THE QUESTION

Did the early church think an elder's children could disqualify him?

Asked by a THF member on June 28, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 17 early Christian passages and 278 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-think-an-elders-children-could-disqualify-him

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes, in part. The early writers treated how a man led his home as a test for church office. One church order asks whether a bishop raised his children in a godly way, since a rebellious home raises doubts about his leading the church. But these passages do not settle cases of grown children who later fall away.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 7

A bishop's children were checked before ordination

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions lists Paul's rules for a bishop and then describes an examination before he is ordained. One of the questions is how he has raised his children in the faith.

1 "In this way, examination should be made when he is to receive ordination and be placed in his bishopric, to see whether he is serious, faithful, and respectable; whether he has a serious and faithful wife, or formerly had such a wife; whether he has brought up his children in a godly way and raised them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; Ephesians 6:4 and whether his servants fear and respect him and all obey him."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

A rebellious home raises doubts about leadership

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The same passage gives the reason. If the people closest to a man will not follow him, it asks how the wider church could be expected to follow him. His home is seen as a sign of how he would lead.

2 "For if those who are immediately around him in worldly matters are rebellious and disobedient, how will others outside his family, when they are under his oversight, become obedient to him?"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

The home is training for church leadership

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says the care of a wife and children is a real duty given by the Lord. He reads Paul as saying that bishops should come from men who have first learned to lead their own homes.

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3 “Therefore, he says, bishops ought to be appointed from those who have first trained themselves in ruling their own house, so that they may also be able to preside over the whole Church.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 3 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Believing children were part of Paul's rule

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen quotes Paul's instructions to Titus, including the words about having believing children, as one of the rules for appointing elders. In this passage he does not explain what that phrase requires.

4 “And in the Epistle to Titus he says, "For this cause I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that were lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I gave you charge. If anyone is blameless, the husband of one wife, having believing children," Titus 1:5-6, of course, and so on.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 12, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Every Christian parent must teach the faith

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache and Barnabas give the same command to all believers: do not leave your children without guidance, but teach them to fear God from a young age. Clement of Rome urges the same training.

5 “You shall not remove your hand from your son or from your daughter, but from their youth you shall teach them the fear of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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6 “You shall not withhold guidance from your son or daughter, but teach them the fear of the Lord from infancy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Barnabas,** *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70–132 AD) **Source 2, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “Let your children receive true Christian training; let them learn how valuable humility is with God—how much the spirit of pure affection can prevail with Him—how excellent and great His fear is, and how it saves all those who walk in it with a pure mind.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 17, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Fathers must keep warning wayward children

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas is not speaking about church office. He is rebuked for loving his sons without warning them, and he is told that the head of a house shares in his household's discipline. Yet God will heal his house, and if his sons repent they will be saved.

8 “And although you love your sons, you did not warn your household, but allowed them to become terribly corrupted.”

later in the same passage

“Therefore, do not stop admonishing your sons. For I know that if they repent with all their heart, they will be enrolled in the Books of Life with the saints.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “They cannot be afflicted at all unless you, the head of the house, are afflicted.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 7 OF 7

Each person answers for his own sin

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Justin Martyr quotes the prophet Ezekiel in a different argument, but the point is a useful balance. A father is not condemned for his children's sins, and they are not saved by his goodness. Each person must answer for himself.

10 “No one will die for another’s sin, but each will be accountable for their own sin. Each will be saved for their own righteousness.’”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not say what happens when a grown child who has left home turns away from the faith.
- They speak about examining a man before ordination, not about removing an elder already serving.
- None of them explains exactly what Paul meant by believing children.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 17 early Christian passages and 278 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–17, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 18–175, in Bible order), then 120 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *17 passages from 10 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 **Quote 5, page 3** “shall not remove your hand from your son or from your daughter… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “shalt not withdraw thy hand from thy son, or from thy daughter, but from their infancy thou shalt teach them the fear of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · source 3*

