

“ [In Psalm 127:3-5] the psalmist gives us one of the simplest, yet most controversial passages in the Bible. It is simple in that it has no hidden meaning or underlying theological complexities that require special training in biblical backgrounds, Hebrew, or systematic theology to understand. It is quite straightforward: children are a gift from God, and you are blessed if you have lots of them...

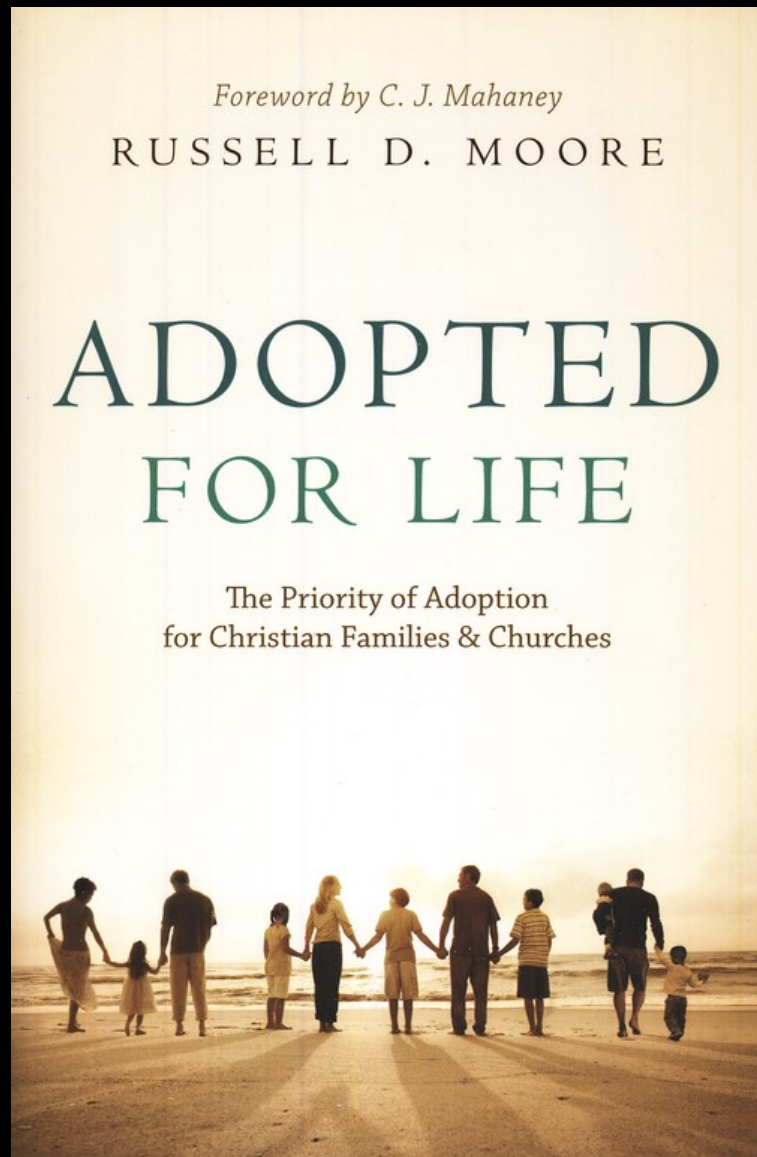
...Yet Psalm 127 is controversial in that it complicates many of our cultural norms and stretches them beyond credulity. The Bible says children are a blessing; our culture says children are a blight. The Bible says you are blessed if you have lots of children; our culture says you are cursed if you have lots of children. Even worse, our culture believes people are foolish and/or sinful if they have lots of children. The question is, how much influence will we allow the culture to have on the way we view the issue."

—Voddie Baucham,
*What He Must Be...If He Wants to Marry My
Daughter*, 125

“Whenever couples say they don’t want children, I commend them for their honesty, but also urge them to evaluate their reasons. When considering whether or not to have children, the Christian couple should ask, Lord, what do you want us to do? Scripture seems to indicate that unless there are good physical or spiritual reasons for not having children, God wants Christian couples to produce and raise godly offspring.”

