



## **Loving Your Grandchildren**

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*Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised,  
And His greatness is unsearchable.  
One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
And shall declare Your mighty acts.  
Psalm 145:3-4*

**Psalm 78:4-7**

# Introduction

“Grandmothering means many things to different women, but we all have one thing in common. We have grandchildren. You might be a grandparent of one or ten. The children might live down the street or a great distance away. Some are babies and some are getting into their teenage years. Some are easy to be around and some are at the high-maintenance level.”

Emilie Barnes

**Definition** of grandparent – “a unique kind of emotionally involved part time parent without pressure.” *Fitzhugh Downs*

## Background:

“‘Secularism’ refers to a focus of here and now – present time, not eternity . . . We are time bound creatures. In years to come we will not be here on earth. . . but some of my genes will still be around in my great-grandchildren . . . The biblical worldview has a long-term view of human life.”

R. C. Sproul

**Genesis 1:1** states, “*In the beginning God . . .*” At the core of our Christian faith we should pass on a life lived in light of eternity.

Michael – age 8: “A Grammy is one whose son or daughter got married and they have children of their own.”

## Two Biblical Examples of a godly heritage:

- **Abraham** – God’s opinion of this Patriarch – Genesis 18:19

*“For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”*

Proof – Romans 4:16

*For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.*

- **Timothy** – The Apostle Paul commends his heritage – II Timothy 1:5

*<sup>5</sup> For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

Meredith – age 10: “A Grandma is someone who is older and has lots of life experience, loves you, and . . . a lot of other things too.”

## 1. How can we love our grandchildren?

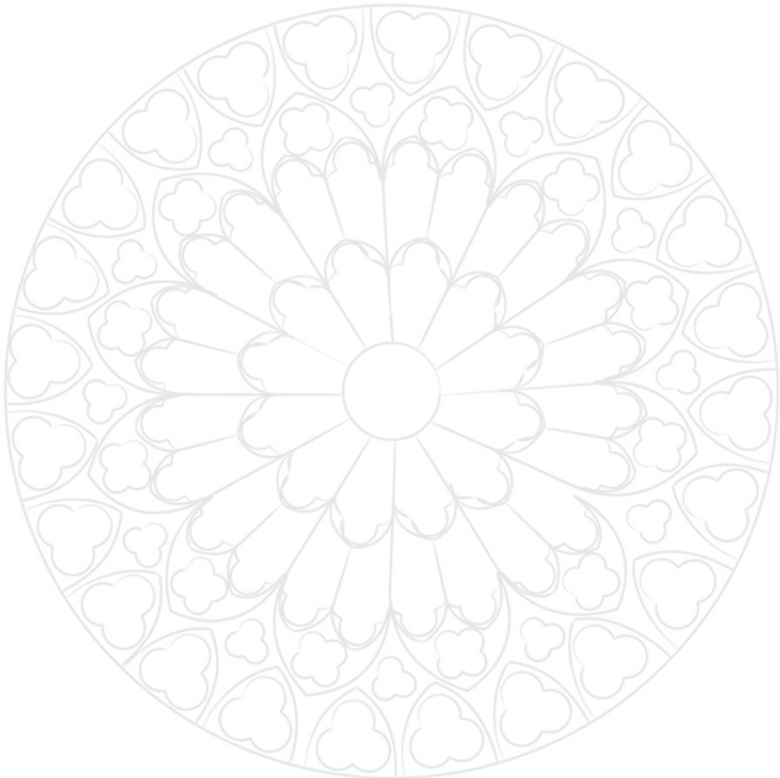
Love means communication; that may be face-to-face, perhaps in notes and mail, even across the miles through Skype. We want to be sincerely giving of our time, security, stability, and understanding. Children understand all of those concepts!

Build memories for your grandchildren to pass on to future generations.

Emily – age 12: “Grandmas are ones who take really good care of you (not necessarily your relative) and love you!”

## 2. What can we teach our grandchildren?

- Begin early
- Use a Bible
- Act out Bible stories and characters
- Review their Sunday school lessons
- Help them take notes from the Pastor's messages
- Be a living example of Christlikeness



### 3. How can we have a godly influence on future generations?

“. . . Watch all opportunities, to be instilling your instructions into the souls of your little folks. . . Keep a strict inspection upon their conversations; Examine, how they spend their time; Examine, what company they keep.”

Cotton Mather

**Haggai 1:5** – *Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, “Consider your ways.”*

### 4. Can we give advice to our children concerning their children?

How

When

Hudson – age 10: “My grandmother is my mom’s mom.”

## 5. What principles should we follow in giving gifts to our grandchildren?

### What can you pray for?

- They should honor their parents. – Exodus 20:12
- They should fear the Lord and serve Him. – Deuteronomy 6:13
- They can know Christ as their Savior early in life.
- They should look for the right kind of friends. – Proverbs 1:10, 15
- They should seek protection from wrong people and wrong places. – Hosea 2:6-7
- They should set a good example with a meek and quiet spirit. – 1 Peter 3:4
- They should submit totally to God. – James 4:7-8

William – age 12: “A Grandma is your mother’s mom – loving and kind!”

## **Other Scriptures to consider in being a grandmother:**

Deuteronomy 4:9

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Psalm 92:12-14

Psalm 103:17

Proverbs 17:6

III John 4

## Sources consulted:

*A Family Well-Ordered*, Cotton Mather

*A Grandma is a Gift From God*, Emilie Barnes

*Family Fundamentals*, John E. Ashbrook

*How to Grandparent*, Fitzhugh Downs

*Lifeviews*, R. C. Sproul

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