3 *Second Epistle* 6 (1885 English; on point 7) “if men so eminently righteous are not able by their righteousness to deliver their children, how can we hope to enter into the royal residence of God unless we keep… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *Shepherd* **Quote 9, page 4** they also must suffer affliction. But if you are at ease, they can feel no affliction." I said, "Well, sir, they have repented with their whole heart." He answered, "I… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* **Quote 8, page 4** God is not angry with you because of this. He is angry so that you may turn your household back, because they have committed sin against the Lord and against… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 6–8*

6 *Epistle to the Magnesians* (1885 English; on point 6) “also, when he was but a little child, reproved Eli, who was ninety years old, for giving honour to his sons rather than to God… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 5) “children, reverence your parents. Ye parents, “bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Honour those [who continue] in virginity, as the priestesses of Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 5) “parents, impart a holy training to your children… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 9*

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness.’ Furthermore, I have proved in what has preceded, that those who were foreknown to be unrighteous, whether men… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Stromata* 3 **Quote 3, page 3** “1 Timothy 5:14-15. Indeed, he certainly also accepts the husband of one wife, whether he is a presbyter or a deacon or a layman, using marriage without blame… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Stromata* 4.17 (on point 5) “our children share in the discipline that is in Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 12–13*

12 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “bishop, therefore, must be without reproach, the husbands of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, 1 Timothy 3:1-2 etc… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Celsus* 48 (on point 4) “It is clear, further, that among the characteristic qualifications of those who are called bishops, Paul, in describing what kind of man the bishop ought to be, lays down as… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 14–16*

14 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** "Timothy 3:4 In this manner let examination be made when he is to receive ordination, and to be placed in his bishopric, whether he be grave, faithful, decent… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) "Do you first ordain bishops worthy of the Lord, and presbyters and deacons, pious men, righteous, meek, free from the love of money, lovers of truth, approved, holy, not accepters… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) "if in a small parish one advanced in years is not to be found, let some younger person, who has a good report among his neighbours, and is esteemed by… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 17*

17 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "them make manifest the command which they have of their tongue, by their manner of speaking… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *158 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

18 **Genesis 30:30** For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a multitude, and the Lord God has blessed you with my coming. Now then, when shall I also make a house for myself?" **read ›**

19 **Genesis 31:28** And I was not counted worthy to kiss my children and my daughters. Now you have acted foolishly. **read ›**

20 **Genesis 33:6** Then the maidservants and their children came near and bowed down. **read ›**

21 **Genesis 41:40** You shall be over my house, and all my people shall obey your word; only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." **read ›**

22 **Genesis 42:20** Then bring your youngest brother to me, and your words shall be believed; but if not, you shall die." And they did so. **read ›**

23 **Exodus 29:30** The priest from among his sons who succeeds him, who goes into the tabernacle of witness to minister in the holy place, shall put them on for seven days. **read ›**

24 **Exodus 40:15** You shall anoint them as you anointed their father, and they shall serve me as priests; and so they shall have an anointing of priesthood forever, throughout their generations." **read ›**

25 **Leviticus 16:32** The priest whom they anoint, and whose hands they consecrate to serve as priest after his father, shall make atonement; he shall put on the linen garment, the holy garment. **read ›**

26 **Leviticus 22:11** But if a priest acquires a person bought with money, he shall eat of his bread; and his servants born in his house, they also shall eat of his bread. **read ›**

27 **Leviticus 25:30** If it is not redeemed until a whole year is completed, the house that is in the walled city shall be confirmed for good to the one who bought it, throughout his generations; it shall not go out in the release. **read ›**

28 **Numbers 4:23** From twenty-five years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who goes in to minister, to do his works in the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

29 **Numbers 14:23** surely they shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers; but their children who are with me here, all who do not know good or evil, every inexperienced youth—to them I will give the land; but none of those who provoked me shall see it. **read ›**

30 **Deuteronomy 8:12** lest, when you have eaten and are filled, and have built good houses and dwelt in them, **read ›**

