

Parenting in the Lord

Part III

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:

Whatever you write
On the heart of a child,
No water can wash it away.

The sands may be shifted
When billows are wild
And the efforts of time may decay.

Some stories may perish,
Some songs be forgot,
But this engraved record,
Time changes it not.

Whatever you write In the heart of a child A story of gladness or care –
That heaven has blessed Or that earth has defiled, Will linger unchangeably there.

Who writes it has sealed it Forever and aye.
He must answer to God On that great judgment day.

-- Author Unknown

Transitional Statement:

Church, in the few short years that I have walked this old earth, I have watched the horrible degradation of our society. Almost a day doesn't pass that I look around and consider all the ungodliness that this world has plunged headlong into.

But let me tell you of the good news. Change is only a generation away. If we will care for, train and instruct our children properly this world will change and to the glory of God.

I. Parents must not withhold discipline from their children.

- A. If you want to enter the twilight zonejust Google “Spanking your child”
- B. There seems to be physiologist on every street corner with their vast knowledge telling people not to spank their children.

1. Dr Benjamin Spock, a well known pediatrician / author in the 1940's wrote a book on parenting where he encouraged more love and less discipline. By 1998, shortly before his death, he came out and said we should not spank our kids at all.
- C. My good friend growing up decided that he was not going to spank his children.
1. If you have seen the movie Star Wars...when they talk about the dark side, I think they are talking about my friends kids.
- D. Now, I am not going to give you my opinion but I want to share with you what God has to say on the matter.
1. Proverbs 13:24 *“He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”*
 - a. Here it says that if we hate our children we withhold the rod from them
 - b. But if we love them we discipline them diligently.
 2. Proverbs 23:13-14 *“Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. 14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.*
 3. Proverbs 22:15 *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”*
 4. Proverbs 29:15 *“The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”*
- E. I was wondering where God said *“hey these children are yours and you just raise them however you want to”*
1. God never says that !
 2. As a matter of fact He gives urgency to discipline
 - a. Proverbs 19:18 *“Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.”*
- F. We are to teach our children that there are consequences for their actions
- G. And help them learn the difference between right and wrong
1. What kind of worthless notion is it to let a child determine his own path?
- H. My good friend Ken Dobbs wrote in one of his notebooks that discipline is not an option it is a duty....that is right !
- I. But we must not be harsh !

1. Ephesians 6:4 *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*
2. Colossians 3:21 *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”*

J. We discipline our children out of love.

1. Hebrews 12:6 *“FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”*

K. According to a recent study, young men with high self-esteem shared some common childhood influences. There were three major characteristics of their families. (1) The high-esteem group was clearly more loved and appreciated at home than the low-esteem group. (2) The high-esteem group came from homes where parents had been significantly more strict in their approach to discipline. By contrast, the parents of the low-esteem group had created insecurity and dependence through their permissiveness. Their children were more likely to feel that the rules were not enforced because no one cared enough to get involved. (3) The homes of the high-esteem group were also characterized by democracy and openness. Once the boundaries were established, there was freedom for individual personalities to grow and develop. Thus, the overall atmosphere was marked by acceptance and emotional safety. July 1994,

-Dr. James Dobson's Focus of the Family Bulletin

II. Well we must listen to our children also.

A. When I was young I still remember hearing the expression of some adults...
“children should be seen and not heard”

1. I want to tell you that this makes me want to eat nails.
2. Jesus’ disciples were corrected for that type of thinking

- a. Matthew 19:13-14 *“Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, “ Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

B. God expects us to be there for our children

1. To help them answer their questions

- a. Exodus 12:26-27 *“ And when your children say to you, ‘ What does this rite mean to you?’ 27 you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.”*

b. Joshua 4:21-24 *“When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ 22 then you shall inform your children, saying, ‘Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 “For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”*

2. God expects us to listen to their hearts.
3. To put them on our knee like Jesus did and give them our attention.

III. We must learn from our children

A. Matthew 18:1-3 *“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, “ Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

1. Parents we need to be watching our children to see what we can learn from them.
 - a. In Luke 2:49 Jesus’ parents had gone off and left Him in Jerusalem and when they returned to get him, they questioned Him and He said *“Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?”*
 - b. I wonder if Jesus’ parents learned anything from that experience?
2. Many times a child’s perspective can be clear and uncluttered by the world.
 - a. Hence the expression *“Out of the mouth of babes”*

B. In Luke 18:17 Jesus says *“...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”*

IV. As parents we need to help our children figure out God’s will in their lives.

A. This is where a lot of folks think....how can I know what God’s will is much less help my children know.

1. To that we should ask.... why not?

B. Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

1. Knowing God's will is simply connected to a total transformation of mind that happens when we fully surrender and sacrifice our lives to Him.
 2. We must...must help our children to know this.
- C. If we don't help our children with this, they can end up wondering through this life aimlessly reading fortune cookies looking for direction in their lives.

V. As parents we must love our children and teach them how to love.

A. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a says: *4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

1. Are we doing all of these things for our children?
2. Are we teaching them to do these things for others.

B. Maybe the biggest question here lies in verse 8 that says:

1. "Love never fails"
2. Have we failed our kids?
 - a. I'm not talking about are there things we could have done better.
 - b. I am talking about flat out failure.

-And are we willing to admit it?

C. The greatest gift a parent can give their children is to show them love....because in showing them love ...you will be showing them God (1 John 4:8)

VI. Our parenting will effect generations to come

A. Read with me Psalms 78:4-7

*4 We will not conceal them from their children,
But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.
5 For He established a testimony in Jacob
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers
That they should teach them to their children,
6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born,
That they may arise and tell them to their children,
7 That they should put their confidence in God
And not forget the works of God,
But keep His commandments,*

B. Deuteronomy 4:9 also says:

9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons."

C. Parents we must know, that our influence will not end when our bones lie in the grave. The parenting that we do....or don't do will effect generations to come.

VII. And Finally Parents....heaven will hold us accountable

A. Matthew 18:10 Jesus says *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven."*

B. Matthew 18:6 Jesus says *"but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."*

C. These children are special gifts and like the parable of the talents in (Matt 25)God will hold us accountable for how we handle them.

Conclusion

In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul reminds Timothy not to neglect his spiritual gifts.

If you had to give an account for how you have handled your children today....would God be pleased?

There is an old African proverb that says "when the elephants fight it is the grass that suffers." I believe God will hold us accountable for the affect we have had on the little things that surround us.