

The Parental Office

Q: “How do you spell ‘parent’?”

A: T-E-A-C-H-E-R

The Christian education of children is **not** the church’s job. It’s the job of parents. In fact, it always has been. That’s what the Bible says.

- “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs22:6)
- “Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
- “(God) commanded our ancestors to teach their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God.” (Psalm 78:5)
- “Choose this day whom you will serve . . . but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)
- “Fathers (and mothers, too), do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

Catechism is not the church doing the job of Christian education **for parents**. It is the church, the body of Christ working **with parents**, to help you in your all-important, God-given task and honor . . . teaching our faith and devotion to Jesus Christ to your children.

Martin Luther knew all about this. That’s why he wrote his **Small Catechism**. It is a tool to help parents share and impart the central teachings and beliefs of our faith with their children. But, this teaching is **the parents’ job!!** Here’s what **Luther** says about what he calls “**The Parental Office**”:

*Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of **their office**, not only to provide for the material support of their children, but especially to **bring them up to the praise and honor of God**. . . He has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we **train and govern them according to his will**.*

Luther’s Large Catechism

Parents can never underestimate their importance in the faith development of their children, nor can they ignore it. A pastor, Catechism or Sunday Schoolteacher is with a young person only a few hours a week. ***How many more hours of contact and influence do parents have?***

An important study by the Alban Institute found that the ***five most important factors*** in a child's faith development and growth are:

1. Mom's own faith
2. Dad's own faith
3. Mom's involvement in a Christian community
4. Dad's involvement in a Christian community
5. Another caring Christian adult who relates to the child

Get The Picture???

Everything we do at Grace is designed to ***help parents succeed*** with this great and wonderful privilege God has given them.

Together we all work to help our young people ***grow*** in faith and achieve God's purpose for us, "until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, ***to maturity***, to the measure of the ***full stature*** of Christ . . . But speaking the truth in love, we must ***grow up*** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." (Ephesians 4:13, 15)

**Working Together, this is the glorious goal for our children
and all future generations of Christians!!**