

# Parenting in the Lord

## Part II

**Scripture:** Proverbs 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

### **Introduction:**

Children’s complaints about grown-ups.

1. Grownups make promises, then they forget all about them, or else they say it wasn't really a promise, it was just a maybe.
2. Grownups don't do the things they're always telling the children to do--like pick up their things, or be neat, or always tell the truth.
3. Grownups never really listen to what children have to say. They always decide ahead of time what they're going to answer.
4. Grownups make mistakes, but they won't admit them. They always pretend that they weren't mistakes at all--or that somebody else made them.
5. Grownups interrupt children all the time and think nothing of it. If a child interrupts a grownup, he gets a scolding or something worse.
6. Grownups never understand how much children want a certain thing--a certain color or shape or size. If it's something they don't admire--even if the children have spent their own money for it--they always say, "I can't imagine what you want with that old thing!"
7. Sometimes grownups punish children unfairly. It isn't right if you've done just some little thing wrong and grownups take away something that means an awful lot to you. Other times you can do something really bad and they say they're going to punish you, but they don't. You never know, ....and you ought to know.
8. Grownups are always talking about what they did and what they knew when they were 10 years old--but they never try to think what it's like to be 10 years old right now.

\*For Families Only, J.A. Petersen, ed., Tyndale, 1977, p. 253

### **Transitional Statement:**

Today, I would like for us to think about what our children would say if God pulled them up to sit on His lap and asked them how their parents were treating them.

## **I. We must also provide for our children**

- A. Have you seen the news lately about the Octuplet Mom out in California?
  - 1. This single mother of six living, without a job, living on welfare, goes to fertility clinic and gets pregnant and has eight more babies.
  - 2. The public was outraged, because this lady was having children without any means of providing for them.
    - a. Not only that but, expecting other people to pay their way.
- B. God has something to say about this too !
  - 1. 1 Timothy 5:8 *“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.”*
  - 2. So God expects us to provide and take care of our kids
- C. Now God doesn't say give them everything that they want.
  - 1. That is the other extreme
  - 2. If you do this, it will ultimately shape who they are
    - a. And selfishness will rule their hearts.
    - b. And they will be lost for eternity
- D. So providing for our children takes much consideration.
  - 1. Much planning
  - 2. And much effort.

## **II. Then we must protect them**

- A. The first thing that comes to mind in regards to protecting our kids is simply to be in their lives enough to know what is going on with them.
  - 1. Hey Christian parents, make time for your kids.
    - a. Looking back to my childhood...the only things that really mattered was the time spent with the people that I loved.
    - b. But, isn't it so easy to get tired out by work and come home exhausted and neglect your children's need for time with you?
    - c. Folks you can't plan Kodak moments, they just happen randomly with much time and experience.
  - 2. We need to get involved in some of our children's interests, so they will open up to us even more.

B. Now, in protecting them we need to know where they are at all times

1. We don't need to give them open ended tickets to go out with their friends.....

a. But ask them where they are going

- 1) And consider what will be happening there.
- 2) What will they be doing.
- 3) What temptations might be there.

C. We need to know who they are hanging with

1. Don't be afraid to set boundaries for their friends.

2. 1 Cor. 15:33 says that "...*bad company corrupts good morals*"

a. And which one of us is willing to stand by and watch our child be corrupted?

3. Even give them direction to keep away from certain kids if you have to

D. We also need to keep an eye on how their thinking is developing.

1. It's interesting to me that the parents of kid's who shot schools up, often time say that they had no clue their kid would do such a thing.

a. My question is why not?

2. We need to talk with our kids and help them to learn reasoning skills.

a. And help them figure out how to make it in this old world.

3. God has given our kids personal counselors....

a. If we will just show up for work !

E. In protecting them, don't be afraid to do room checks.

1. This business of kid's having their own space is a bunch of junk.

2. We are the parents and we have not only the right...but the obligation to check in on our kids while they live under our roofs.

D. And it is ok to say No !

1. They might be grumpy about it for a while.

2. But latter they will love you for it.

E. Ultimately so that their lives may be long. Proverbs 4:10 says "*Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many.*"

F. God expects us to protect our children.

### III. Then we must train our children

A. Proverbs 22:6 says *“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

1. What does it mean to *“train”*

a. When I think about a train I think of a gear train...three or more gears working in unison are called a gear train



b. I think of how these gears have to line up with each other and all the pieces have to fall in place for the desired outcome.

c. Training a child is much the same

2. We teach, instruct and show them the way so their pieces of their lives will fit together and so they will get the desired results in their lives.

B. Let's spend a minute and talk about the most basic of training.

1. If I asked you what was the first thing you trained your child to do, what would it be?

a. Get baby familiar with sound of your voice ....to listen to us, right?

b. Now I remember as a new dad with Colton, I was busy counting toes and thinking about teaching him to fish and drive a car.

