

Faith in Christianity and Childrearing

Mary Anbarasi Johnson*

Pediatric Nursing Department, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

Faith plays a significant role in Christian approaches to childrearing, influencing moral development, family relationships, and spiritual formation. This article examines the biblical foundations of Christian parenting and explores how Christian beliefs shape the upbringing of children within the family and church community. Drawing on teachings from The Bible, the discussion highlights key principles such as love, discipline, compassion, forgiveness, and spiritual instruction. The article also considers the role of prayer, worship, and community involvement in nurturing children's faith and character. In addition, it addresses contemporary challenges faced by Christian parents, including secular influences, technology, and changing social values. The study further examines psychological and social perspectives on faith-based parenting, emphasizing the importance of balanced, supportive, and emotionally healthy practices. Ultimately, the article argues that Christian childrearing seeks to develop both moral integrity and a strong relationship with God, preparing children to live responsibly and compassionately within society.

Keywords: Christianity; Childrearing; Christian Parenting; Faith-Based Parenting; Child Development; Spiritual Development; Moral Development; Family Life

INTRODUCTION

Faith plays a central role in Christianity, shaping not only personal spirituality but also family life and the upbringing of children. Christian childrearing is grounded in biblical teachings, moral guidance, love, discipline, and the nurturing of a child's relationship with God. Across centuries, Christian families have viewed parenting as both a sacred responsibility and a spiritual calling. This article explores the relationship between faith and childrearing in Christianity, examining biblical foundations, parenting principles, moral development, and the role of the church and community.

The Biblical Foundation of Christian Childrearing

Christian parenting is deeply rooted in Scripture. The Bible presents children as gifts from God and emphasizes the responsibility parents have in guiding them spiritually and morally.

One of the most frequently cited passages regarding parenting is found in the Book of Deuteronomy:

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children."
— The Bible, Deuteronomy 6:6-7

This passage highlights the importance of teaching children about faith in everyday life. Christian parents are encouraged to model godly behavior and incorporate spiritual instruction into daily routines.

Similarly, Proverbs 22:6 states:

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

This verse has traditionally been interpreted as encouragement for parents to establish strong moral and spiritual foundations early in life.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ demonstrates love and care for children, saying:

"Let the little children come to me."
— Matthew 19:14

This reflects the Christian belief that children are valuable members of the faith community and capable of spiritual understanding.

Faith as the Center of Family Life

In many Christian households, faith is integrated into daily family practices. Prayer before meals, Bible reading, church

*Correspondence to: Mary Anbarasi Johnson, Pediatric Nursing Department, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: mary.anbarasi@cmcvellore.ac.in

Received: May 19, 2026; Manuscript No: JPNB-26-4690; Editor Assigned: May 28, 2026; PreQc No: JPNB-26-4690 (PQ); Reviewed: July 22, 2026; Revised: September 24, 2026; Manuscript No: JPNB-26-4690 (R); Published: September 30, 2026

Citation: Johnson M A (2026) Faith in Christianity and Childrearing. Vol.2 Iss.2, September (2026), pp:70-71.

Copyright: © 2026 Mary Anbarasi Johnson. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

attendance, and discussions about moral choices are common ways parents nurture spiritual growth.

Christian families often view the home as the “domestic church,” a place where children first learn about God, love, forgiveness, and compassion [1]. Parents are expected not only to teach doctrine but also to embody Christian virtues such as patience, humility, honesty, and kindness.

Faith-centered parenting seeks to help children develop:

- A relationship with God
- Moral responsibility
- Compassion for others
- Respect for authority
- Self-discipline
- Hope and resilience during hardship

Christian teaching also stresses unconditional love [2]. Parents are encouraged to imitate God’s love by showing grace, forgiveness, and emotional support to their children.

Discipline and Moral Guidance

Discipline is an important aspect of Christian childrearing, though interpretations vary across denominations and cultures. Biblical teachings emphasize correction guided by love rather than punishment motivated by anger.

Ephesians 6:4 advises:

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

This verse encourages balanced parenting that combines guidance with compassion [3]. Modern Christian parenting approaches increasingly emphasize emotional nurturing, communication, and positive discipline.

Christian moral education often includes teachings on:

- Honesty
- Sexual purity
- Respect for others
- Generosity
- Forgiveness
- Service to the poor and vulnerable

Parents frequently rely on biblical stories and teachings to explain ethical behavior and life decisions.

The Role of the Church and Community

Church communities play a major role in supporting Christian childrearing. Through Sunday schools, youth groups, baptisms, confirmations, and mentorship programs, children are introduced to communal worship and spiritual learning [4].

Challenges in Modern Christian Parenting

Modern society presents new challenges for Christian parents. Secular influences, digital media, peer pressure, and shifting social values can create tension between traditional beliefs and contemporary culture.

Some challenges include:

- Balancing religious values with pluralistic societies
- Addressing technology and social media use
- Discussing sexuality and identity
- Maintaining faith practices in busy family schedules
- Responding to skepticism or declining religious participation among youth

Many Christian parents seek to address these issues through open communication, family devotionals, and involvement in faith communities [5].

At the same time, contemporary Christian scholars increasingly encourage parenting styles that emphasize empathy, mental health awareness, and respectful dialogue rather than authoritarian control.

Psychological and Social Benefits of Faith-Based Childrearing

Research in psychology and sociology has suggested that faith-based parenting can positively influence child development when practiced in healthy and supportive ways. Studies have associated religious involvement with:

- Stronger family bonds
- Lower rates of substance abuse
- Greater emotional resilience
- Increased sense of purpose
- Community support networks

However, scholars also note that the effects depend greatly on how religion is practiced. Parenting rooted in fear, harsh punishment, or rigid control may negatively affect emotional well-being. Healthy Christian parenting generally combines spiritual guidance with emotional warmth and respect for children’s individuality.

CONCLUSION

Faith in Christianity profoundly shapes approaches to childrearing by emphasizing love, moral instruction, spiritual growth, and community support. Christian parents are called to guide children not only toward responsible adulthood but also toward a meaningful relationship with God. While modern challenges continue to reshape family life, the central Christian ideals of compassion, forgiveness, discipline, and faith remain influential in parenting practices worldwide.

Ultimately, Christian childrearing seeks to nurture both the character and the spiritual life of children, preparing them to live with integrity, purpose, and compassion in an ever-changing world.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None

REFERENCES

1. The Bible — Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Matthew 19:14.
2. James Dobson. The New Dare to Discipline.
3. Gary Chapman. The Five Love Languages of Children.
4. Diana Baumrind. Research on parenting styles and child development.
5. Pew Research Center. Reports on religion and family life.