



Graduating into Parenthood with Purpose

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord. (1 Sam. 1:27-28a)

Throughout life we all pass from one stage into another, such as graduating from a school, being joined in marriage, or advancing in a profession. Each stage brings new experiences, additional responsibilities and a renewed sense of purpose.

My most profound graduation was also my most recent one: Parenthood. A newborn baby requires continual nurturing and guidance – not only from its parents, but also by the entire Christian family of friends, neighbors, and church members. As parents, it is our purpose to gently instill the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ and guide our children in making these gifts evident in their lives.

Let us think of our children not only as our own, but also as the Lord's. He has a purpose and plan for each one of them. The Lord trusts us to have our children baptized and to encourage our children to grow in faith in Him through the reading and teaching of His Word (Matt. 28:19). As parents and caregivers, we are tasked with an amazing responsibility to be stewards of this trust. Through our words and actions, we teach our children of the Lord's love and saving grace. With Jesus as our model, we guide their choices and act as a daily reflection of His Word.

We may sometimes feel less effective in directing our children toward a path with Jesus. At those times, we always have prayer. We pray for strength and we dedicate our children to the Lord, asking Him to guide them throughout their lives.

After parenthood, many people graduate into grandparenthood. If you are a grandparent or a relative or a neighbor, remember that your purpose is to continue sharing the news of Jesus Christ with the children in your lives. It is our heritage and duty not only to pass on the Good News to future generations, but also to guide our children's choices through continual communication with the Lord. What a privilege it is to graduate into parenthood so we can share the story of our Savior.

Prayer: Oh, Help me Lord this day to be
Thine own dear child; to follow Thee.
And lead me Savior by Thy hand
Until I reach the heavenly land. Amen.

A Child's Garden of Song, CPH

Scripture is from the NIV.

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