

Paper 5

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The Biblical Design Pattern for Raising Children Who Have Godly Character

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ABSTRACT— *In this post modern era where people in the society are becoming more secular, some parents are still dreaming to have children who have godly character. As Christians we know the Bible taught us that children must have a character training and faith education in their very early age. It is quite important for parents to know which process design of children education applying holistic teaching and full principle of the Scriptures. First of all, by learning the biblical principles of children education, based on the Bible, parents and educators may know the principles, focuses, processes, and the basics of God-centered children education to raise the children to have a godly character. Secondly, children will be able to reflect and review the biblical education process from some Bible heroes, in their childhood stage, whose lives can become good examples, have bold characters with integrity, and show strong faith and loyalty in responding God's call. Beside the previous biblical examples, we, too, learn from some spiritual leaders who are applying the spiritual disciplines of child education pattern which show wonderful characters and good reputations in church history. Furthermore, based on Biblical principles; reflecting the system of child education and learning the spiritual discipline during very young age which some of Bible heroes and Christian leaders who have Biblical and godly characters, and spiritual leaders' pattern of Child Education throughout church history, will make the biblical design pattern of children education to have godly character.*

Keywords— Biblical design, godly character, children education.

1. INTRODUCTION

Raising children who have godly character in this post-modern society, Christian parents need a firm foundation for educating children based on Biblical principles. What does the Bible state about this important issue? First, in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, God has said that His people must teach their children to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. It means that children must learn to love the one and only God more than anything or anyone on earth and put God as the focus of their lives since they are very young (Carter, 1986). Hanke (1989) sees that this commandment requires parents as husband and wife, to love each other as their love to God. In that way, they can love their children as the way God wants. When the parents love each other and love their children as their way to love God, they already teach their children to love God, not only words, but as a living example (Alexander, 1880). In the New Testament, Jesus taught people who followed Him to teach their children in loving God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength.¹ When Jesus was on earth, He welcomed every parents who wanted Him to bless their children (Mark 10:13-14). He laid his hands upon them and blessed them (Calvin, 1993).

The second point is based on Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" The Hebrew word for "train" in Proverbs 22:6 uses the imperative verb *chanak* or *hanak*.² This word means begin or initiate. Moreover, the word *chanak* can also mean *inaugurate* (Eason, 1980).³ According to Douglas, this verse implies that God ordered the parents to educate their children since they are still young so that the children can start their lives at the right path ("*Start a boy on the right road.*") (Douglas, 1991). Henry believes that wisely committed parents need to teach every child, and direct them to follow God's paths instead of their own will. In this case, the children will not go astray from God's plan in their lifetime (Henry, 1976).

Third, we can find in Ephesians 6:4 that God has asked each father to be responsible in teaching his children in the counsel and God's teachings by not putting the anger on his children's heart. Bruce Lockerbie assumed that the word "educate" in this verse is the Greek word *paideia* which means the way of educating children focusing on character,

¹Mark 12:29-30 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." (KJV).

²Robert Young (1975) explains that the Hebrew words *chanak* which is used in this verse means "to train, dedicate, give instruction."

³1 Kings 8:63, "so the king and all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the Lord."

principles, and values. If the parents educate their children wisely, and do not put anger in their children's heart, they will grow beautiful character in them (Lockerbie, 2005). According to William Hendriksen (1967), one of the most important missions of a father, is to bring his children to know his Savior, Jesus Christ. Moreover, Hendriksen encouraged the fathers to teach the Biblical truth to their children wholly with the guidance of Holy Spirit. This learning process will help the childrens to trust the Bible with the pure faith and to help themselves to obey God in all of their way like what Jesus has taught.⁴

Fourth, God concludes in II Timothy 3:15-17 that He wants His children to get the salvation in Jesus Christ by faith based on what they have learned since they are young. Alberth Barnes (1975) said that teaching the children with the Bible was the most important experience that Timothy had when he was young. His grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunike, had taught Timothy valuable principles (Barnes, 1967). Hendriksen (1976) explained that there are two things that Timothy got from his grandmother and mother. First, Timothy got the character legacy which helped him to apply the Bible principles in his life. Second, Timothy got the wonderful childhood legacy which helped him to know Bible principles since he was young so he could trust Jesus Christ and accept Him as a his Savior. Parents who pray for their children and depend on God, will receive wisdom from above to guide their children to have a willingness to know Jesus Christ and to have a motivated heart to learn the Bible. The process of learning the Bible will help a child to know Jesus Christ and love Him. Moreover, the child will know God's will and be prepared to do good work according to His plan before even the world has been created.⁵

