

Do you agree or disagree with  
the following statement :

**PARENTS ARE THE  
BEST CATECHIST &  
TEACHERS.**

- There is hardly anything more difficult and unthankful than parenthood.
- When people become parents, they are responsible for their child in the all means of this word.
- They are responsible for its health, wellbeing, education and personal development.
- They do not sleep at night in order to provide their child with everything it needs.
- It is considerable to emphasize that parents do not expect their children to give anything to them in return.

- **Good bringing up is the best remedy for evil, deviance or crime.**
- **Parents can show with their own example how to behave in the society and how to interact with other people. They supply children with the basis of the successful socialization.**
- **It will not be a mistake to claim that parents are the best teachers.**
- **Furthermore, they are the teachers who provide children with the most necessary information that will not be taught at school. Mothers and fathers teach their sons and daughters how to be a personality.**

**•The God gave us some things THAT have a great value and have a significant impact ON our lives, but the most important one of them is our parents.**

**They come at the first because they are the reason of WHY we are in this life. Without them we are (nothing) in this life. So, I totally agree with this statement for several important reasons, I will mention them below.**

- **First and foremost, as I mentioned above they are the reason of our presence in the life. Therefore, they have a big impact ON our LIVES FROM when we were infants until we became adults.**
- **They learnt us the good habits and banned us from the bad habits and bad speech, and they grew in us the love, and the resolve, the principle AND the patience.**
- **and We applied all OF these good habits in our traditional LIVES to become THE ideal characters THAT our parents WOULD HAVE wanted us to**

- **Second, our parents went through several experiments, whether, positive experiments or negative experiences.**
  - **During all these experiences which they went through, they taught us how we can avoid the negative experiences.**
  - **By IN this way they WERE able to teach us better than our teachers in our schools.**
- This reason exactly makes our parents THE**

- **Third, for instance, if we want to study about our history, there is nobody better than our parents to teach us this subject.**
- **If you ask me why they are better than teachers I will say to you that; In school I noticed that, when the teacher started to explain the subject, more of the students immediately FELT BORED and they DID not focus with the teacher, but when our parents tell us SOMETHING concerning our history we will listen to them, because they tell us as a short story such as their parents told them, and they use a kind style, and sometimes they take us to the museum to show us rare things about our history.**

- **Fourth, undoubtedly, our parents sacrificed for us more than anyone in the world.**

- **Even we become satisfied , Sometimes, when we feel hungry or thirsty, they Immediately WENT looking for a food and water for us, really, they sacrificed for us. IN this way, they taught us ABOUT sacrifice. Actually, there are several actions from our parents which teach us beneficial**

**conducts in our lives**



**• In conclusion, all reasons which I mentioned above are enough to say THAT parents are the best teachers, They are the appropriate persons to teach us ABOUT the LIFE experiences and care about us.**

**IN FAITH,  
PARENTS ARE  
THE BEST TEACHERS**

- **You can't baptize babies and then not teach children to appreciate the gift they've been given! *Of course* we need religious education for kids."**
- ***The religious education (and formation) of children is the job of their well-formed parents.* It is the process by which children are disciplined in the faith by their faithful mom and dad.**
- **Parents aren't well-formed?... And that's the problem.**
- **The Catholic Church is trying to make up for parents' lousy faith-formation by teaching children the faith in the parent's stead. But there are several problems with this.**

- ***1. Church-Based Religious Ed. Fills Head with Facts, Not Hearts with Love.***
- **The first problem with Church-based catechesis is that the Church, or more specifically, a parish Sunday - (or whatever they call it now) - simply can't create the kind of loving atmosphere that disciplines a child's heart and leads him or her to love Christ and his Church.**
- **All it can do is (a) fill the kids' heads with faith-facts or (b) recognize that facts aren't enough, so go in the other direction and produce a lot of tree-hugging, "you are special" twaddle that lacks authenticity or credibility much less content.**

- If it is true that education is not so much the filling of a bucket as it is the lighting of a fire, so much more so is religious education.
- Research actually convincingly demonstrates that religious education and formation of anyone—especially children—can *only* be effectively done in the context of a loving, discipleship relationship.
- *Teaching the right beliefs and practices” and “keeping strictly to the law,” can be for naught if the children don’t feel close to the parents. “Without emotional bonding,” these other factors are “not sufficient for transmission.*
- An emotional bond with a religiously involved PARENTS is the most important factor in transmission of religious faith to the next generation.

