

Colossians Series

[Sun. Oct. 11, 2015] Colossians Series, Col. 3.20 – Craig A. Thurman

The Lord has given instruction both to *wives* to know their duty to their husbands and husbands to their wives. The way this is written reminds me of reading through a list of things needing to be checked off. In the Greek it reads: *The wives, be subject to their own husbands; The husbands, love the wives; The children, obey the parents; The fathers, not to provoke the children; The slaves, be subject in all those [duties]; The masters, offer to the slaves the right and equal [things]* ... Not only does everyone know their duties, but everyone knows the others' as well. The result of this, keeping in mind the primary context of this letter, it is a church epistle, is that everyone becomes accountable to one another. The varying roles of the membership, coupled with the instruction of the Word of God to everyone, equips the whole body to walk with Christ.

Being a member of the Lord's church is a life of personal accountability. Most believers are unwilling to come into a true church relationship on account of the accountability that the membership has to one another. A healthy church is one whose membership is subjected to one another.

1Pe 5:5 ... Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

By our involvement in one another's lives we are helped to constantly judge ourselves in light of the Word of God. Sometimes we like to hear what our brother or sister in the Lord says, and sometimes we don't. Often I wonder where I would have been had it not been for the Lord's special, loving, corrective work within this church. We see those who refuse to get in a church, and we see those who have walked away and identify with organizations that are no more a church than a supermarket is, and the lack of growth in grace and truth is obvious. The Spirit of God and subjection to the Word of God made the difference. This proves true every time.

Today we consider the next verse, verse 20. Here is opportunity to consider the role of children and of parents. The Scripture reads,

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Τὰ τέκνα ὑπακούετε τοῖς γονεῦσιν κατὰ πάντα τοῦτο
20 Children, obey [your] parents in all thing[s]:
The children obey the parents in every thing (sing)

γὰρ ἐστὶν εὐάρεστόν τῷ κυρίῳ
for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
acceptable

children, τέκνα, vocative, plural of τέκνον; τέκνα, KJV, five times sons (Mt.21.28; 1Co.4.14; Phl. 2.15; 1Jn.3.1, 2); once daughters, (1Pe.3.6) children 57 times; τέκνον, KJV, child, children, son, sons, and once daughters.

There is another Greek word that is used which merges the idea of children to servants. That word is παῖς, (KJV, *children, servant, maid, menservants, son, young man*). This is used with reference to our Lord Jesus, 6 times (Mt.12.18, *Behold my **servant** whom I have chosen*; Lk.2.43, *the **child** Jesus tarried behind*; Acts 3.13, *hath glorified his **Son** Jesus, 26 having raised up his **Son** Jesus*; 4.27, *against thy holy **child** Jesus, 30, the name of thy holy **child** Jesus*). So the Son, our Lord Jesus is subject to His Father, doing the will of His Father, and in that sense of the word is the Father's *servant*.

Ga 4:1 [T]he heir, as long as he is a child,

νήπιος, νή both to affirm and to negate + ἔπος He.7.9 say; refers to those who are immature in understanding or knowledge (i.e., Mt.11.25; Ro.2.20; 1Co.13.11)

*differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
2 But is under tutors (granting or denying permission) and governors (stewards who have the responsibility) until the time appointed of the father. (Instruction and regulation of character)*

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Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned (ἐμαθεν, aor. ind. act of μανθάνω) he obedience by the things which he suffered... (obedience, root ὑπακούω, learning to hear comes through suffering, discipline. In other words only after enduring the experience can one prove obedience. This goes beyond mental ascent; it is the practical side of hearing.)

The Col. 3.20 commandment is directed to children; especially the child who knows the Lord, though every child should obey. (No child without Christ is accepted with God for what he does.) As a child, in preparation for life beyond 'dad and mom,' you have much to be taught and much to learn in a very short period of time. Your fathers and mothers have a small window of opportunity to prepare you for living most of the rest of your life outside beyond their care. What they are teaching you and what you are learning now will greatly influence the rest of your lives.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother's, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p.41, 'The truth is that in the formation of character they (the first two or three years of a child's life, added) are the most important of all. It has been said that from the impressions made, the principles implanted, and the habits formed, during these years, the child's character for time and eternity may take its complexion. It is perfectly clear that a child, before he can speak, is susceptible of moral training. The conscience, or moral sense, may, by a judicious woman, be developed soon after, if not before, the child has spent his first birthday. So early may he be made to distinguish between what his mother considers right and wrong, between what will please and what will displease her. ... The mother who acts upon the maxim that children may have their own way for a certain number of years, or even months, will find to her cost that that lesson at least will not speedily be forgotten. Moral training may and should precede that which is intellectual.'