God has called his servants and made them blessing channels for their generations. The Bible has noted some of God's faithful heroes such as: Moses, Samuel, Joshua, John the Baptist, and Timothy, who had good character and good spiritual lives. In addition, the world has witnessed the spiritual leaders who became the blessing for their generations such as Madame Guyon, Dwight Lyman Moody, Evan Roberts, Oswald Chambers, Adoniram Judson, Martin Luther, James Dobson, Abraham Lincoln, Hudson Taylor, Jonathan Edwards dan Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Their parents applied the Biblical design pattern in educating their children to have godly carácter. How did the parents apply the Biblical design pattern in them so they have wonderful character? By reflecting how they lived their lives especially when they were young, we can learn something valuable and meaningful.

2. THE MODEL OF EDUCATING CHILDREN BASED ON BIBLICAL DESIGN PATTERN

Debbie Keller (2008) assumed that to have a godly charácter, a child must go through a training of "*a life of preparation*". Here are some of Bible heroes in the Bible who had *a life of preparation* in their childhood as the model of educating children based on Biblical design pattern. The first model is Samuel who had *a very short life of preparation* under her mother's care, Hannah, who had a very good prayer life. Apparently, Samuel's mother had given positive effect on Samuel's young life. In Shiloh under the minister of Eli, the priest, Samuel was growing to have a godly character until he was called to serve God. The example of Samuel's mother and worship prayers, young Samuel witnessed, had shaped him to be one of God's powerful prophets having high integrity (Exell, 1975).⁶ The second model is *Moses*, who had *a life of preparation* when he was only about three or four years old under the care of his biological father and mother. Then, Moses had *a life of preparation* for about forty years as one of Egyptian Princes and another forty years in exile of Midian before he finally got his calling to be the leader of Israelites. He served the stubborn Israelites and succeed doing God's calling with all his strength. In serving God's poeple, Moses showed a godly character. (Malherbe, 1978). Another Bible hero, John the Baptist had committed parents who gave him to God since he was born. He only had short *a life of preparation* with his parents, and years of *a life of preparation* in the wilderness before he got his calling. He was a great prophet with humble and loyal heart who served God until his last breath (Browning, 2002). Also Timothy had *a life of preparation* under the care of his grandmother and mother by educating him to focus on God's Word. He grew into one of great early Church leaders with the character that can be set as a good example and became the minister that support the Apostle Paul's ministry (Exell, 1975).⁷

This *life of preparation* can also be found in the lives of church leaders in history. One of them is Abraham Lincoln. Young Abraham Lincoln had *a life of preparation* in poverty, full of misery, lost his father and became independent since he was nine years old. All the misfortunes made him depend on God and build his faith on the God's Word. He got his education through doing home-schooling with Bible as his first book to learn how to write and read. His *life of preparation* had made him into one of the great leader who loved God and one of the best American presidents (Browne & Simon, 1995). *D. L. Moody* had *a life of preparation* full of misery because of his family's poverty. However, the spiritual experience that he had with his mother, who depended on God and a prayer warrior, had shaped

⁴Matthew 7:24-25, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. (KJV).

⁵Ibid. See Ephesians 2:10.

⁶See 1 Samuel 3:1-21.

⁷See 2 Timothy 1:4-5.

him into one of great church leaders in the church history. *A life of preparation* during his youth under the minister of Kimball had shaped his mind and character to have the heart to love lost souls and to be a humble servant of God who was willing to give anything for God's work Pollock, 1983). Young Martin Luther had a painful and sad childhood. However, by God's grace, his heart was softened so that he could forgive his parents and teachers. As a result, his life was being restored by God's love. Martin Luther was remembered as a warrior of God and the reformed leader in the Church history (Nohl, n.d.).

Evan John Robert was one of God's servant whom God had used to do great awakening at his time. Young Evan John Robert got a *life of preparation* of spiritual discipline, praying life, memorizing the Bible verses based on his own decision. Young Evan John Robert had shown the godly character and mature spiritual life. He was remembered as one of God's servants who had the vision of Great Awakening for his people and he was very depending on Holy Spirit's guidance (Duewel, 2002). Young Oswald Chambers had a *life of preparation* which was full of joy based on his relationship with God. He accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was ten years old. He showed a godly character since he was still young. He had good relationship with his mother and he used to do ministry in the house of the Lord to help his poor family in finance. He was known as the leader who had a very close relationship with God and became a blessing for his generation and generations after him (McCasland, 1993). Young Jonathan Edward had a *life of preparation* which full of spiritual experience. His father was a priest who paid good attention on spiritual matters. Young Jonathan Edward had already got a good prayer life and good relationship with God. He sought and found God through science experiments that made him wonder of God's greatness. He became a servant of God who committed himself to live a holy life, faithful in telling others about God's Words, and submitted to God's authority in whole of his life (Allen, 1889).