- **The bottom line is that any institution, including church institutions, can't bond with anyone and if bonding is essential for faith transmission to children—which it is—then Church-based catechesis is doomed to fail because it can't provide the most important element of faith transmission; that is, *the emotional bond* that serves as the heart of the faith that beats behind the facts of the faith**

- ***2. Church-Based Religious Ed. Can't Stick.***

- **In addition to the fact that an institution can't provide bonding, even if the Church offers the best catechesis possible in the most supportive environment imaginable, it is still doomed to fail because catechizing children and then sending them home to poorly formed parents is the exact definition of sowing seeds in rocky soil—and Jesus had something to say about that. It is extraordinarily difficult for a child to learn to cherish and develop what his own parents don't appreciate, validate or practice themselves.**

**SO WHAT  
SHOULD WE DO AS  
PARENTS?**



**PASS ON  
YOUR FAITH  
TO YOUR CHILDREN**



- My parents were simple and the single-most important factor in leading me to pursue a [relationship with Jesus Christ](#). Without applying any pressure, their examples of godly living and genuine transformation made me want to know more about God, read the Bible, attend church, and eventually ask [Jesus Christ](#) to be the Lord of my life. Since I have not had the experience of raising children, I offer this guide as a simple, practical starting place for learning how to pass on your faith to your children:
- [Raising Kids God's Way - Passing on Your Faith to Your Children](#)
- Where is that instruction manual on raising kids? You know, the one the hospital gives you just before you leave with your new baby?
- What do you mean, there isn't one? Raising a child is such an important, seriously sobering task, it should at least come with a manual, don't you think?

- **What do you suppose this instruction manual would look like? Can't you just see it? It would contain some great categories like, "*How to Stop the Whining,*" and "*How to Get Your Kids to Listen When You Talk.*"**
- **Christian parents face just as many obstacles as non-Christians in raising kids. When you add all the distractions and the pressures in today's world, Christian parenting becomes even more than a challenge.**

- **A huge part of that challenge is passing on your faith to kids whose priorities are more focused on video games, sporting events, and the latest trends in clothes. And let's not forget to mention peer pressure and media pressure that offers temptations to kids to do drugs, drink alcohol and get involved sexually.**
- **Today's kids face an overall absence of godly examples and moral living in a society that is moving toward "freedom from religion" instead of "freedom of religion."**
- **But the good news is that there are things you can do to raise godly kids and even share your faith with them along the way.**

## • **Living Your Faith**

- **First, as a parent you must live out your faith in your own life. It is impossible to give away something you don't have. Kids can spot a phony from a mile away. They're looking for the real deal from their parents.**
- **Living your faith can start with simple things, like showing love, kindness, and generosity. If your kids see you finding ways to "be a blessing," it will become a natural and normal way of life for them too.**

## • **Sharing Your Faith**

- **Second, start sharing your faith early in the lives of your kids. Being a part of an active Christian church shows your kids that you think spending time with God is important. Make it a point to let them hear you talk about the great things happening in the church. Let them hear how much you've been helped by being in the midst of people with similar beliefs who pray for you and you for them.**
- **Sharing your faith also means reading the Bible with your children in a way that causes it to come alive for them.**
- **Find age appropriate Bible resources and lessons to incorporate into your family-fun times, as well as your child's education. Make family devotions and Bible reading a priority in your weekly schedule.**

- Also, incorporate [Christian entertainment](#), [videos](#), books, games and movies into your child's life. Instead of feeling deprived of fun, let them discover and enjoy quality and inspiring forms of amusement that will also encourage them to develop spiritually.
- Another great way to share your faith with your children is to allow them the opportunity to make and develop Christian friendships. Their faith will be strengthened if they can share the same values with their friends. Make sure your church offers a children's program and [youth group](#) that your kids will want to be involved in.