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obey, ὑπακούετε, 2nd p pl, pres, ind. or **imper** of ὑπακούω; ὑπό under + ἀκούω to hear, listen; ὑπακούω is a compound Greek word ὑπό *under* and ἀκούω to *hear, listen*. So it means to be *under the hearing*.

ὑπακούετε is used 5 times in the N.T: 4 times in the imperative mood, and once in the present indicative¹. (Ro.6.16¹; Eph.6.1, 5; Col.3.20, 22); ὑπακούω, KJV, *obey* (20), *hearken* (1).

ὑπακούετε, 2nd p pl, pres, indicative (1):

*Ro 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye **obey**; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

ὑπακούετε, 2nd p pl, pres, imperative (4):

*Eph 6:1 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

The same word is used for those who are servants:

*Eph 6:5 Servants, **be obedient** [obey] to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ ...*

*Col 3:22 Servants, **obey** in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God ...*

Children, you are instructed by the Lord to be *under the hearing* of your parents. Your ears are to be fixed on their voice; the voice of dad and mom. Of all of the voices that you hear, your father and mother's voice is the most important. The extent to which you listen to them is already being influenced by your parents, but let me add to this, that **even if your dad and mom fail to require your obedience to them**, the Lord's command to you hasn't changed. This does not say, Children obey your parents when you think they mean what they say; Or, Children, obey your parents when they say, 'Pretty please, with sugar on top'; Or, Children, obey your parents only when

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they're watching; etc., etc. I've got a sneaking suspicion that you know what I mean. The Lord commands you to obey your parents. What you might not realize is that the Lord gives this command for your good. He will bless those of you who obey greatly as you mature.

Pr 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Your whole life before you, because of your obedience to dad and mom now, shall be decorated with characteristics or qualities, that at the moment are so unimportant to you, but as you become matured are going to be invaluable. (Trustworthy, able to work, honest, helpful, faithful, diligent, loving, caring, friendly, pleasant, cheerful, thankful, godly ...) Your parents are to instill these qualities in you. They don't want you to be hurt by making rash and foolish decisions. They don't want you to be deceitful, a liar, unable to work, grumpy, stern, complaining, ungrateful, etc.) You see, you can't look ahead and see what your parent see. And trust me, they know this lesson already. They hope to steer you clear of some real-life mine fields. Hospitals and prisons are filled with people who were not taught or who refused to hear the instruction of dad and mom. This is so basic to your welfare.

Pr 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. (All that you need for life's trials can be learned from your parents. In the instance that you are called upon to be

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honest you can be. When you need to apply yourself hard, you will. When you need to bear patiently with difficult things you can. It isn't that you, at that moment set your mind to do that, because if you haven't been obedient, and you haven't been taught, you won't have that quality *in* you. These are the things that you gain through at home.)

23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Reproofs, root תּוֹכַחַת, tokachath, KJV, reproof (Pv.1.23, 25), reasonings (Job 13.6), arguments (Job 23.4), rebukes (Pv.27.5), chastened (Ps.73.14).

That part of instruction that stings now as a child. Learn to bear it. Learn to hear it. It is warning you away from what you would rather do, which is either bad for you, or not necessarily good or the best, to what are good and best. (Most children do not like to eat their *greens*.)

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Pr 23:22 Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. (Parents will often have an advantage of retrospection. In other words, they have gone this road before you and can help you not make some of the mistakes that they made, and to make good choices.)

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

...

26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

So much of how you will live tomorrow is directly associated with how you *honor*, esteem, highly regard, prize dad and mom, and their word. You will always be your parents' child. Obey them. If they

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say, 'Don't touch ...'; 'Don't go up [or] down the stairs ...'; If they say that you should learn this or that in school, learn to do what they say to the best of your ability. When they give you chores to do like taking the trash out, making your beds, cleaning your rooms, picking up the toys, mowing the yard, shoveling the drive, washing the car, cleaning the car, vacuuming the house, washing the dishes, do the best that you can and win the praises of dad and mom, instead of correction. It is through these sorts of common things that you gain what you likely admire in your parents. If you won't do these you won't do the more important ones later when you need to after you grow up.

