

INTRODUCTION TO
"WHAT PARENTS NEED TO PRACTICE TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN UP
RIGHT"

I. WHERE MOST OF THE PROBLEMS LIE CONCERNING CHILDREN

- A. As bad as secular humanism is, with its evolution and atheistic teachings, it alone cannot be blamed for all the problems that children have.
- B. As important as a good fundamental Bible-preaching church is, it alone is not sufficient, even with a Christian School education to train children the way they ought to be brought up.
- C. Most of the problems that children have are directly related to the kind of home-life they have and the family structure in which they have been nurtured.

II. WHAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS

- A. The family unit has been broken down by social and economic changes and demands which have put both parents into the work force.
- B. Secondly the traditional values concerning marriage have deteriorated and have been replaced by the "try it and see if you like it concept." The divorce rate is presently running around fifty percent.
- C. Thirdly the permissive philosophy of rearing children has been substituted for the Biblical system of discipline in the training of children.
- D. Fourthly the views and propagations of the women's rights movement have brought about a change in the commitments of women to the family and child-rearing roles for that of careerism.
- E. Finally all of these things have brought about a change of parental roles in the family leaving little or no organization, order, or example for children to follow.

III. HOW SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED

- A. Some of these problems can be solved by committing

ourselves as parents to try to address and correct the present situation.

- B. Secondly, something can be done by getting back to some Biblical principles concerning parental roles and responsibilities.
- C. Thirdly, another thing which can be done is applying a Scriptural system of rules for child-rearing.
- D. Finally something can be done by making some sacrifices in some areas for the sake of your children.

**"WHAT PARENTS NEED TO
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#1

**I. PARENTS NEED TO TAKE THEIR PROPER ROLES
AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FAMILY.**

A. Some things this involves

1. This involves first of all the husband being the head of the family and having authority over the wife and the children (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23). This carries with it the responsibility of providing for the family both spiritually and physically.
2. Secondly, this involves the wife taking a position of submission to her husband, being his helpmeet, and rendering respect and obedience to him (Eph. 5:22, 24, 33; Col. 3:18; I Pet. 3:1).
3. Notice this principle of authority and submission is God's ordained plan and it has nothing to do with equality. It has to do with being assigned different areas of responsibility. This is the same principle upon which God the Father and Christ carried out their responsibilities. Although Christ is co-equal with the

Father He made Himself subject unto Him for the purpose of carrying out His assigned plan (Jn.14:28; 4:34).

4. Now notice there's another principle which is absolutely essential for a husband and wife to take their God-given roles and operate on the authority - submission principle and that is the principle of love. The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father (Jn.3:35). We see the same thing is true with the church - Christ is over the church and He loves the church (Eph. 5:25). The church is subject to Christ and expresses its love to Him through submission to Him (Eph.5:24). So must it be between the husband and the wife.
5. This involves a relationship which is an inner circle with the children on the outside. God ordained the marriage relationship to be a lifelong thing but the parent-child relationship is a temporary one (Matt. 19:6). God has commanded children to be respectful and obedient to both of their parents (Eph. 6:1, 2, 4). For this reason the home is not to revolve around what the children want to do and they should not be allowed to come into the inner circle at any time like an equal voting member would do in a democracy. What is done in a family should be determined by the husband in love for his wife and children, the wife should be subject and obedient to him out of love, and the children should be disciplined in love to do what they are told to do (Eph. 6:4). The parent who becomes a pal and allows his child to direct what the family does makes a grave mistake.

B. Some reasons why we should practice this

1. This kind of relationship should be practiced so children will grow up with the proper role models and be suited for a happy marriage relationship for themselves. What kind of role model a child has in the home is what he will become. God help the poor fellow who marries a girl who comes from a home where the mother is in authority. And God help the poor girl who gets a young man whose dad never was responsible in the home.
2. Practicing proper roles is also necessary for a family to God's blessings upon it. The authority-submission principle operating in love is God's ordained plan. Now the first evidence of a spirit controlled life is submission to the things of the Lord (Eph. 5:21). This means if a woman is not willing to submit herself to her husband's authority she is not willing to submit herself to God's plan and so she not only has a problem with her husband but with the Lord as well. On the other hand a husband who does not assume his God-given role in marriage is disobeying the Lord and in either of these cases God will not bless disobedience.

