



"Marriage and Family Matters"
Part 11




Parenting Principles




Children are Valuable.



The World's view of children is often:

- They are in the way.
- They tie me down.
- They are a messy nuisance
- They are keeping me from pursuing my career goals
- They are an interruption in my life

God has another view of children:

- Children are a significant blessing (Genesis 17:16; 28:3; Psalm 107:38; 128:3)
- Children are a gracious gift from God (Genesis 33:4-5).
- Children are the inheritance of the Lord, a reward from the Lord and are the cause of great happiness (Psalm 127:3-5)

"Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So *are* the children of one's youth. Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

Psalm 127:3-5



Three Biblical Responsibilities of Parents



1. Providing

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

I Timothy 5:8

To provide for your family is more than making sure that they have food, clothing and housing, although these are very important.

Parents are to provide in all areas of life including spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational and moral areas.

2. Protection

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Matthew 18:6

Protection is more than preserving them from physical harm. It involves guarding them from sin, worldliness, evil associations, dishonesty, hate, moral impurity and anything else that would cause them to become less than what God intended for them to be.

Children need Protection because:

- They are Valuable – Psalm 128:3
- They are Damageable
- They are Corruptible

“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.”

Proverbs 22:15

3. Training

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Training involves bringing our children to maturity with all of the equipment that they need to be successful and to make wise decisions in life.

Children need training because:

- Children are born with a nature inclined to sin – Psalm 51:5
- Children are born without knowledge – Proverbs 22:15
- Children are impressionable and imitators of others.
- Children are where we pass on our Biblical values – Psalm 78:4-7

"We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know *them*, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare *them* to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;"

Psalm 78:4-7

Three Primary Ways Parents Train:

- By their Example.

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart..."*

...You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house...when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

The Challenge of the Lord in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 is to teach our children at all times.

- When you are sitting down. This means that you are teaching during times of relaxation.
- When you are walking or moving about. This means that you are teaching when you are traveling around.
- When you go to lie down. This means that you are teaching at bedtimes.
- When you rise up. This means that you are teaching in the morning.

In other words – AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY!!

- By more direct Teaching.

"Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'"

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

- By loving Discipline.

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?..."

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."

Hebrews 12:5-12

When should discipline start?

- Child discipline should start very early. It should start as soon as there is an obvious manifestation of their will against your will. However, it is important that the age of the child be considered in relation to the severity of the discipline.

"Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives."

Proverbs 16:18 - NLT

Some things to Consider First

- Make sure that your discipline is motivated by love and genuine concern for the child.
- Before correcting a child ask yourself the following questions:
 - Have I ever told him not to do it or what to do in this situation?
 - If you have told him, are you sure your instruction clear?

Some things to Consider First

- Be in agreement with your spouse before you discipline.
- Teach them that "no" means "no".
 - This means that you do not continually warn them.
 - This means that you do not threaten your children especially with things that you have no intention of doing.

Some things to Consider First

- It's good to ask, "What did you do that was wrong?" Now you are giving them an opportunity to confess and at the same time you are making sure they understand.
- Explain to them the reason for discipline.
 - It will keep them from going astray (Ps. 119:67; Pro. 22:6).
 - It will help them be a good and godly person and have a good relationship with God and others.

Is it alright to Spank?

"Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

Proverbs 13:24

"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him."

Proverbs 22:15

Is it alright to Spank?

“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

Proverbs 29:15

“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.”

Proverbs 23:13-14

- Never use your hand. You use your hands to show love.
- Never use the “eye for the eye” method (biting, pinching, pulling hair, scratching, slapping, etc.)
- Do not over correct – no more than is necessary.
- Show love afterward without nullifying discipline.

- Never degrade the child; encourage him or her in right behavior.
- Pray with and for your child and help him or her to pray for forgiveness.

Some additional guidelines that would apply to older children?

- Discipline by the removal of certain privileges.
- They can forfeit their cell phones.
- They can be given extra jobs.
- They can be grounded.
- They can lose the T.V. and/or Internet.
- NEVER take them out of church activities like youth group.

On the other Hand:

- It’s good to reward good behavior.
 - Allow them special privileges.
- Give them more freedom and/or responsibility.

What are some keys to effective discipline?

- **Consistency**
Consistency means that we must be faithful to discipline on all occasions where discipline is needed.
 - This means when you are away from home.
 - This means when you are tired.
 - This means when everyone is having a good time.
 - This means when you are watching a favorite show or movie.

What are some keys to effective discipline?

• **Respect**

When we discipline our children we must show them respect as people while we are doing it.

- This means you shouldn't demean the child or use embarrassment to correct.
- This means you shouldn't talk down to them, scold them, belittle them or call them names.

What are some keys to effective discipline?

• **Balance**

Grace and truth must be a part of the discipline process in just the right balance.

- Too much grace will produce carelessness, presumption and low personal standards.
- Too much truth (or law) will produce bitterness.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

“Just as Jesus was a perfect balance of grace and truth, every successful relationship must be balanced with these two elements. In every relationship, truth is the essential ingredient that bears a standard and prevents violation or moral degeneration. However, truth by itself is cruel, intimidating, and counterproductive...”

Grace is the essential relational ingredient that values and elevates...Grace is the ointment that makes truth bearable, the sweet fragrance that beautifies an imperfect garden.

Grace never argues or disagrees with God's standards, but accepts, forgives, and encourages the one who is struggling to attain to truth...

Grace and truth are inseparable partners. Truth by itself kills. It is a harsh taskmaster with no loyal subjects. Grace by itself is a cheerleader without a team – a spineless organism without strength of definition.”

Jimmy Evans, *Seven Secrets of Successful Families*

A Formula for Parenting:

- Relationship minus Rules = Destruction

Sometimes parents are more interested in being their child's friend instead of their parent. They always want to make them happy. They provide very little, if any, boundaries. They seldom, if ever say "no"!

A Formula for Parenting:

- Rules minus Relationship = Rebellion

Many parents demand unquestioned obedience without any relationship to support it. This will inevitably lead to a rebellious attitude because it shows a child that the parent loves their rules more than them. It's a form of legalism.

A Formula for Parenting:

- Rules PLUS Relationship = An emotionally healthy child who wants to do what's right.

"A Successful Family is a Playground with a Fence around it."

Learning from Living

- If a child lives with criticism
He learns to condemn;
- If a child learns with hostility
He learns to fight;
- If a child lives with ridicule
He learns to be shy;
- If a child lives with shame
He learns to feel guilty.

BUT...

- If a child lives with tolerance
He learns to be patient;
- If a child lives with encouragement
He learns confidence;
- If a child lives with praise
He learns to appreciate;
- If a child lives with security
He learns to have faith;

- If a child lives with approval
He learns to like himself;
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
He learns to find LOVE in the world!

Recommended Resources:

- Books by Dr. James Dobson
- *"Shepherding a Child's Heart"* by Tedd Tripp
- *"The Five Love Languages of Children"* by Gary Chapman