Lk.16.10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (Notice it reads unjust. It is wrong not to be faithful in those little things.)

Your training begins here, right now. Obeying is the flipside of faithfulness. If you won't obey you can't be faithful. Joseph, son of Jacob, when he was coming close to the end of his teens was a faithful teenager. He had learned responsibility early in his life. What he learned from a child helped him as he came to be a teenager, and matured into a young man, and into a father. His terrible experience is found in the book of Genesis chapters 37, 39-45. Over a period of 13 years he went from being the beloved son of his father, to being a slave in Egypt; then falsely accused, he was sent to prison; but in the end he was promoted to the second highest office in all of the land. It was through a *series* of terrible events that he went from an obedient child to a faithful man. These words sum up Joseph's life very well in every situation that he endured:

*Ge 39:22 ... and whatsoever they did there, **he** was the doer of it. (In the lowest of the low places, Joseph didn't give up, but kept doing right. Whatever he did he did his best. He did it to the glory of God.)*

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Joseph was transplanted into another home, turned from beloved son to just another household slave. He wasn't overcome of this tragic turn of events, but rather knew to do his best and trust the Lord through it all. Joseph learned to subject himself to those who were appointed over him. Obedience brings great joy to the house. Especially to dad and mom.

*Pr 10:1; 15:20 The proverbs of Solomon. **A wise son maketh a glad father ...** (This statement is repeated in Scripture. When the Lord says something twice it is an established truth.)*

Pv.23.24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

On the other hand, being disobedient is so hurtful to you and them.

Pr 10:1 ... a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Pr 15:20 ... a foolish man despiseth his mother.

It is true that the mother has a much deeper bond with the child than the father. Her life is wrapped up in her children. Therefore she would be most deeply hurt in the child whose life is destructive and wasted.

Pr 19:26 He that wasteth

מִשְׁדָּד, intensive active of root, שָׁדַד, KJV, to rob, spoil, destroy, oppress

his father, and chaseth away

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יָבַר יָהּ, Hiphil future, (causative active), of root בָּרַח, to chase or flee

his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Pr 17:21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

Pr 19:13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father:

Pr 28:7 ... he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.

Pr 28:24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.

מְשַׁחֵת, root שָׁחַ, Hiphil participial (causative active); KJV, to corrupt, mar, destroy, spoil, waste; Wigram, a destroying man.

Children obey your parents. Why? Because, if you know the Lord, *this is well pleasing to the Lord.*

well pleasing, εὐάρεστον, can be nom., or acc., sing., neut., and acc., sing., fem. of εὐάρεστος; εὖ well + ἀρεστός KJV, please (3), reason (1, Acts 6.2); εὐάρεστος, KJV, Ro.12.1, ... *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*; Ro.12.2, *prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God*; Ro.14.18, [To be of no offense in our faith concerning eating and drinking and observing or not of days] *For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men*; 2Co.5.9, *whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him*; Eph.5.10, *Proving what is acceptable to the Lord*; Phl. 4.18, *Having received of Epaphroditus ... an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God*; Tit.2.9, *Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things ...*; He.13.21, [God] *Make you*

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perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ.

There can be no greater reason for children to obey this holy commandment of the Lord than knowing that God Himself is well pleased with your obedience to them. By your obeying them you are obeying Him. So, the text, though binding upon all society to obey, is really directed to those who *know* Him savingly.

No matter whether your parents are believers, no matter whether they are good parents, faithful in their service to you and the Lord, no matter whether they are have little or much, no matter what, you are to do this because He is well pleased with your obedience.

Eph.6.2 Honour (have esteem, value, price) thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be (γένηται, 3rd ps, aor. 2, subj. of γίνομαι, might be, should be) well with thee, and thou mayest (ἔσῃ, 2nd ps, fut. ind. of εἰμί, I am, as a result) live long (μακροχρόνιος, μάκρος long + χρόνος time) on the earth. (lit. 'that you may be a long time on the earth')

The greatest way for you to obey the Lord and show that you really love **Him** is to be subject to them. If you say that you love the Lord and you aren't obeying your father and mother you are a liar. Think about this Scripture:

Lk.6.46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Everyone who says that Jesus is their Lord do the things that He says to do. To do otherwise means that he has another lord.