Young Adoniram Judson had the first crush on Bible as his first book that he read. A young Adoniram Judson experience his a *life of preparation* in his father's family who did family altar faithfully (Howat, 2005). Though once he was lost from God when he was teen, he was captured again by God and he was remembered as his loyalty and dedication to God when God called him as a misionary in Burma (Howat, 2005). Young Charles Haddon Spurgeon had a *life of preparation* under the care of his parents and grandparents who loved him and disciplined him in God's love and Biblical principles. Since he was young, Charles H. Spurgeon had shown his attention to things that was spiritual and eternity. He learned Bible dilligently and he meditated on God's words days and nights (Fritzius, 2005). He was known as one of the greatest evangelists in many countries and had been a blessing for many generations. Young James Dobson had started his a *life of preparation* since he was one year old by learning to pray. He received God as his Savior when he was only three years old. The spiritual training from his father and mother that gave the balance between love and discipline had strong effect in his life which inspired him to follow Jesus and be a true man (Zettersten, 1989).

Young Hudson Taylor had his *life of preparation* in the priest family which continually prayed for him and dedicated him since he was in the womb. Though he became doubtful with Christianity when he was teen, he finally got his answers and he got back to God. He was remembered as one of God's servant who dedicated his life to open the mission field in China (Kuykendall, 1994). Young Madame Guyon had her *life of preparation* full of misery and loneliness. The example of dedicated and love of a nun who took care of her had inspired her since she was young to commit to Christ (Duewel, 2002). She lived in her prayers and poured it into her writings. She was known as spiritual leader who had a godly character and one of great Christian writer who paid her writing with tears, prayers and blood. She was remembered in the church history because of her holy life and kindness heart who followed her Savior's path.⁸ Even Jesus Christ himself, had the *life of preparation* for twelve years under the care of his father and mother. He got through the process of being the Torah's child and years of prayers before he started his ministry when he was thirty years old.⁹

3. BUILDING THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR CHILDREN AS A LIFE OF PREPARATION

Keller (2008) advised that every Christian parents who want to have godly character children to invest a *life of preparation* in their children's life and wisely design it (Keller, 2008). Keller (2008) argues that the effective way to nurture the character and faith growth of a child is to discipline the child consistently in the daily activities (Hess, & Garlett, 2004). Hess and Garlett said that invest a *life of preparation* as the spiritual discipline in some aspects which are:

First, *the personal relationship with God*. Hess and Garlett put the personal relationship with God as the main spiritual discipline. Mara Lief Crabtree (2007), who studied about the Celtic Christian tradition,¹⁰ parents who succeed to help their children to have the prayer life since they are young, will bring positive side to the children's spiritual life. Praying faithfully gives the ability to a child to have wise point of view to reality and to respond according to God's

⁸This is the commitment of Madame Guyon, "From this day, this hour, if it is possible, I will be wholly the Lord's, the world shall have no portion in me."

⁹ See Luke 2:51-52.

¹⁰On 4th-12th century there was a Christian tradition which was know as *Christian Celtic Tradition* which focused on the growth of faith and spiritual life as the blessing of God who gave the blessing for an individu or community and saw the daily reality in the frame of eternity.

principles. Besides, the closeness between a child to his parents and teachers at school can be an important factor for a child to shape his godly character. Keller believes that a child who can develop good relationship with parents and his surrounding will develop a good relationship with God (Keller, 2008).

Second, *living example to shape obedient heart*. Keller (2008) explained that the parents who give spiritual discipline with consistently giving a living example, they can help their children to have obedient heart. When a child sees his parent's example, the child will be motivated to do the same things like his parents have done (Keller, 2008). Marilyn Boyer who had experience of nurturing fourteen children, recommended that the process of obedient heart is a fundamental matter. As a parent who did home schooling for her children, she believed that the greatest blessing that can be the legacy for a child is the obedient heart to God who got three aspects: *cheerfully, immediately and thoroughly* (Boyer, 2004).