—Wayne Mack, *Your Family God’s Way*, 38

Recommended Resource



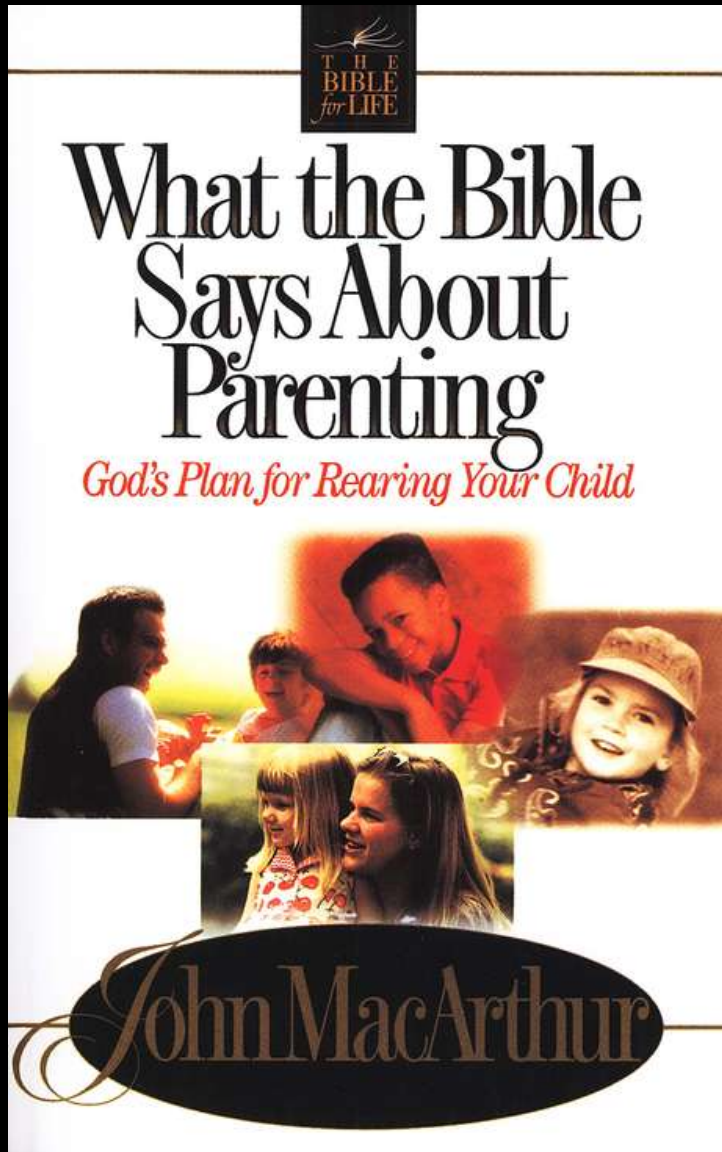
Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches by Russell D. Moore

Especially on adoption but also the value of children.

“Your top-priority job as a parent, then, is to be an evangelist in your home. You need to teach your children the law of God; teach them the gospel of divine grace; show them their need for a Savior; and point them to Jesus Christ as the only One who can save them. If they grow up without a keen awareness of their need for salvation, you as a parent will have failed in your primary task as their spiritual leader.”

—John MacArthur,
What the Bible Says About Parenting, 42-43

Recommended Resource



*What The Bible Says
About Parenting:
God's Plan for
Rearing Your Child* by
John MacArthur

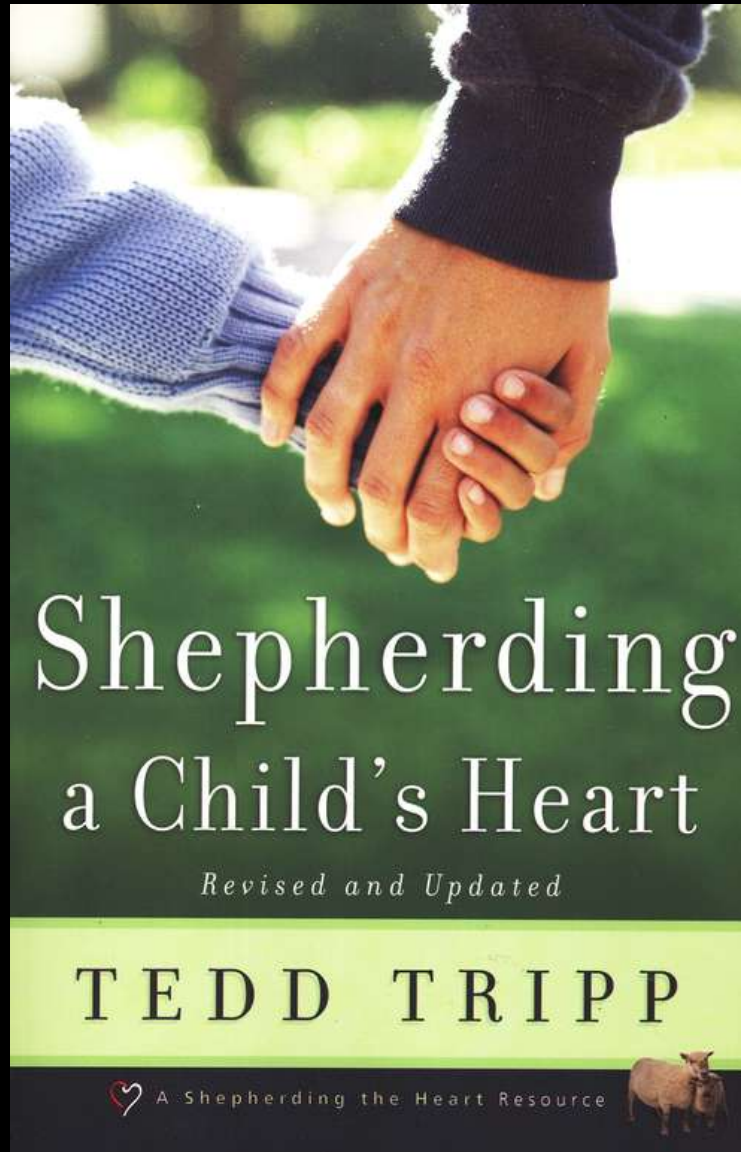
On general parenting
but especially good
on the conversion of
child.

