

Our Little Monuments

Monuments exist to remind us of something, great people or great achievements.

This is what the word monument means, it comes from the Latin word “*monere*” meaning “*to remind.*”

Monuments are **not** built for the past but by the past for the future.

Past generations wanted future generations to be reminded of something.

Past ages are also known by what they leave behind unintentionally.

The most enduring things left behind by what is known as the Stone Age are stone tools. The Bronze Age has left us bronze implements and a lot of pottery. The Iron Age is known for its iron implements.

Our present age may be known as the Information Age, or Space Age or perhaps as the Age of Rubbish, Aluminium, Glass, Plastic and Toxins.

In our personal lives we are creating monuments too.

Some people build great corporations and name them after themselves.

Some politicians shape a distinct period of time in a nation’s history that will be referred to by their name.

One thing for sure, we will be known by our works, what we have accomplished whether good or bad in our lives.

Whether we realise it or not we are creating monuments by which we will be remembered.

We who are parents have the rewarding opportunity to leave our mark in history through the rearing of our children.

How we train our children determines what kind of lasting mark we will leave in this world.

Proverbs 22:6 [New King James] *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Good character, honesty, morality, self-control, fairness, trustworthiness, courage are all extremely valuable.

But we cannot pass these along to our children on our deathbed unless they have been taught by us, mostly by our personal example.

Good character is scarcer than financial wealth and far more valuable.

Proverbs 22:1 [New King James] *“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold.”*

Too many children in today’s society will turn out to be morally of little value to society.

But the few who have been taught character by the example of their parents will stand out as valuable monuments of a good way of life.

We all must strive for spiritual and emotional maturity by placing ourselves and our children in God's hands and seeking to be in harmony with His way of life.

Good monuments are **not** built in a day. They require patience and teamwork, as well as a good understanding of the desired goal and best method by both parents.

Child rearing is truly a monumental task.

Let us re-educate ourselves as parents to the training and development of our "little monuments," our children, for we are building a family name that is going to stand for all eternity. What could be more important? And God will help us.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-24 [NIV] *"Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."*

God has promised to help us to be the kind of parents He has called us to be, teaching and training His children.