Third, building a close relationship with God, parents and community. When a child have a good and close relationship with God and his surrounding, the process will grow the feeling and heart to love God. Tod Hall's research has recommended the importance to help a child to have close relationship with his surrounding in order to grow the love to God and others. The close relationship with others can enrich soul, develop faith and spiritual life also grow the character to be like Jesus Christ.¹¹ Hall revealed that the experience that a child has for his first fifteen months will shape *gut level memory* which can be the main filter for a child to develop direction and identify his feelings whole of his life (Hall, 2007). It means that if a child gets the positive, warm and love relationship during his first fifteen months, the child will grow with the ability to accept and to do the right respond in the interpersonal relationship to himself, God and others. It also gives the right perspective in seeing and valuing every event in his life. However, if a child gets a bad relationship during his first fifteen months of his life, the experience will be his *gut level memory*, which becomes his negative filter in his interpersonal relationship to himself, God and others, also it becomes the negative filter in his life perspective (Hall, 2007).

Zumwalt (2000) supports Hall's (2007) comment, he wrote that "*The secret of Christianity is not asking Jesus into your heart, it is Jesus asking us into His heart. God wants to mature us past our inviting Him to be involved in our life and dreams. He is inviting us to be involved in His life and dreams.*" Training a child to love God, it means bringing the child into God's heart and helping the child to have trust (Erikson, 1963). This trust is the spiritual experience when a person truly believe and give his life to God. Trust is also the spiritual fruit for every believers who asks Jesus Christ to come to his heart (Arthur, 2001). Zumwalt (2000) added that a child who has trusted his parents since he was still in his mother's womb will be easier to have trust in God and grow in Christ-like character.

Fourth, seeing and experiencing life in humble and limited life. Having a tough and hard reality is shaping a child's character to keep showing the spirit of hard work, faithfulness and depending on God's love and care. D. L. Moody, Abraham Lincoln and some others had this kind of experience that shaped them into the spiritual leaders who had Christ-like characters (Gangel & Wilhoit, 1994).

Fifth, serving God continually and consistently. Paul Gieschen supported that living the chance for a child to serve God with joy continually and consistency base don their age will help the child to develop the Christ-like character (Gieschen, 2005). Involving a child in ministry of serving others who need God's love is one of the learning process in developing the Christ like character. Gieschen (2005) recommended that every parents and Christian educators to design the spiritual training with the activities that give a chance for a child to involve in mission trip in order to build the child's heart to love and care of others. This training will be good for *building a heart of service* (Boyer, 2004). Geischen (2005) underlined that it is not easy to build the child's character because it is the work of Holy Spirit. The mission ministry is a 'God's heart' ministry, so the effective way to help a child in growing the Christ-like character is involving the child in the mission ministry. A child will actively learn to hang on Holy Spirit to witness God's love, learn to pray and develop a merciful heart for the losts.

¹¹"There are different ways of knowing, head knowledge and gut level knowledge. Knowing truth about God in your head is not the same thing as knowing God at gut level. Our gut level knowledge of relationships operates in the same way with God as it does in our human relationships. Our gut level knowledge drives the quality of our relationships with both God and others. Gut level memory is a completely different type of memory that supports gut level knowing. The parts of the brain that support gut level knowledge are the same parts that support gut level memory. These parts are online at birth and fully developed by fifteen months. The amazing things about gut level memory that make it so important to our spiritual transformation are that it does not require conscious attention to be recorded in the brain and we are not aware of it when it is operating, it is not conscious. It means that we remember all of our relational experiences from day one in gut level memory, and these memories act on us without us knowing it. In short, memories of relational experiences with important people are etched in our souls and become filters that shape how we feel about ourselves, God and others, and how we determine the meaning of events in our lives." (Hall, 2007)

Sixth, living joyfully, gratefully and putting God as the center. Michael A. Zigarelli (2005), recommended three approaches which are like seeds growing the Christ-like character: *gratitude, joyful living* and *God-centeredness*.¹² He said that a person can plant the seed of gratitude by doing spiritual discipline in his mindset, which responds to reality based on what God has said and taught. To have a good response, he recommended the spiritual discipline such as writing the spiritual journal, fasting, self reflecting and self evaluating continually, and praying for people. This spiritual discipline will help the parents to develop a child's emotion to have gratitude in the child's heart. His research proves that Christians who have joy in their lives have more good characters than the ones who lack of grateful heart (Zigarelli, 2005). The one that must be applied by Christian parents is to do their responsibility to educate their children in the right education of Biblical principles and let the Holy Spirit work in their children's life (Gangel & Wilhoit, 1994).

