plan was to be too busy, because we all do exactly what we plan to do.

PRIORITIES: Distinguish opportunity from distraction.

QUIET TIME: One benefit of daily devotions is that you get the sense it is an ongoing spiritual pilgrimage, not something that you accomplish once for all. The impatience of wanting to "be there" is turned to a holy patience by coming daily to the table in search of a piece of bread.

REFLECTION: I think we pass too quickly from one activity to the next without setting aside time for meaningful reflection. As a result we do not find the layered and deeper meanings and insights, the interconnections of our experiences.

TIME MANAGEMENT: The greatest time-waster is the time we spend undoing that which ought not have been done in the first place. Lord, help us to say no where we should say no so we can say yes where we would should say yes.

WORLDLINESS: God doesn't want to take you out of the world, He wants to take the world out of you.

May you always walk and rest in the peace of Christ,