

123 03/04/02 Obligation to pass on our Christian heritage

I take my role as a grandmother very seriously! Although I enjoy displaying pictures of my grandchildren and love being called “BeBe,” there is much more to grandparenting than the pride that comes with the job.

When adults speak fondly of a grandparent, there are usually two themes to their relationship with that special person. They talk about the spiritual heritage they received and/or a special skill or hobby they learned.

We have an obligation to pass our Christian heritage to successive generations. We read in Deuteronomy 6:6-9: “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” That is a command from God, not a suggestion.

While that obligation falls primarily to parents, the child who also receives spiritual training from grandparents is indeed blessed. Grandparents are especially equipped to add to what parents are already teaching.

Grandparents have the advantage of a longer view of the unfolding of God’s promises. They have more life experiences from which to draw as they teach Biblical truths. They have fewer daily demands on their time, and they do not have the routine responsibility of discipline.

If you are blessed by being a grandparent, take seriously your responsibility to teach your grandchildren about your faith. As you talk, tell them how God has been at work in your life. As they talk, remind them to seek God’s will in their lives. Rejoice with them over the blessings that God sends their way. Show them how God can provide comfort in times of sorrow. Pray with them.

Next week, I will write about those special activities that you can do with a grandchild that he will remember for a lifetime.