“A parent disciplining a child, for instance, communicates to the child the discipline and judgment of God in ways deeper and more resonant than any Sunday school lesson (Heb 12:5-11). A parent who will not discipline a child for disobedience, or who is inconsistent in doing so, is teaching that child not to expect consequences for behavior. In short, a parent who will not discipline is denying the doctrine of hell...

...At the same time, a parent who disciplines in anger or with harshness teaches a judgment of God that is capricious and unjust. An abusive parent, worst of all, ingrains in a child's mind a picture of God as a ruthless devil who cannot be trusted to judge justly. Parental discipleship and discipline ought always to have repentance and restoration in view, picturing a God who is both just and the justifier (Rom 3:26)."

—Russell Moore, "The Eschatology of Parenting,"
available at www.russellmoore.com

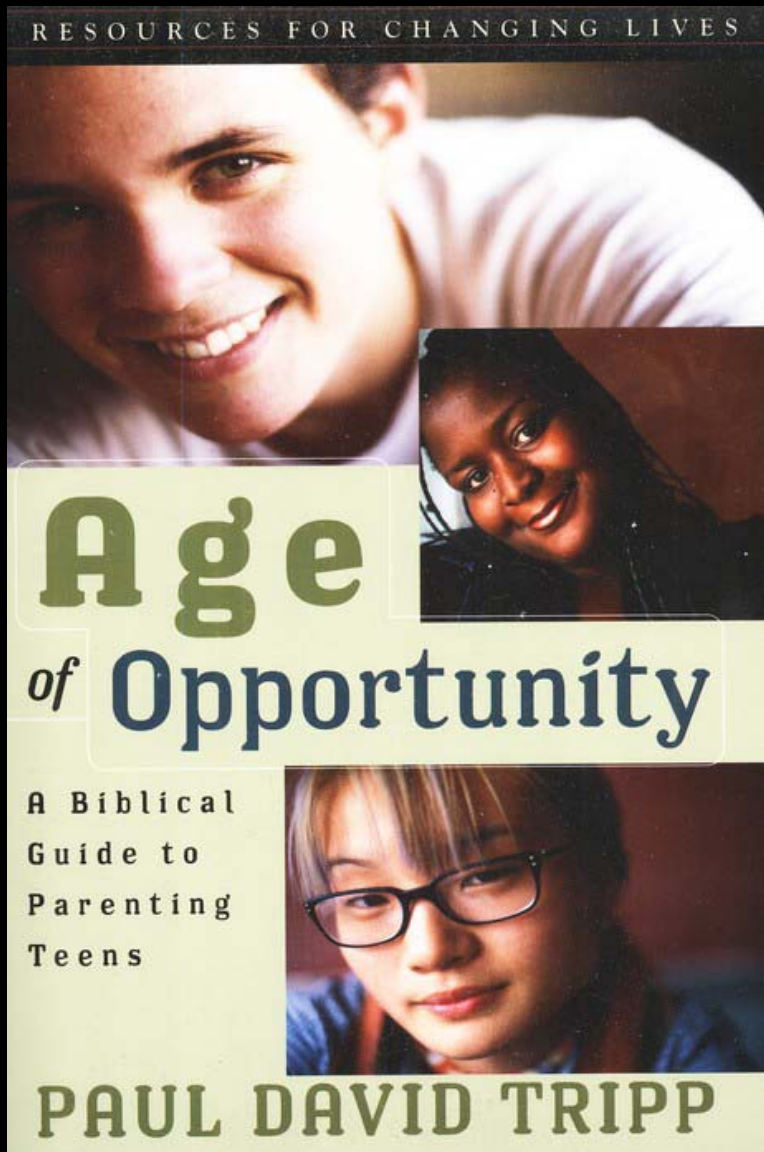
Recommended Resource



Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

Scriptural principles
and methods for
teaching and
disciplining children.