4. APPLICATION OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE AND THE PROCESS OF GODLY CHARACTER BUILDING IN A CHILD'S LIFE: REFLECTION TO THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE AND PROCESS OF GODLY CHARACTER BUILDING IN STUDENTS OF PELANGI KRISTUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

The writer has made some questionnaires to a number of correspondents¹³ who committed themselves to this research. The directing of the respondents has been given in the form of individual consultation, small group in Bible group study, big group in training seminar, special group in dialogue and discussion with the guideline thesis for teachers and parents.¹⁴ To the parents, the writer has recommended some guidelines to be applied for their children between age 7 to 12 years old.¹⁵

¹²*Gratitude* is a grateful heart, *joyful living* is joyful heart, *God-centeredness* is the life focusing on Jesus. Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Rejoice evermore. (*joyful living*)¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. (*God-centeredness*).¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: (*gratitude*) for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (KJV) Ibid. 24.

¹³Correspondents are two groups. First group is the parents of Pelangi Kristus Christian School as the main research, who have children age 7 to 12 years old. The second group is the teachers who handle the children of the first group.

¹⁴The directing material and teaching is documented in library of Pelangi Kristus Christian School. It is also being saved in the of *Seminari Alkitab Asia Tenggara*, as the special attachments.

¹⁵Parents are suggested to start the day with the habits of having breakfast and praying together. Parents are encouraged to say good things and blessing for their children, to help the children to give thanks to God and to encourage the children to have spirit to start the day. Parents are encouraged for not saying negative words and avoid conflicts. Parents are encouraged to motivate their children to start the day with joyful and grateful heart. Parents are encouraged to read Psalms and Gospel in turns. Father, mother and their children read and meditate Bible Words together at least three times a week, pray together before they are going to bed, do self evaluation and self reflection on the verse that they have read on that day. Parents motivate their children to build a close relationship with God, do the Bible reading personally, think about God's blessing and tell the parents about the day when they are having night prayer time. Parents motivate their children to express themselves honestly to God in prayer, to depend on God in making decisions and overcome troubles, to give thanks to God everytime they get their prayers being answered, to trust God in every limitness or abundance, to read Bible continually in sequence. Parents help their children to memorize the verses, to listen and sing gospel songs, to make daily schedule with planning the positive and creative activities.

Parents are encouraged to apply the tradition of God's family which is learning to apologize, to apply *basic life* based on their age, to guide their children to go to Sunday School, to help the children in respecting God through faithfully worship God every Sunday, to encourage the children to involve in ministry in church and school, to give good model of love and care to others, and to encourage the children to read Christian books.

Parents are encouraged to take their children to church in order to build the love of God's House and joyfully serve God. Parents are encouraged to appreciate their children with a special occasion of sitting together with the pastor or other spiritual leaders, to give permission for the children to see the Holy Communion and Baptism sacrament. Parents pray and bless their children diligently and faithfully. Parents communicate the child's *life time line*, dedicate the children to God since they are in their mother's womb, guide the children personally to accept Jesus Christ as God and Savior, help the children in their journey of finding truth and building their faith especially when they have some questions about their faith. Parents give the chance for the children to express their love to God and commit themselves to God, to love and put God as the center for their lives.

Parents teach their children to respect God's blessing in everything including in simplicity, to train their children to live simple and limited also to care for others' needs. Parents teach their children to help the house core and to take care younger siblings. Parents are encouraged to balance love and discipline with the consistent model in order to

5. THE EFFECTIVE BIBLICAL PATTERN IN EDUCATING A CHILD

Berger has proved that the character's development is not just justified by what and how the spiritual process is received by a child, but also justified by who applied the process of spiritual training. Based on the Biblical teachings, the character transformation in a child is a supernatural work of God through Holy Spirit which involved the parents' duties and roles.¹⁶ He explained that wise and responsible parents have the authority from God and have been more effective in developing good characters in a child. The parents who have the unconditional love for their children and use their authority with the consistently live according to God's Words, will very effectively shape the good character in their children (Berger, 2004). Berger (2004) sees that parents who build their faith in the true relation with God based on His Word, will do their authority as parents as the expression of their fear and respect to God. This will make the parents will have wisdom to teach their children to submit on their authority (Berger, 2004). Good and strong character of parents will help the process of building a child's character effectively. Hence, if the parents do not have the characters which can be set as a model, it will cause some problems in the process of building godly character in a child. The parents who understand their weaknesses have to honestly admit their weaknesses and apologize to their children so that there is a balance in the learning process of a building a godly character in a child.¹⁷

Principles of educating a child. First, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 has given us the principle of "**how**" the parents apply the education for their children. Second, Proverbs 22:6 gives the parents "**method**" of educating children. Third, Ephesians 6:4 has explained us the best "**process**" of educating child which is the wise father role. Fourth, II Timothy 3:15-17 shows the "**main focus**" of a child's education, which is to direct the children heart to God in the true faith of Jesus Christ.