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

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48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Through the Word of God the Lord has revealed a way so that we might all have qualities of life that will help us in our relations with others. As His children, because He has worked in us a love for His Word in us, we want to arrange our lives so that it is guided by everything that his Lord commands. By doing this we are building on the unmoveable, unchangeable, unbreakable Rock of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. The life built on this Rock withstands every storm no matter how hard it is. Though we might fall seven times, yet the Lord raises us back up again.

Pr 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

In the worst of the worst for that child of God who trusts Christ, though the whole world and all of the forces of evil oppose, his foundation is unmoveable:

De 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:

Every father and mother, every son and daughter that know Jesus Christ, that knows He died for them, took their sins away, that He raised from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, awaiting the day to come again, can withstand every trial. But for those who live in disobedience it is not like this.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

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No one who has any knowledge of construction would think of building a structure except that it have a proper foundation. It cannot stand. It will begin to sink. It will begin to erode away at the base, and shall fall, and be destroyed.

Pr 24:16 ... but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Pr 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Gill, 'an untimely end.'

Perhaps as they come into maturity, should they reach to this age, the decisions that they make lend themselves so that they are harmed by evil or by the wicked, or that they come under judgment of justice. Whatever it means it certainly communicates a terrible end for those who, in all its simplicity might fall back to this basic principle of life, refused to obey father and mother.

Gill continues by saying it is, '... a just retaliation for their scornful and disdainful looks at their parent.'

A person whose foundation is not built on Jesus Christ stands in jeopardy of being forever lost and destroyed. Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ? That He is your Savior and LORD. If so, one of the best ways for you, as a child, to show your faith is by obeying this Word of God. I would ask, if you have never made a profession of faith in Him that you do so, be baptized, and join with this church. Do not do this unless you are convinced the Lord has given to you eternal life.

parents, γονεῦσιν, dat., pl. of γονεὺς (derived from the Gr. γίνομαι, to become); γονεὺς is always translated in the KJV, *parents* (19).

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Now for a general admonition to parents:

In Scripture parents are whoever has the care of the children, but generally parents refer to the biological father and mother. For us, our heavenly Father subjected His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to earthly parents. (Lk.2.51)

We were once under the direction of parents. What children may not know yet, or that they forget as they become older is that we were once where they were. Solomon says,

Pv.4.3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Now it is our turn to be parents; to teach our children. Parents, have a great responsibility to assist their children to learn good behavioral traits. We begin with this Scripture:

Pr 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Children require constant and good attention. Left to themselves they can hurt themselves and they will bring hurt to you and other.

Pr 29:15 ... a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Parental negligence is probably the easiest and most harmful thing that can be done to a child.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother's, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 34, 'To you is committed the care of the infant's body, the healthfulness, vigor, and comfort of which for all his future existence upon earth depend much upon you. What would be your feelings of poignant remorse if, by any neglect of yours, whether by a fall or an accident, the result of your

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carelessness, the poor babe was injured in his spine or distorted in his limbs! Oh! To see that young cripple injured for life in bodily comfort, ever presenting to you the sad reminder of your guilty neglect! Yet what is this to the sadder spectacle of a deformed and crippled *soul*, a character distorted into crooked and frightful shapes, and to have the tormenting reflection that this was the result of your neglect!’

ibid., p.40, ‘An ill-managed child continues growing not only in stature and in strength, but in his wayward disposition and obstinate self-will; the poor mother has no control; and as for the father, he is too much taken up with the care of business to aid his imperfect helpmate; thus the scene is exhibited, described by Solomon, of “a child left to himself’ (Pro. 29.15) ...’

How we must take this issue of raising children most seriously! It is you, the parents, who must assume the responsibility of molding the behavior of your child. Biblical discipline is the tool to accomplish this great work.