31 **Deuteronomy 13:13** 'Lawless men have gone out from among you and have drawn away all the inhabitants of their land, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods"'—gods whom you have not known— (Septuagint Deuteronomy 13:14 (Deuteronomy 13:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

32 **Deuteronomy 21:18** If a man has a disobedient and provoking son who does not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they discipline him, and he does not listen to them, **read ›**

33 **Deuteronomy 21:19** then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of the place, **read ›**

34 **Deuteronomy 21:20** and they shall say to the men of their city, "This son of ours is disobedient and provoking; he does not obey our voice; he feasts to excess and is a drunkard." **read ›**

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35 **Deuteronomy 23:2** One born of a prostitute shall not enter the assembly of the Lord. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:3 (Deuteronomy 23:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

36 **Deuteronomy 32:5** Blemished children, not his, have sinned, a crooked and perverse generation. **read ›**

37 **Deuteronomy 33:9** He is the one who says to his father and mother, “I have not seen you,” and he did not recognize his brothers, and he disowned his sons; he kept your oracles, and guarded your covenant. **read ›**

38 **Ruth 1:9** May the Lord grant you that each of you find rest in the house of her husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept. **read ›**

39 **Ruth 4:11** And all the people who were at the gate said, “We are witnesses.” And the elders said, “May the Lord make your wife, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and like Leah, who both built the house of Israel and did mightily in Ephrathah; and there shall be a name in Bethlehem. **read ›**

40 **1 Samuel 2:11** She left him there before the Lord and went away to Ramathaim. And the child was ministering before the face of the Lord, before Eli the priest. **read ›**

41 **1 Samuel 2:12** Now the sons of Eli the priest were troublemakers, not knowing the Lord. **read ›**

42 **1 Samuel 2:18** Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a child wearing a linen ephod. **read ›**

43 **1 Samuel 3:1** The child Samuel was ministering to the Lord before Eli the priest. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no distinct vision. **read ›**

44 **2 Samuel 22:45** Foreign sons lied to me; at the hearing of the ear they listened to me. **read ›**

45 **2 Samuel 22:46** Foreign sons shall be cast away, and they shall stumble out of their strongholds. **read ›**

46 **1 Kings 2:4** so that the Lord may establish his word which he spoke, saying, ‘If your sons watch their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart,’ saying, ‘a man on the throne of Israel shall not be cut off from you.’ **read ›**

47 **1 Chronicles 17:12** He shall build me a house, and I will set up his throne forever. **read ›**

48 **2 Chronicles 31:16** besides the offspring of the males from three years old and upward, to every one who entered the house of the Lord, by a daily account, for ministry in the daily courses of their arrangement. **read ›**

49 **Nehemiah 2:3** and I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the house of my fathers’ tombs, lies desolate, and its gates have been devoured by fire?” (Septuagint 2 Esdras 12:3 (Nehemiah 2:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

50 **Job 8:4** If your sons sinned before him, he sent them away in the hand of their lawlessness. **read ›**

51 **Job 10:2** and I will say to the Lord, ‘Do not teach me to act ungodly; and why have you judged me so? **read ›**

52 **Job 21:11** And they remain like everlasting sheep, and their children play, taking up the psaltery and the lyre, **read ›**

53 **Psalms 11:3** For what you fashioned they have torn down; but what has the righteous one done? (Septuagint Psalm 10:3 (Psalm 11:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

54 **Psalms 105:21** He made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, (Septuagint Psalm 104:21 (Psalm 105:21 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

55 **Proverbs 11:29** He who does not deal kindly with his own house will inherit the wind, and the fool will serve the person of sound judgment. **read ›**

56 **Proverbs 14:1** Wise women build houses, but the foolish one tears hers down with her hands. **read ›**

57 **Proverbs 15:25** The Lord pulls down the houses of the arrogant, but he sets firm the boundary of the widow. **read ›**

58 **Proverbs 19:14** Fathers divide house and property among their children, but a wife is fitted to a man by the Lord. **read ›**

59 **Proverbs 24:27** Prepare your works for going out, and make yourself ready for the field; and follow after me, and you will rebuild your house. **read ›**

