

# The Christian Arsenal

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## THE FATHER WHO PLEASURES THE LORD Building My Character Through Commitment

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Part 2 of 5

*“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him. Children born to a young man are like sharp arrows in a warrior’s hands. How happy is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.” Psalm 127:3-5 (NLT)*

**INTRO:** It is difficult to be a good man.  
It is more difficult to be a good husband.  
It is most difficult to be a good dad.

A man cannot take his money or possessions with him to heaven. I have never seen a U-haul being pulled behind a hearse. But he can take his children to heaven with him.

### THE COMMITMENT IT TAKES TO PLEASE GOD AS A DAD

**1. HE MUST BE SKILLED AND HE MUST BE STRONG** “... a warrior’s hands ...”

Reasons the arrow misses the target

- Target may move
- Wind may blow
- Something you can’t see

My desire is that I have Godly children.  
My goal is to be a Godly Dad.

**2. HE MUST SHAPE AND SHARPEN THE ARROWS.**

*“...like sharp arrows in a warrior’s hand ...”* (verse 46)

Children are not born as straight arrows.  
God puts them into Dad’s hands.

#### How The Dad Is To Shape And Sharpen His Children

- Begin early - Prov. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go and when is is old he will not depart from it.”

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- Be creative – Deut. 6:6,7 “*And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to the commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again.*”
- Work for character.  
Many dads are concerned about sports, grades, health or popularity.

## **NEEDED CHARACTER TRAITS**

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Contentment  | 8. Courtesy      |
| 2. Courage      | 9. Fairness      |
| 3. Generosity   | 10. Helpfulness  |
| 4. Honesty      | 11. Humility     |
| 5. Persistence  | 12. Obedience    |
| 6. Self-control | 13. Tactfulness  |
| 7. Wisdom       | 14. Thankfulness |

## **WHERE WILL OUR CHILDREN LEARN THEIR CHARACTER TRAITS?**

- Not in a text book
- Some from TV and MTV

But DAD – it is your job to teach them!

- Set Boundaries (Limits) – A train runs best when it stays on its tracks.
- Assign Responsibility – Responsibility is learned by doing.
- Have Fun – Prov. 17:22 – “*A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.*”
- Let children see God at work in your life and home.

### **3. HIS BOW MUST BE STRONG AND BENT.**

Verse 5 – “*How happy is the man whose quiver is full of them.*”

The string is the steadiness

The bend in the bow is the power in restraint.

### **4. HIS AIM MUST BE TRUE AND CLEAR.**

3 John 4 – “*I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in truth.*”

Goal for your children: To love Jesus and live Godly lives.

### **5. HE MUST RELEASE AND SEND THE ARROW.** Verse 5b – “*He will not be put to shame ...*”

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This is not target practice because we are in a war.

We have to learn to let our children go. To release them out of our hands and aim them at the enemy and when you let them go the winds of Grace will keep them.

Question: Will you meet your children around God's throne?

Dads: It's your responsibility to make sure.