Pv.19.18 ¶ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. (Or, and on making him die do not lift your soul)

chasten, יָסַר, Piel (causative active) imperative; KJV, to chasten, correct, chastise, instruct, teach, punish.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother’s, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 41, ‘Can you say, “No” to a child when, with winning smiles, beseeching voice, or weeping eyes, he asks for what it is not good that he should receive? Can you take from him that which is likely to be inurious to him, but which it will give him pain to surrender? Can you correct him for his faults when your heart rises up in opposition to your judgment? ... Can you

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exact obedience in what is to him a difficult, but to you a necessary, command? Can you stand out against his tears, resolute in purpose, unyielding in demand, and first conquer your own heart, so stoutly resisting you, in order to conquer his? Or do you allow yourself to be subdued to put an end to the contest, and, by soothing his sufferings, foster the temper which ought to be eradicated at any pains and any cost? She (and I add, he) who cannot answer all this in the affirmative is not fit to be a mother (father). There must be discipline in a family. A parent must be obeyed. *Give this up, and you train your children for evil and not for good.'*

Good training hasn't anything to do with the aesthetics of a building. Government school systems, and even most church schools, spend precious time and substance appeasing parents who have lost sight of what a real education is, and their responsibility for ensuring that their children receive, not just facts and figures, but moral training. An outstanding learning environment needs to be comfortable, clean, quiet and safe. That is it. And even those things are relative. This can be achieved in a house at the dining room table. It doesn't require a gymnasium, a sports program, or a playground. Don't let the world of put you under a guilt trip. Stop thinking about what all of the other children have that my children don't. Own up to the responsibility of having children born to you and see to it that they are brought up ... *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* (Eph.6.4) **Dad, that is your commandment.** You are to see to it that your children receive *this training*, whether it is in a tent or a castle. The training that your children receive is either your blessing or your curse.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother's, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 40, 'Education, as has been observed, does not begin with the alphabet. It begins with a mother's look; with a father's nod of approbation or sign of reproof ...'

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Ps.32.8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

And so, parents should know their responsibility before the Lord to raise their children as the Lord commands. Your children are *as* subjects in your home. They are to do your bidding, *as* a servant is to do for his master.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother's, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 36, 'A parent must not be a tyrant, but neither must he be a slave to his children. It is a painful and, to the parents, a disgraceful spectacle to see a family like a state where rebellion reigns rampant, the father deposed, the scepter broken, and the insurgent children possessed of sovereign rule. And a mother as well as a father must be obeyed, and it is her own fault if she is not. A persevering system of government, where the reins are held tightly in the hand of love, will be sure to produce submission at last. But it must be a mixture of kindness, wisdom, and authority. Submission must be felt by a child to be a duty yielded to authority, and not merely a compliance won by affection. Authority must not stiffen into severity, nor love degenerate into coaxing. Commands should be obeyed not only because it is pleasant to obey them, *but because it is right that they should be obeyed.*'

Children should learn to sit still, be quiet, pay attention, and do as they are told. Proper teaching/discipline prepares the child for learning, and this begins at a very early age. Discipline, properly applied, does not mean that you do not love them. But because you love the Lord first, and know that these children are His put you're your care, you will apply the Word of God in your dealings with your children.

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Every Christian can afford to do this; no Christian can afford not to. But as with every spiritual work of His people, *ibid.*, ‘Distrust yourselves, and, by believing prayer, secure the aid of Omnipotence.’

Training up children has nothing to do with social or economic status. The poorest to the wealthiest bear this responsibility. You don’t have to have a dollar to your name to be a godly parent. This has to do with maturity of faith in Christ. It is not my purpose, God being my helper, to meddle in your affairs. I shut my mouth to how you go about the details of your homelife. But every home must have this in it to be a godly and blessed home. Your children are as unique as each and every child is and therefore it is your duty to apply biblical discipline appropriately to each of them.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother’s, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 36, ‘There are as many varieties of temperament in some families as there are children. ... One is forward and obtrusive, and should be checked and rebuked; another is timid and retiring, and needs to be encouraged and emboldened. One is more easily wrought upon by appeals to her hope, another by reasonings addressed to her fear. One is too close and reserved, and need to have frankness and communicativeness encouraged; another is too open and ingenuous (straightforward, candid, footnote), and should be taught caution and self-restraint. **Every child should be a separate study. ... One treatment will no more suit all minds than one medicine or kind of food all bodies ...**’ (bolding added)

But as simple as we can say it,

Pr 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom ...