1) But Charity was simply whispering in his ear, singing little songs and spending a lot of time talking to him.

2) I thought it was just silly mom stuff, but let me tell you, you better not rush this one for sure.

2. Just think about how many children have got in trouble or even lost their lives because they didn't listen to their parents.

a. Parents you can't afford to let this one slip by....teach your children well about listening.

James 1:19 *“...But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;”*

C. Other real basics might include:

1. We train them to take care of their bodies.

a. As parents we help them learn how to eat

1) Hopefully we will help them be healthy

2) Teaching them to stay away from harmful foods

-Like things with lots of sugar in it

-Or at least learn moderation

b. We also teach them things not to put in their mouths.

1) Often times we see this as a simple thing, but latter in life when they are struggling with alcohol, tobacco or maybe even drugs, we see more importance in it.

c. And how to wipe their mouths after they eat....something we are still working on in our home today.

d. Thinking about the body we should also teach them about exercise so they don't think it is ok to sit around all day playing video games, so as to become slothful and lazy.

1) Hey God has some instruction for us about our bodies.

-1 Corinthians 6:19 *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own”*

2. Well we also train them how to talk

a. I heard a comedian on TV say we might want to wait until their 15 or so before we do this....but we can't wait that long. ☺

b. In the beginning simply how to put words together

c. But rather quickly it becomes about what to say and how to say it.

1) Church we must teach our children to talk like children of the king, because that is what they are.

-Ephesians 5:4 *“and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

2) God's expectations regarding speech are very high

-Colossians 4:6 *"Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."*

- d. Success for our children both in the physical and the spiritual sense includes good communication skills and we the parents are need to teach them how to do it.

3. As parents we train them to walk

- a. You can probably remember each of your children's first steps
- b. But here at this point I want us to think about their following steps.

1) What directions should they walk?

- Toward the hot fireplace?
- Toward mischief?
- Toward sin?

2) Without guidance kid's usually wonder into trouble.

4. Hopefully we won't forget to train them to be caring about those around them.

- a. Not to be stingy
- b. But to care about the interest of others.

Philippians 2:4 *"do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

- c. To learn to deny themselves.

Matthew 16:24 *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*

5. Obedience ....rules and boundaries

- a. When kids are little we just set the boundary and teach them to keep it.
- b. But when they get 3 or 4 years old they start saying.....why?....why?

1) Then comes our opportunity to begin training them about right and wrong, and how to differentiate between the two.

2) I wonder how this world would be different if parents excelled in this training.

6. Closely connected with rules and boundaries is training our children to respect authority.

- a. This seems to be killing our world today.
- b. Our kid's must learn to value those set over them.
- c. If we talk trash about those in authority over us our kids will learn the same.

7. Training also includes teaching our kids how to Learn

- a. Listening to others rises to the top again.
  - 1) Understanding everyone is valuable
- b. Consider possibilities.
  - 1) How to weigh them out
- c. Study and to research
- d. Grow continually
  - 1) Not plateau
  - 2) Life long process....always something new to learn.
- e. Perception
  - 1) Things may not always be as they seem

8. Training needs to include how to get along well with others

- a. How to deal with difficult people
- b. How to deal with unfair treatment ....
  - 1) And walking the second mile with someone
- c. Turning your cheek
- d. And being courteous and kindness
- e. And who to stay away from

9. Training includes how to get along in this world.

- a. How to work
  - 1) Work ethic
- b. How to be responsible citizens
- c. How to manage disappointment and trials

9. Training must include....God !

a. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

*6 " These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 " You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 " You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 " You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

b. It is not the churches responsibility to teach your children about God.

- 1) I'm not saying it is wrong for the church to have bible classes
- 2) But it is the parents responsibility to teach their children about God.

c. We need to train our children in the way of faith

- 1) 2 Corinthians 4:18 *"while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

C. While training includes all these things one of the most important things to note is that the greatest of training comes simply from the examples we set

1. The old adage "actions speak louder than words" is true.

Titus 2:7 "in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,"

2. We don't just teach them but we show them.....Set example

D. For a child to develop wholeness....we must remember that training is a package deal.

1. Each part of training is both necessary and important.

2. Can you imagine a mechanical engineer designing a tractor?

a. His experience has equipped him well

- 1) He understands force multipliers
- 2) He knows about gear ratios
- 3) He understands hydraulics
- 4) He knows about combustion engine principles.

b. So he builds and designs a wonderful tractor.



- 1) The tractor when done is started and driven less than 50' before it blows up with a cloud of smoke.
  - 2) The engineer had everything perfect...but someone didn't teach him anything about friction....
  - 3) One small detail doomed his efforts.
3. Each and every thing we teach our children is very...very important.

**Conclusion:**

Part of the Hebrew definition of training also includes....dedication

1. Have you dedicated your child to the Lord like Hannah did?
2. Or are you raising them aimlessly....to fill their own wants and desires.