# •What's in it For Them?

- Lastly, show your kids what's in it for them. This is probably one of the most difficult things for many Christian parents. Often people are brought up to believe that faith is some kind of obligation you fulfill by attending church on Sunday. And let's face it, kids today aren't interested in obligations unless there is some kind of pay out at the end.



- **Here are some great pay outs:**
- **When you give your life to Christ, you secure your place in heaven.** What kid do you know that doesn't want something they don't have to earn, but rather is given to them as a gift?
- **When God enters your life, you receive unconditional love.** What a concept for a young person! Someone who will love and accept them as they are with no strings attached.
- **Being a Christian means experiencing freedom.** As you develop your relationship with Christ, you can be free from worry and anxiety, addictions, and so many other problems that seem to plague young people. When you do things God's way, you receive the benefits of that relationship.

- **Having God's favor on your life is like unwrapping a gift every single day.** God's favor is an amazing blessing that makes people want to be good to you for no apparent reason. What young person wouldn't want God's blessings in their life?
- Of course, it wouldn't be fair to tell your kids about the pay outs and not tell them about the responsibilities that come with Christian living.

- Here are some of those:
- ***Putting God first.*** This means making the commitment to seek God. This isn't an easy concept for kids. There's a lot of competition for first place in the life of a young person. But parents can help kids understand that God wants them to be happy and successful even more than they do. What a great thing for a young person to hear!
- ***Finding ways to be a blessing.*** Many kids are very self centered. The concept of "being a blessing" means taking the focus off them and onto someone else. This is best learned if they can see you living it. Include them in the process when you can. You'll be amazed at how good your kids will feel about themselves.

- ***Acting right on purpose.*** This means treating people with kindness, respect, and **patience**, even those that are hard to love. Even parents, brothers and sisters. Right behavior is Christianity in action.
- **Sharing your faith doesn't have to be complicated. Start by living it in your own life so your kids can see it in action. Demonstrate your commitment and the value you place in an ongoing relationship with God by finding ways to be a blessing. **Kids learn best by example and modeling your faith is the best example they will ever see.****

- ***“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery-the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the ‘material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.’ Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them.” (CCC 2223)***

- ***“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” (CCC 2226)***

- **Religion, however, is much more than a school subject. It is a way of living. By taking the time to pray - both at home and in Church - families show their children the importance of a God-centered life. Opportunities for prayer are as varied as the experiences of life: before and after sleeping, eating, traveling, playing, studying - even shopping or acquiring things! Yes, it is not a bad idea to pray for the wise use of our material resources when there are so many temptations to waste them on non-essentials that do not bring lasting happiness. No prayer, however, surpasses the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, especially on Sundays.**

**• The decision to bring the whole family to Church every Sunday, in addition to being an occasion to be fed by the Gospel and the Bread of Heaven, communicates to children that life is more than work or sports, important as both activities are. Sunday Mass communicates the message that we are worth more than what we do, that there we have a Savior who wants to come to us and give us something we can get from nowhere else: total forgiving mercy and eternal life.**



- **The essence of our Christian Faith, however, is really a Person: Jesus Christ. It is all about our relationship with him and his Church, which is his mystical body. Christ saves us through us. The experience of being a member of a family which has Jesus as its center - and lives this conviction each day - is something every parent can provide who wishes to, regardless of their level of theological sophistication or book learning. Just “come and see,” as Jesus invites**

**PARENTS:  
THE PRIMARY  
CATECHISTS**

**THANK YOU**

**&**

**GOD BLESS US ALL**