60 **Song of Solomon 2:11** For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over, it has gone its way. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 3:4** And I will make youths their rulers, and mockers shall have dominion over them. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 3:5** And the people shall fall upon one another, man against man, and man against his neighbor; the child shall strike against the old man, the dishonored against the honored. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 13:16** And they will dash their children to pieces before them, and plunder their houses, and take their wives. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 14:8** and the trees of Lebanon have been glad over you, and the cedar of Lebanon: ‘Since you were laid to rest, no one has come up to cut us down.’ **read ›**

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65 **Isaiah 15:5** The heart of the land of Moab cries out within her as far as Zoar, for she is a young cow three years old; and on the ascent of Luith they will go up to you weeping by the way of Horonaim. She cries out, “Ruin and trembling!” **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 15:8** For the cry has reached the border of the land of Moab, of Eglaim, and her wailing as far as the well of Elim. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 18:1** Woe to the land, the wings of ships, beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 30:9** For the people is disobedient, lying sons, who would not hear the law of God, **read ›**

69 **Lamentations 5:13** The chosen men took up weeping, and the young men grew weak under the wood. **read ›**

70 **Ezekiel 3:15** And I entered the captivity, raised aloft, and went around those who dwelt by the river Chebar, who were there; and I sat there seven days, living in their midst. **read ›**

71 **Ezekiel 5:4** And from these you shall take again, and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them up with fire; from it fire shall come out. And you shall say to the whole house of Israel, **read ›**

72 **Ezekiel 27:14** From the house of Togarmah horses and horsemen supplied your market. **read ›**

73 **Daniel 11:29** At the set time he shall return and come into the south; but the last shall not be like the first. **read ›**

74 **Hosea 10:14** And destruction shall rise up among your people, and all your fortified places shall be gone—as the ruler Salaman from the house of Jeroboam: in the days of war they dashed the mother to the ground upon her children. **read ›**

75 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, “Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her.” **read ›**

76 **Amos 3:13** Hear, O priests, and testify to the house of Jacob, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

77 **Amos 4:6** And I will give you dullness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord. **read ›**

78 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

79 **Tobit 6:12** And the young woman is beautiful and sensible. And now listen to me, and I will speak to her father; and when we return from Rages, we will hold the wedding. For I know that Raguel will by no means give her to another man according to the law of Moses; otherwise he will be liable to death, because it is right for you to take the inheritance rather than any other man.” **read ›**

80 **Tobit 8:11** And Raguel came into his house, **read ›**

81 **Tobit 11:3** Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house; **read ›**

82 **Judith 2:23** And he cut through Put and Lud, and they plundered all the children of Rassis and the children of Ishmael who were toward the wilderness, to the south of the land of the Chelleans. **read ›**

83 **Judith 10:2** she rose from where she had fallen, called her maid, and went down into the house where she used to stay on the Sabbath days and on her feast days. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:13** their offspring is cursed. For blessed is the barren woman who is undefiled, who has not known a bed of transgression; she will have fruit at the visitation of souls. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:16** But the children of adulterers will not come to maturity, and the seed of an unlawful bed will vanish. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:6** For children born of lawless unions are witnesses of evil against their parents when they are examined. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:25** Therefore, as to children without reason, you sent the judgment to mock them. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:9** For the holy children of good men offered sacrifice in secret, and in full agreement they established the divine law, that the holy ones would share alike in the same good things and dangers, the fathers already leading the songs of praise. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:10** But the discordant cry of the enemies echoed back, and the pitiful sound of children being mourned was carried far and wide. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:8** You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will by no means fail. **read ›**

