

God's Goal - Our Goal: The Character of the Christ (from IBYC)

God's Ultimate Goal for us:

"To be conformed to the image of [Jesus Christ]"

Romans 8:29

Parent's Ultimate Goal for their Children:

To develop Christ-like character in their children during the first three stages of life.

I. FOUNDATION STAGE: Birth to 6 Years of age

Focus on Discipline

Key Character Qualities to Develop:

1. Attentiveness - We must first teach our children to be attentive to our faces, spirit (tone of voice, expressions, etc.,).
2. Obedience - learning there are limitations
3. Contentment - with the things he has
4. Neatness - bringing order to his world
5. Reverence - to respect the rights of others (parents, siblings), adults, those in authority.
6. Forgiveness - learn to forgive others
7. Gratefulness - to God and others
8. Faith - old nature manifests itself, needs salvation, gives basis for learning other qualities.
9. Truthfulness - A willingness to accept the consequences of his/her actions/attitudes.
10. Security - starting with people (mom & dad) and then in the Lord
11. Meekness - learning to yield rights (letting others play with toys, etc.,).
12. Cautiousness - that unfamiliar circumstances can contain danger

II. TRAINING STAGE: (6-12 years old)

Focus on Information

1. Patience - extend wait between achievement and reward
2. Dependability - can be counted on to do what is assigned / fulfill obligations
3. Determination - how to complete tasks that are started (don't make task overwhelming)
4. Punctuality - knowing how to respect the time of others
5. Discernment - recognizing and knowing how to respond to different types of people; study of proverbs - the fool, the wise, the scorner, etc.
6. Loyalty - an allegiance and devotion to parents transferred to God
7. compassion - concern for the welfare of others.
8. Alertness - aware of what is going on around him.
9. thriftiness - learning how to save and spend wisely
10. Responsibility - takes obligations seriously
11. Virtue - present influence on others
12. Tolerance - not of evil, but of ideas and others with different viewpoints
13. Fairness - playing by the rules
14. Joyfulness - rejoicing in God's sovereignty in all situations

III. SKILL STAGE: (12-20 years old)

Focus on self-control

1. Wisdom - able to think abstractly and put knowledge into practice
2. Self-Control - instant obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
3. Discretion - knowing what and when to say things
4. Diligence - how to study and relate Scripture to life
5. Improved application of all characteristics in previous stages

IV. APPRENTICE STAGE: 20-30 years of age

Focus on service

1. Thoroughness
2. Resourcefulness
3. Flexibility
4. Availability
5. Hospitality
6. Gentleness
7. Boldness - Courage
8. Persuasiveness

V. MINISTRY STAGE - 30-50 years of age

Focus on public ministry

VI. COUNSEL STAGE - 50 to end of life

Focus on Guidance - Honor Age

VII. HERITAGE STAGE - That which is left to others after death

Focus on written and living epistles

(Material taken from Institute for Basic Youth Conflicts, Advanced Seminar, 1975)