

God's Desires for Your Child

Help your child understand God has a plan for each and every life. God's most important plan for your child is to know Him and to live in a way that brings glory to Him. The list below includes *attributes* God desires for His children, and a list of *attitudes* God does not desire.

What God wants for my child:

Holiness (Romans 12:1, 9)
Love for others (Romans 12:13; Galatians 5:22)
Joy (Romans 12:10; Galatians 5:22)
Peace (Romans 12:16; Galatians 5:22)
Patience (Romans 12:12; Galatians 5:22)
Kindness (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:32)
Goodness (Romans 12:9; Galatians 5:22)
Faithfulness (Romans 12:12; Galatians 5:22)
Gentleness (Galatians 5:23)
Self-control (Galatians 5:23)
Diligence (Romans 12:11)
Vitality (Romans 12:11)
Humility (Romans 12:10, 16)
Generosity (Romans 12:13)
Friendliness (Romans 12:13)
Sensitivity (Romans 12:15)
Obedience (Ephesians 6:1)
Honesty (Romans 12:17; Psalm 15:2)
Respect for authority (Romans 13:1)
Forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32)
Thankfulness (Ephesians 5:20)
Purity (Ephesians 5:3-4)
Wisdom (Ephesians 5:15)
Strength, courage (Ephesians 6:10)

What God does not want:

Evil, indifference toward God
Hatred, envy, malice, bitterness, hostility
Complaining, whining, pouting, sullenness
Quarreling, strife
Impatience, sharpness
Rudeness, cruelty
Misbehavior
Irresponsibility
Ruthlessness, harshness
Compulsiveness, temper tantrums
Laziness, carelessness
Lethargy, apathy, boredom
Conceit, boasting, arrogance
Selfishness, greed
Unfriendliness, self-centeredness, isolation
Critical spirit, indifference
Disobedience, rebelliousness
Lying, cheating, deceitfulness
Insolence, defiance
Resentment, grudges, unforgiving spirit, vengefulness
Ungratefulness
Obscenity, perverse or impure thinking, speech, reading or viewing
Ignorance, lack of knowledge, unteachable spirit
Fear, timidity

Review the list, noting the godly characteristics and their contrasting unacceptable traits. Compare the qualities with your child's present attitudes and behavior. Make a personal list for each of your children. When your child exhibits desirable traits, commend him or her. When you observe negative traits, respond with prayer and loving, practical training. As you begin to see God transform your child more closely to the character of Jesus Christ, thank and praise God for molding your child to become better prepared for God's ultimate plan for his or her life.