

Passing the Baton
The Priority of Children in the Local Church

1. Children are not the first priority...
 - a. Glorifying and serving God is the first priority.
 - b. Must remember this, or children's ministry turns into an idol.
2. Children are a strategically vital group.
3. God demands that we care for children.
 - a. Deuteronomy 6:4-6
 - b. Mark 10:13
 - c. Matthew 18:6, 10-14
4. A Lens for Viewing this: Church as Culture
 - a. The church is a culture. It is the advance outpost on earth of an empire whose capital is presently in heaven—the New Jerusalem. We Christians are citizens of that city, and we need to learn how to live as citizens of heaven. We need to teach our children how to live as citizens of heaven, too.
 - i. Just like they learn “The Star-Spangled Banner,” they need to learn to sing Bible songs.
 - ii. Just like they learn the Gettysburg Address, they need to learn Psalm 23.
 - iii. Just like they learn about George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Patrick Henry, they need to learn about Moses, John the Baptist, and Paul.
 - b. How Culture is Passed Down
 - i. Songs
 - ii. Stories
 - iii. Games
 - iv. Indoctrination