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93 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:1** O children, listen to me, your father, and act accordingly, that you may be saved. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:2** For the Lord has glorified the father over the children, and has established the judgment of the mother over the sons. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:19** What seed is honored? The seed of man. What seed is honored? Those who fear the Lord. What seed is dishonored? The seed of man. What seed is dishonored? Those who transgress the commandments. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:20** Among brothers their leader is honored, and those who fear the Lord in his eyes. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:28** Call no one blessed before his death; a man will be known by his children. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:3** Do not trust in their life, and do not rely on their place; for one is better than a thousand, and to die childless is better than to have ungodly children. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:4** Terror and arrogance will lay waste wealth; so the house of the proud will be laid waste. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:8** He who builds his house with other men’s money is like one who gathers his stones for the winter. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:3** Unless a man holds fast diligently in the fear of the Lord, his house will quickly be overthrown. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:27** “Go out, outsider, from the presence of glory; my brother has come to stay with me; I need the house.” **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 30:8** An untamed horse turns out stubborn, and a son left to himself turns out reckless. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 30:9** Pamper a child, and he will alarm you; play with him, and he will grieve you. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 30:12** Bruise his ribs while he is a child, lest he grow stubborn and disobey you. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:22** and guard yourself against your own children. **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:24** He who believes the law pays attention to the commandments, and he who trusts in the Lord will not suffer loss. **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:15** The offspring of the ungodly will not multiply branches, and they are unclean roots on a sheer rock. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:5** The children of sinners become abominable children, and they live among the homes of the ungodly. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:7** Children will blame an ungodly father, for they will be disgraced because of him. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 41:14** Keep instruction in peace, O children; but hidden wisdom and an unseen treasure, what profit is there in both? **read ›**

112 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:6** rich men furnished with strength, living at peace in their homes; **read ›**

113 **Baruch 4:16** and they carried away the beloved ones of the widow, and robbed the lonely woman of her daughters. **read ›**

114 **Baruch 4:21** Take courage, my children; cry out to God, and he will deliver you from the power, from the hand of the enemies. **read ›**

115 **Susanna 1:34** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **Susanna 1:50** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Maccabees 1:48** and to leave their sons uncircumcised, and to make their souls abominable with everything unclean and profane, **read ›**

118 **1 Maccabees 4:42** He chose unblemished priests, devoted to the law; **read ›**

119 **1 Maccabees 13:45** The people of the city went up on the wall with their wives and children, with their clothes torn, and cried out with a loud voice, begging Simon to give them his right hand; **read ›**

120 **2 Maccabees 9:20** If you and your children are well and your own affairs are as you wish, I give the greatest thanks to God, having my hope in heaven. **read ›**

121 **2 Maccabees 11:23** Now that our father has passed on to the gods, we wish the subjects of the kingdom to be free from disturbance and to attend to their own affairs. **read ›**

122 **3 Maccabees 1:18** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

123 **3 Maccabees 1:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

124 **3 Maccabees 1:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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125 **3 Maccabees 1:28** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
126 **3 Maccabees 2:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
127 **4 Maccabees 14:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
128 **4 Maccabees 15:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
129 **4 Maccabees 15:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
130 **4 Maccabees 15:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
131 **4 Maccabees 15:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
132 **4 Maccabees 18:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
133 **4 Maccabees 18:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
134 **4 Maccabees 18:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
135 **1 Enoch 15:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
136 **1 Enoch 39:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
137 **1 Enoch 81:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
138 **1 Enoch 91:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
139 **1 Enoch 101:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
140 **Matthew 11:16** But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces, who call to their companions **read ›**
141 **Matthew 18:2** Jesus called a little child to himself, and set him in the middle of them **read ›**
142 **Matthew 18:4** Whoever therefore humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **read ›**
143 **Matthew 19:13** Then little children were brought to him that he should lay his hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. **read ›**
144 **Mark 10:13** They were bringing to him little children, that he should touch them, but the disciples rebuked those who were bringing them. **read ›**
145 **Luke 2:51** And he went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was subject to them, and his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. **read ›**
146 **Acts 3:2** A man lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. They laid him daily at the temple gate called Beautiful to ask alms from those entering the temple. **read ›**
147 **Acts 5:8** Peter answered her, “Tell me, did you sell the land for this amount?” She said, “Yes, for that amount.” **read ›**
148 **Acts 7:16** and they were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in silver from the children of Hamor of Shechem. **read ›**
149 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” **read ›**
150 **Acts 14:21** After preaching the gospel in that city and making many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **read ›**
151 **Acts 14:23** They appointed elders for them in every church and, after prayer with fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. **read ›**
152 **1 Corinthians 4:16** Therefore I urge you, become imitators of me. **read ›**
153 **1 Corinthians 4:21** What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of meekness? **read ›**
154 **1 Corinthians 7:14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. **read ›**
155 **Galatians 3:26** For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. **read ›**
156 **Galatians 4:3** So we also, when we were children, were held in slavery under the elements of the world. **read ›**
157 **Ephesians 5:1** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. **read ›**
158 **Ephesians 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **read ›**
159 **Colossians 3:20** Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord. **read ›**
160 **1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a good work. **read ›**