Recommended Resource



Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens by Paul David Tripp

Helps parents not merely survive the teenage years but view them as a season of great spiritual growth.

“Persons are generally very liberal of their invectives against the clergy, and think they justly blame the conduct of that minister who does not take heed to and watch over the flock, of which the Holy Ghost has made him overseer: but may not every governor [i.e., father] of a family, be in a lower degree liable to the same censure, who takes no thought for those souls that are committed to his charge?...

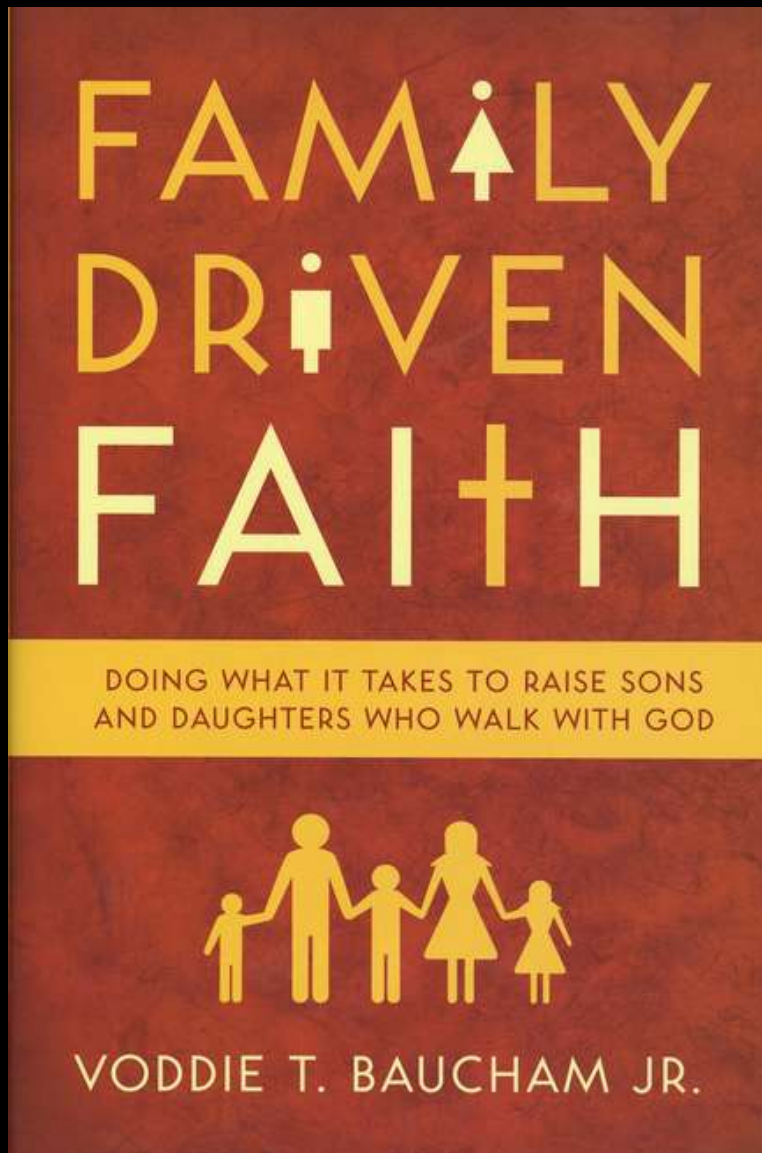
...For every house is as it were a little parish, every governor a priest, every family a flock; and if any of them perish through the governor's neglect, their blood will God require at their hands."

—George Whitefield (1714-1770)

“Next to your wife are your children; immortal spirits whom God hath, for a time, entrusted to your care, that you may train them up in all holiness, and fit them for the enjoyment of God in eternity. This is a glorious and important trust; seeing a soul is of more value than all the world beside. Every child, therefore, you are to watch over with the utmost care, that, when you are called to give an account of each to the Father of Spirits, you may give your accounts with joy and not with grief.”

—John Wesley (1703-1791)

Recommended Resource



*Family Driven Faith:
Doing What it Takes
to Raise Sons and
Daughters Who Walk
with God* by Voddie
Baucham, Jr.

Manual for discipling
your family with
special emphasis on
the father's role.