The goal of discipline is to instill good behavior, and drive away from the heart the bad. For the lack of it parents are embarrassed, children are unmanageable, and the house is in a constant state of turmoil; dad and mom are fighting, children are arguing with the

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parents, most of which is directly related to disagreement in the home between dads and moms about how the children are to be trained. But know this, your children must be brought to the place where they are willingly subject to you. Children should never be allowed to argue with a parent under any circumstances. If you want a quiet, peaceable, orderly, happy home begin applying a loving, Biblical discipline to your children. Most of you know this and some are new to this instruction. Some are about to have children. Some are about to be married. But we can all use the reminder. From the outset we need to remember this about our children:

*Pr 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the **rod** of correction shall drive it far from him.*

*rod, שֵׁבֶט, shebet, Robert Young's Concordance, a scepter, rod; this is the rod of authority to discipline (Lev. 27.32; 2Sa.27.14; Ps. 2.9); **rods are for acts of foolishness, for the foolish, for those lacking understanding; for the purpose of imparting wisdom.***

correction, מוֹסֵר, musar, also cf. root יָסַר, yasar; KJV, correct, chasten, chastise, instruct, punish, reprove, teach; מוֹסֵר; KJV, check, chastisement, chastening, instruction, correction, rebuke, bond, doctrine; found most in Proverbs (30).

Pr 29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words (meaning, 'Not by them only', Gill): for though he understand he will not answer. (He will not admit that he is wrong.)

Most parents have probably said this of the child: 'Now, that has to be about the stupidest thing I think that you have ever done.' Sometimes it's funny, but sometimes it's not. And wouldn't you know it, about 10 minutes later they've even topped that previous act. But seriously, unmitigated, unchecked foolishness is dangerous

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for the child and needs to be corrected. (stealing, lying, cheating, spiteful behavior, revenge, vindictiveness, hatefulness, arguing, not doing what they are told, when they are told, how they are told, as they are told, etc.)

(I was a horrible fire bug as a child.)

There are times for the application of the *rod*. If you are unwilling to use the rod you are not willing to commit to the level of correction that children require to teach them good behavior.

The *rod* is to be placed upon the back:

*Pr 10:13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but **a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.*** (of him who lacks a heart; sadistic, cruel behavior must be driven from the heart of children.)

back, לָאָחֵר, l'gev, prefix לָ, noting direction or motion towards any object, to, unto, towards + root לָאָחֵר, KJV, among, for the back.

*Pr 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scorers, and **stripes for the back of fools.***

*Pr 26:3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, **and a rod for the fool's back.***

The term *whip* is found 4 times with reference to Jereboam. He said that Solomon, his father chastised his subjects with whips, but that he would chastise them with scorpions. And then twice it is used with reference to *horses*. The apostle Paul was probably whipped as a punishment many times. (cf. 2Co.11.23, 24) But it appears that proper punishment was the use of *rods*. I suggest the loving application of rods, dowls, or what we call switches. It doesn't take a lot to gain your child's attention. Apply this correction until you are

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convinced that the child has repented and submitted to your will. Withholding correction when it is due is a sign that you as a parent do not love your children as you ought.

Pr 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

betimes, שָׁחַרְוֹ, root שָׁחַר, Piel, (causative active); the idea is instant, in the moment, whether for good or bad

...

Betimes:

<p>Qal participle: <i>Pr 11:27 He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.</i></p>	<p>Piel Preterite: <i>Job 7:21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.</i></p> <p><i>Ps 78:34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.</i></p>	<p>Piel Future: <i>Ps 63:1 « A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. » O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is...</i></p> <p><i>Pr 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:</i></p>
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Proper chastening affects real changes. If a large beast, such as a horse, may be trained to learn to go in the direction he should go, with bit, bridle, and whip, surely we can alter the behavior of a child for good with the proper use of a *rod*. Everyone loves a behaved child, but no one wants to be around one who misbehaves.)

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Application of correction, discipline, and the rod is not cruel and unusual punishment, or at least it should not be. The Lord corrects all of the children that He loves ...

*Ps 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; **thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.***

As the Lord's rod and staff comfort His children so a parent's correction serves to comfort their children. Correction confirms your love for the child. This will become more realized as the child matures.

After correction, if there is any sense of remaining rebellion or unrepentance then the correction has not yet reached into the heart of the child. Correction must be applied until the child becomes willfully compliant. You don't need a doctorate in psychology to do this. You need to be a Bible-believing, practicing parent. Follow through with a thorough, faithful, instant chastening.

Mothers will say, 'Just you wait 'til your dad gets home. First of all, this violates the above principle of chastening the child *betimes*. Sometimes that might be best. Perhaps it should be that the child receives discipline first from the mother, and then when dad comes home, again from him. But such a practice, if persisted in, undermines a mother's authority to her child. And she must be able to rule her house for the welfare of her children.

*1Ti 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, **guide the house** οικοδεσποτειν (to rule or steward the house), give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*

Discipline trains children to be their best and to do their best. They are to be taught to apply themselves, to have a good behavior, to be respectful, diligent, faithful and considerate. They should never be

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allowed to mutter under their breath, give looks of disagreement, and complain. Never! Under no circumstances. Children should be corrected for their facial expressions when under discipline. These things considered, parents need to have the foresight to look 10, 15, and 20 years at what faithful, biblical love will do for their children.

Training is what makes of everyday boys and girls exceptional characters. While it does not save souls, it does save their lives from destruction. At least their lives can be helpful to their fellow man. No one can be the best at anything if he is not willing endure the hardships involved with receiving training. Behind every great soldier, police officer, doctor, teacher, dentist, leader, and Christian, is someone who wielded a great influence upon that person's life.

You know what I think? It isn't that fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters don't understand what discipline, responsibility and obedience means. I think sometimes we just need to recommit ourselves to loving the Lord and putting Him first in our lives again; that for the love of one another we will commit ourselves anew to obeying the Word of the Lord. Hey, this is hard most of the time to do alone, without someone's encouragement. Parents find a way to communicate this among yourselves in a way that will help those who are struggling with it. Training up children takes sacrifice, not of money, but of the parents' lives.

Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 196, Summer 2006, Article, *For Mother's, Experienced or New*, John Angell James (1785-1859), p. 37, 'The woman who would fulfill the duties of her relationship must surrender herself to her mission and be content to make some sacrifices and endure some privations. Who can witness the patient submission of the mother bird to her solitude and self-denial during the term of incubation without admiration at the quiet and willing surrender which instinct teaches her to make of her usual liberty and enjoyments? A woman must be willing, for the sake of her children, to do, under the influence of reason and religion, what the bird does from the unintelligent impulses of nature.'

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Her children are a charge for whichs he must forego some of the enjoyments of social life, and even some of the social pleasures of religion. ... **The woman who is not prepared to make many sacrifices of this kind, for the sake of her children, her home, and her husband should never think of entering into wedded life.**' (bolding added)

Dads and moms must be willing to sacrifice to live on a single income so that Tabitha and Thomas receive the best training the Lord has appointed for them. And mark this down: the world will interfere with your commendable goal. But come graduation day; come the day that the children take off on their own every parent will be glad they did. Come the day we stand before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ we will be commended for having done what was right. Failure in this comes at a great price. How miserable so many Christian families live on account of their disregard for the truth of the Word of God on just this single issue? And how blessed are those who obeyed.

Joh 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Col.3.20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

(Another excellent article to read concerning the application of abstention of the *rod* is posted on sermonaudio.com, under the .edoc page, entitled, [The Rod and Reproof Give Wisdom](#), by Charles Bridges (1794-1869).

Excerpt from this article:

'Oh! As our children's happiness or misery, both for time and eternity, is linked with our own responsibilities; shall not we "watch and pray," and resist "the weakness of the flesh," in self-denying firmness? 'Take this for certain'--says Bishop Hopkins--'that as many deserved stripes as you spare from your children, you do but lay upon your own back. And those whom you refuse to chastise, God

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will make severer scourges to chastise you.' At whatever cost establish your authority. Let there be but one will in the house. And let it be felt, that this will is to be the law. The child will readily discover, whether the parent is disposed to yield, or resolved to rule. But however trifling the requirement, let obedience be, in small as great matters, the indispensable point. The awe of parental authority is perfectly consistent with the utmost freedom of childlike confidence. Nay--it is the very foundation of it (for the child can hardly appreciate the kindness of a parent, whom he thinks afraid to strike), while it operates as a valuable safeguard against a thousand follies of uncontrolled waywardness. But ever let us put the awful alternative vividly before us. Either the child's will, or the parent's heart, must be broken: "Without a wise and firm control, the parent is miserable; the child is ruined.'

Τὰ τέκνα ὑπακούετε τοῖς γονεῦσιν κατὰ πάντα τοῦτο γὰρ ἐστὶν εὐάρεστόν
τῷ κυρίῳ