> *QUESTION: According to this verse, does it mean that the children of unbelievers cannot be saved?*

1 Corinthians 7:14 (NIV)

“For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

The Explanation

If we read from the beginning of this passage, Paul is addressing married couples where one spouse is a believer and the other is not. The Lord gives instruction that if the unbelieving spouse is still willing to remain in the marriage, the believing spouse should not separate from them.

Why? Because through this union, the unbelieving spouse is “sanctified” by the believing partner, and the children too are considered “holy.”

But Does This Mean Automatic Salvation?

No—it does not mean that if just one person in the household is saved, then the entire family—including the children—are automatically saved.

Instead, what Paul is teaching is that the presence of a believer in the home creates an environment where faith can spread more easily. The believing spouse becomes an instrument of God's influence, making it more likely for the rest of the family to hear the gospel, witness a godly lifestyle, and eventually make their own decision to follow Christ.

Salvation is always personal. It does not come by inheritance, nor can one person believe "on behalf" of another. Each individual must respond personally to the gospel message.

Supporting Example

This same principle is echoed in 1 Peter 3:1–2 (NIV):

"Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won

over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.”

Here we see how godly conduct within the home can draw unbelievers to Christ—not automatically saving them, but influencing their hearts towards salvation.

Conclusion

All people—whether young or old, believer’s child or unbeliever’s child—must come to personal faith in Jesus Christ in order to be saved from their sins. Yet God can use our witness, our words, our behavior, and the way we build our homes into places of worship as powerful tools to lead others to Him.

May the Lord bless you as you live out your faith and influence those around you for His kingdom.

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