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161 **1 Timothy 3:2** The bishop therefore must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, orderly, hospitable, able to teach; **read ›**

162 **1 Timothy 3:4** one who rules his own house well, having children in subjection with all reverence; **read ›**

163 **1 Timothy 3:12** Let deacons be husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. **read ›**

164 **1 Timothy 5:1** Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers; **read ›**

165 **1 Timothy 5:12** having condemnation, because they have abandoned their former faithfulness. **read ›**

166 **Titus 1:6** provided a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of reckless living and are not insubordinate. **read ›**

167 **Titus 1:7** For a bishop must be blameless as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain, **read ›**

168 **Hebrews 12:8** But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not children. **read ›**

169 **Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to discipline us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **read ›**

170 **1 Peter 5:1** I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed: **read ›**

171 **1 Peter 5:5** Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to the elders. And all of you, submitting to one another, clothe yourselves with humility, for God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble. **read ›**

172 **1 John 2:13** I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, little children, because you know the Father. **read ›**

173 **2 John 1:1** The elder, to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth—and not I alone, but also all who know the truth— **read ›**

174 **2 John 1:4** I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we received a commandment from the Father. **read ›**

175 **3 John 1:4** I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children walk in truth. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *120 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 4:25

Exodus 20:7 · 23:14

Leviticus 15:18 · 19:15

Deuteronomy 8:18 · 20:5 · 20:19

Job 5:17

Psalms 29:4 · 33:6 · 94:12 · 119:71

Proverbs 9:17 · 22:6 · 31:20

Isaiah 1:9 · 1:15 · 1:17 · 50:9 · 66:2

Jeremiah 2:13 · 23:24

Ezekiel 14:20

Matthew 5:5 · 5:7 · 5:8 · 5:9 · 5:42 · 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 8:11 · 10:19 · 12:36 · 12:37 · 13:27 · 18:20 · 19:6 · 22:39 · 23:9 · 24:5

Mark 8:38 · 13:35

Luke 6:30 · 6:46 · 12:35 · 14:11 · 16:15 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34 · 21:14

John 3:6 · 6:27 · 7:37 · 15:1 · 15:12 · 21:17

Acts 4:32 · 20:29

Romans 3:3 · 7:4 · 7:12 · 8:29 · 14:19 · 14:21 · 15:27

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1 Corinthians 1:26 · 6:12 · 6:18 · 7:5 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:32 · 7:39 · 10:13 · 12:3
2 Corinthians 11:3
Galatians 1:10 · 5:13 · 5:17
Ephesians 4:27 · 6:4 · 6:5 · 6:9
Philippians 4:3
Colossians 2:20 · 3:22 · 4:1
1 Thessalonians 5:12
2 Thessalonians 3:6
1 Timothy 2:4 · 3:6 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:9 · 5:14 · 5:21
2 Timothy 2:15 · 3:2 · 4:18
Titus 1:9
Hebrews 12:6 · 12:7 · 13:5 · 13:7 · 13:17
James 1:2 · 1:8 · 5:16
1 Peter 1:6 · 3:6
Revelation 1:6 · 2:5 · 3:5 · 20:12 · 20:15 · 22:18 · 22:20

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early church think an elder's children could disqualify him?” on June 28, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY