

Biblical Parenting

(How to Rear Children God's Way)
A Child Training Study by Pastor Vincent Sawyer

Introduction: God's Word has the Answers!

HOW TO VIEW YOUR CHILDREN

A. The Value of Children

1. Children are a gift from God.
2. God uniquely forms and gifts each child.
3. God loves children and desires that they come to receive salvation at an early age (Mt. 19:13-15)

B. The Nature of Children

In order to understand a child, and to know how to teach, discipline, and control a child's negative behavior traits, it is essential to comprehend what the bible teaches about the nature of children.

The Bible teaches that. . .

1. **Mankind was originally created in the image and likeness of God.**
Gen. 1:26
2. **Adam sinned against God and thereby died spiritually and adopted a sin nature.** (Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1).
3. **Adam's descendants were reproduced in his likeness and image.**
Gen. 5:3
4. **Each child is born with this sinful human nature.** (Ps. 51:5; Ps. 58:3; Job 14:4; Is. 48:8)
5. **Because of inherited sinful human nature, each parent can expect the following traits in his/her children:**
 - a. Each child is prone toward sin.
 - b. Each child is basically self-centered.
 - c. Each child must be trained and restrained.
 - 1) Children cannot be left to themselves (Prov. 29:15)
 - 2) Children must have their sinful tendencies controlled (I Sam. 3:13)
 - 3) Children are most moldable when they are young (Prov. 22:6)

C. The Needs of Children

The following is a list of needs that must be met by both parents. Your children need:

1. **Love** (I John 4:7; Titus 2:4)
2. **Security**
3. **Time and Attention** (Prov. 29:15).
4. **Patience** (Eccles. 7:8; Rom. 12:12; Ja. 1:3-4)
5. **Encouragement** (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)
6. **Example** (I Timothy 4:12)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILDREN

A. Respect (for authority)

An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of oversight.

- The position of authority is ultimately given by God.
- This position of authority is one of service (an "authority" is a servant)
- This position of authority is to provide leadership, training, and/or protection for the well being of the one(s) served.
- The one who holds such a position of authority is responsible to God and will answer to God.
- The one who is expected to submit to the authority will also be accountable to God for how he/she responded to the authority.

Respect for parents is so serious that God told Moses:

"He who strikes (physical disrespect) his father or his mother shall surely be put to death"; and "He who cursets (verbal disrespect) his father or his mother shall surely be put to death" (Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9; Deut.21:18-21; 27:16; Proverbs 30:11-17).

Proverbs 20:20 - *"Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness"* (ie. his life will be snuffed out)

* Colossians 3:20 says:

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

Such obedience is to be:

1. Submissive -
2. Continual (present imperative)
3. Respectful - "your parents"
4. Total - "in all things"

3 blessings that come to those who submit to authority (outline by Bill Gothard):

1. You grow in wisdom and character
2. You gain protection from destructive temptations
3. You receive clear direction for life decisions

B. Obedience

See: Ephesians 6:1-3

GOD REQUIRES RESPECTFUL ACTION (A child's duty is obedience) (v. 1)

"Obey" = implies a readiness to hear; a humble listening so as to do what you're told.

God told Saul: *"To obey is better than sacrifice"* (I Sam. 15:22).

- Delayed obedience is disobedience.
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The only time you can disobey your parents is if they ask you to do something sinful (Our Lord would never ask this of His children).

"for this is right"- The reason to obey parents is brief and simple: "For this is right" (correct, just, righteous). Obedience is good for children!

Obedience not only provides a better and longer life, but also:

- 1) Obedience teaches children patience
- 2) Obedience equips children with self-control
- 3) Obedience gets children ready for a career that will demand respect for authority
- 4) Obedience gets children ready for life, which will not always be "fair" or "just"
- 5) Your children will reap in their children what they themselves sowed as a child

C. Honor

GOD REQUIRES A RESPECTFUL ATTITUDE (The child's disposition is honor) (v. 2-3)

"Honor" = to view as very valuable, or precious.

How do children show honor?

- 1) By obeying them without complaint
- 2) By providing for parents (when they cannot)

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

1. **Such an attitude results in a top quality life** - "*well with thee . . .*" (v. 3a)
2. **Such an attitude results in a long quantity of life** - "*live long . . .*" (v. 3b)

How to Develop Character in your Children

As parents, our primary goal for our children should be that they have a character like that of Jesus Christ.

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

"Parents are commanded by God to initiate or start their child in a certain direction. He is not to be allowed to follow the path his nature would take him, but he is to be set on a new path. Dedication is not just a one-time initiation, but incorporates the entire training process. The result of the training is for this new way to become the child's own way of life. When this training transpires, the child will not leave the path even as he grows older and becomes an adult. . . Parents are not to wait for a child to choose his own way of life, but are to place him on the right path in early childhood. . . Parents must act as the external control over a child while he is developing his own internal controls. The parents' role is not to remain as the child's control for the rest of his life, but gradually to work themselves out of this job as early as possible." (Fugate, p. 65-66)

Through the proper parental example, training, and discipline of our children, we should desire that God develop their character by building in them the following traits:

- 1) Spiritual desire
- 2) A sensitive conscience
- 3) Sincere motives
- 4) Self-discipline or self-control
- 5) Personal initiative
- 6) Personal responsibility

How to DISCIPLINE Your Children

A. The PATTERN of Discipline is our HEAVENLY FATHER

(Proverbs 3:11,12; Job 5:17,18; Psalm 119:65-72; Heb. 12:5-11)

B. The MOTIVE of Discipline is LOVE for the Child

(Proverbs 3:12; Prov. 13:24)

C. The TIMING of Discipline is EARLY

(Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 19:18)

D. The REASON for Discipline is REBELLION to AUTHORITY

(Proverbs 22:15)

When do I discipline?

Answer: **For every act of rebellion against authority.**

Definition of Rebellion: Rebellion is the act of determined (willful) defiance of, or resistance to any authority or controlling power. (Fugate)

Examples of Rebellion:

1) Rebellious Attitude

2) Rebellious Action

a. When the child disobeys by omitting right action
[Passive Rebellion]

If I ask my child to do something, and he does not respond (assuming he heard me), he/she is in sin. But if I call him twice, I am the one in sin! Why? By repeating my request, I am reinforcing and encouraging my child's disobedience. This is, in fact, training them in unrighteousness. (Ezzo, p. 43)

For obedience to be real obedience, it must be:

1. Immediate - Delay is disobedience.
2. Without Question - The Child can ask "What" to clarify command, but never "Why"
3. Without Complaint - Attitude is just as important as action.
4. Complete - Partial obedience is not obedience.
5. Exact - "Another form of passive rebellion is to do what is required but not in the way it should have been done" (Fugate, p. 119)

b. When the child disobeys by committing wrong action
[Active Rebellion]

E. The BALANCED METHOD of Discipline is PHYSICAL Correction and VERBAL Training (Proverbs 29:15)

Practical teaching about the use of "The Rod"

- a. The spanking should sting not damage -
- b. The spankings should be private not public
- c. The spankings should be consistent not haphazard -

F. The NEGLECT of Discipline is CATASTROPHE!

Example: Eli's two sons (I Sam.3:13; 4:14-17; Proverbs 22:15; 23:14; 29:15)

G. The GOAL of Discipline is the Child's WELL-BEING

(Proverbs 23:14; Proverbs 29:15)

1. Restoration - The child and parent will be close
2. Instruction - The child will learn "the wages of sin"
 - a. **Your child needs to learn the difference between right & wrong**
 - b. **Your child needs to learn the price for sin**
3. Discipline - The child will have sterling character and an ability to say no to selfish impulses

H. The BENEFIT of Discipline is BLESSING

(Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 29:17)

How to TRAIN Your Children in God's Ways

In this section of notes, we will examine 4 major passages of Scripture which describe how we as Parents must teach our children God's Will and Word.

1. Train your Children by Teaching them God's Word (the Bible)

*Parents: Don't hide God's truth from your children (Psalm 78:4)!

Ephesians 6:4

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:7

And thou shalt teach them (God's Commandments) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Teaching is to be:

- 1) **Repetitious** - "Diligently" (Repeatedly)
- 2) **Specific content** - "Them" = the "words" of verse 6. The word, law, or commands of God.
- 3) **Informal** - weave teaching into your normal everyday routine.
 - a. Simultaneous with other activity (when- "sitting, walking, lying down")
 - b. Different locations - "house road, bed" (God teaches us not only at church [formally] but also during work, home, etc.)
- 4) **Continual** -
 - a. At different times (day & night activities)
 - b. All the time (from morning to morning)

A "Family Time"; "Family Devotions"; or "Family Altar" should be:

- 1) short
- 2) serious
- 3) interesting

2. Train your Children by Creating a Proper Home Environment -

a) **Proper music**

Have a variety of Good, Wholesome, Godly (Not Worldly) Christian music in your home. Develop Your Children's appetite for Christ Honoring music with high standards.

Characteristics of the Believers "New Song" (Psalm 40:3)

The "New Song" God puts in our mouth is:

- 1) Derived from God
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b) **Proper Reading & TV**

Have good books & periodicals for the family to enjoy. Keep TV viewing to a minimum and whole programs.

Beware of Your Children's FRIENDSHIPS

Proverbs 13:20 - He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

3. Train your Children by preparing them for courtship & Marriage

Next to your children's relationship with the Lord, the next most important relationship will be with their future spouse.

Therefore, it is vitally important for parents to know what principles to teach their children regarding dating and marriage.

1. Teach your children the basic virtuous characteristics that will prepare them for dating and marriage.

Teach your teenagers about:

- a. Genuine love (I Cor. 13)
- b. Accepting God's timing and will (Gen. 29:20; Prov. 3:5-6; Ja. 4:15)
- c. The importance of good friendships (I Cor. 15:33)
- d. Priorities (Mt. 6:33)
- e. Design for sex in marriage and standards of moral purity (I Thess. 4:1--8; Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 7:1-5; Prov. 5:18-21; Ps. 101:3)

2. Teach your children about proper courtship:

What procedure should Christian girls follow in a dating relationship?

- 1) Remember you are under the authority of your father until you marry (I Cor. 7:36-38).
- 2) Before starting to date, meet with your father (whether or not he is a Christian) and share with him your goals for marriage: that yours will be the kind of marriage God wants, and thus be the happiest possible.
- 3) Agree that any boy who wants to date you must first ask your father for permission. This simply requires saying, "I am honored that you have asked, but before I can give you an answer, you will have to ask my father." This takes all the pressure off the girl and creates these benefits:
 - a) It makes the boy appreciate you more because what is easily gotten is not usually appreciated.
 - b) It decreases the temptation of the boy to mistreat you. If he thinks you are completely on your own, it increases the risk that he will try something.
 - c) It proves to the boy that your father loves you.
 - d) It gives your father a chance to discern the boy's intentions. A woman is more affected by actions than by motives, but a man discerns first the motive.
 - e) It places the boy under your father's counsel, which is exactly where he should be if the relationship grows into marriage.
- 4) Agree that anytime a fellow starts talking to you about marriage you will say, "If you are thinking about marriage, you had better talk to my father." This is tremendously important because so often talk about marriage is just camouflaged lust.

3. Teach your children about discerning God's will.

How can your children know who is the right one for marriage?

Follow God's principles for courtship:

- a. Be submitted and obedient to the advice and discretion of your parents (Eph. 6:1-2).
- b. Determine that you will date only Christians (I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14-18). God forbids the intermarriage of a believer with a non-believer (SEE: Gen. 24:3-4, 28:1-2; Ex. 34:12-16; Deut. 7:3-4; Ezra 9:10-12; Neb. 10:30).
- c. Determine that you will strive to be the right one, rather than focusing on meeting the "right one" (Rom. 12:1-2).
- d. Be busy doing the general will of God, and He will guide you in the specifics of His will (Phil. 2:12-13; Prov. 3:5-6).
- e. Purpose in your heart that you will not defile yourself or defraud the one you date (I Cor. 7:1-2; I Th. 4:6).
- f. Decide that the one you marry must enhance your ministry, not diminish or destroy it (Is she a "helpmeet" [Gen. 2:18] or a hindrance?).
- g. Yield your plans to God's will in the vital area of dating and marriage (desire His will above all else) (Mt. 6:33).
- h. Wait for God's timing (Eccl. 3:1).

4. Teach your children what to avoid in a dating relationship.

- a. Avoid the "steady" relationship until the time is right. (Have several friends and let God bring the right one alone in His time)
- b. Avoid situations and circumstances that might involve temptations and trouble (don't be alone in secluded places).
- c. Avoid physical involvement (lust can't wait until marriage; but true love can).

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- 1) _____
- 2) A _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____ or _____
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A. The _____ of Discipline is our _____
(Proverbs 3:11,12; Job 5:17,18; Psalm 119:65-72; Heb. 12:5-11)

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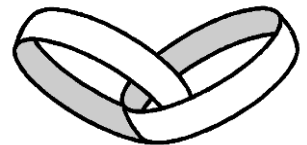
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Follow God's principles for courtship:

- a. Be submitted and obedient to the advice and discretion of your parents (Eph. 6:1-2).
- b. Determine that you will date only Christians (I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14-18). God forbids the intermarriage of a believer with a non-believer (SEE: Gen. 24:3-4, 28:1-2; Ex. 34:12-16; Deut. 7:3-4; Ezra 9:10-12; Neb. 10:30).
- c. Determine that you will strive to be the right one, rather than focusing on meeting the "right one" (Rom. 12:1-2).
- d. Be busy doing the general will of God, and He will guide you in the specifics of His will (Phil. 2:12-13; Prov. 3:5-6).
- e. Purpose in your heart that you will not defile yourself or defraud the one you date (I Cor. 7:1-2; I Th. 4:6).
- f. Decide that the one you marry must enhance your ministry, not diminish or destroy it (Is she a "helpmeet" [Gen. 2:18] or a hindrance?).
- g. Yield your plans to God's will in the vital area of dating and marriage (desire His will above all else) (Mt. 6:33).
- h. Wait for God's timing (Eccl. 3:1).



4. Teach your children what to avoid in a dating relationship.

- a. Avoid the "steady" relationship until the time is right. (Have several friends and let God bring the right one alone in His time)
- b. Avoid situations and circumstances that might involve temptations and trouble (don't be alone in secluded places).
- c. Avoid physical involvement (lust can't wait until marriage; but true love can).