Educating Child Strategy. By learning "a life of preparation" from the life of some church leaders¹⁸ with six aspects. First, parents have built a close relationship with God. Second, parents give the living example. Third, parents put the priority in relationship with their kids. Fourth, parents help their children to see and experience the reality in limited and humble condition. Fifth, parents involve their children in mission field ministry. Sixth, parents train their children to develop the spiritual discipline in fasting prayers, writing spiritual journals, daily self reflection and evaluation to have a grateful heart and to thank God for God's mercy and love.

6. POSITIVE RESULT OF EVALUATION WHICH BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THE PROCESS OF GODLY CHARACTER

There are some factors which build and strengthen the process of godly character building. The first factor is the education in family and church. The indicator there is an integration of Christian doctrines and children education. There is an integrated curriculum design between church and family, the church play its role as the community which supports the father as the leader of God in the family. The second factor is the factor of parents. The indicator is there are a love relationship with God, qualified relationship with their children, character and living examples, love relation between father and mother, same vision and perspective in educating children, commitment to educate the children based on Biblical principles, God's calling, father role as a leader of God in the family, and the teaching of Christian tradition. The third factor is the children's factor. Indicator is the *gut level memory*, the experience of trusting Jesus Christ, *a life of preparation*, temperament, relationship with the parents during the child's first fifteen months and two recent years, the heart to serve, relationship with God, transcendental orientation, God's calling, responsibility based on age, obedient heart with the honesty and truth orientation, struggled experience, humble and limited lifestyle, and building a relationship with others.

7. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

There are some recommendations based on the Biblical pattern application for effective character building of children. The first recommendation is without the faith in Jesus Christ, the process of a building the child's character will not be effective. Without the grace of repentance and salvation of Jesus Christ, there is no one can shine His glory. The process of educating children must be built in the frame of grace of repentance and salvation of Jesus Christ through the work of Holy Spirit (Pazmino, 1997). The parents do the process based on their faith in Jesus Christ and depend fully on Holy Spirit. The second recommendation, the application of the Biblical character building **4** only be effective when it is applied to the children who already have good relationship in Christ. Only Holy Spirit is **able to change the heart and transform the character of** a child (Coe, 2000). The third recommendation is to make the teaching materials for each

train their children in consistent way. Parents allow their children honestly live their spiritual lives based on their struggle not based on the demand of parents.

¹⁶See Proverbs 22:6

¹⁷Ibid.38-41.

¹⁸Strategy material has been delivered to correspondents in the small Bible study group. The material is included in attachments.

subjects in each curriculum with focusing in six strategy of child's spiritual training process to be the guidelines for each activities of students' activities in class. The fourth recommendation, the need of parents, teacher and students to be actively involved in student's field study to give the chance to develop relationship with spiritual leaders in each churches.

The writer has suggested an exclusive dialogue between parents and children about the meaning of sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion sacraments, also the agreement between the parents and the children of holy life commitment which will reflect Jesus' characters after the children. All children need to learn about the Biblical teaching of character building to have godly character in order to help them to communicate effectively to their parents. All these recommendations are dedicated to Christian schools and Christian teachers who have the vision and calling for serving children for His Kingdom's sake and for His Glory. All glory is only for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Wonderful Creator and Savior who loves us today to eternity. SOLI DEO GLORIA.

About me : I am, Magdalena, (56 years), married, having one son, a Christian educator, serving God at Petra Christian University, Indonesia, since 1985, as Lecturer for several subjects as follows; Christian Ethics, Christian Leadership, Christian Family, Christian Education. Since 2010, a Coordinator for Teacher's College and a Coordinator of Center for Servant- Leadership. Since 1996, I started a Christian School for children (3-18 years); with a mission to equip the students to become God's ambassadors who will accomplish God's calling for His Kingdom's sake. My education background; In 1980 M.A. in Theology, In 1995, M.Sc. in Religion and Sociology, In 2010, D. Min. in Christian Education Ministry.

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