C. Some ways we can carry this out

1. Practicing proper roles can be carried out by realizing first of all that while men and women are spiritually equal (Gal. 3:28), they have been given different assignments by the Lord.
2. Secondly husbands should take their roles and responsibilities and assume their God-given authority to direct the affairs of their families and it should be done in love.
3. Thirdly wives should take a role of subjection to their husbands as it is fit in the Lord and allow their husbands to be the head in their family.
4. Finally children should be taught to obey their parents and to respect them and this involves a process of loving discipline.

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**II. PARENTS NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN A PROGRAM OF TRAINING
THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR HOME**

A. Some things this involves

1. This involves the acknowledgement and the establishment of each person's position.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the father as head of the home to see that his children receive the proper training that they need.
 - b. Then both the mother and father must assume the responsibility of being instructors to their children (Dt. 11:18-21; Prov. 1:8; 22:6). This is a two-parent job that one can not leave to the other.
 - c. The child should be viewed as a trainee in the home to be trained by the example and precepts of his parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)
2. This involves certain things in the secular realm.

- a. A child needs to be taught certain skills and habits that will help him through life from tying his shoe laces to brushing his teeth.
 - b. A child needs to be taught some personal responsibility and to do things for himself.
 - c. A child needs instruction which is commensurate with his age as he enters the different stages of development in his life.
 - d. Notice because of negligence in these areas many young women today don't know the first thing about cooking or sewing and some young men can't perform the simplest repairs around the house.
3. This involves certain things in the spiritual realm.
- a. In this area the father is to take the role of leadership and see that his children are brought up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6 : 4). This is not something which should be left for the wife to do.
 - b. Secondly the father should lead the family in setting a godly example for them. This includes taking his family to church, family devotions, and showing them how a Christian ought to be different from others in the world. It's not enough to provide a home, food, and clothing for children.
 - c. Thirdly children need to be instructed in their need of salvation and after they are saved they should be taught by example and precept how to serve the Lord.

B. Some reasons why we should practice this

- 1. We should do these things first of all to help our children grow up and develop into mature, responsible individuals and have some things to help them through life.
- 2. Secondly it's a responsibility that God has given to parents and it cannot be left to the pastor, the Sunday School teacher, or the baby-sitter.
- 3. Thirdly we ought to train our children so that they will grow up and continue to serve the Lord.
- 4. Finally we need to train our children so they will become a blessing to us later on in life rather than a burden (Prov. 23:24-26; 29:15).

RULES FOR RAISING DELINQUENT CHILDREN

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. He will then grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. He will think he is cute. It will encourage him to think up "cuter" words and phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. When he is 21 let him decide for himself what he wants to be. (Don't be surprised if he decides to do nothing.)
4. Avoid the word "wrong." It might develop a guilt complex. A few years later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, he will feel that society is against him and that he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up after him. This means wet towels, books, shoes and clothing. Do everything for him. He will then become experienced in evading responsibility and incapable of finishing any task.
6. Let him see everything, hear everything and read everything smutty he can get his hands on. Make sure the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized but let his mind feed on garbage.
7. If you have a serious conflict in opinion with your spouse, fight it out in front of the children. It's good for youngsters to view their parents as human beings who express themselves freely and openly. Later, if you get divorced, they'll know what caused it.
8. Give your children all the spending money they want. After all, one of the reasons you have worked so hard all your life is to make life easier for your children. Why should they have it as rough as you did?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that his every desire is satisfied. Denial might lead to harmful frustration.
10. Take your child's part against neighbors, teachers and friends. This will prepare you to take his part against the police.
11. When he gets into serious trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I can't understand why he turned out like this. We gave him EVERYTHING."
12. Prepare for a life of grief, You are apt to have it.
(Unknown source).

C. Some ways we can carry this out

1. Spend some time with your children not just money on them.
2. Take the time to teach them the things you have been taught or had to learn the hard way.
3. Establish a regular practice of family devotions in your home with the father taking the lead and allowing the children to take part.
4. Make every experience a learning experience and use it as an opportunity to instruct your children in some precept or principle.
5. Above all set an example of faithfulness in the Lord's service.

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III. PARENTS NEED TO SET CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO TRAIN THEM.

A. Some of the things this involves

1. There should be a rule set regarding faithfulness in church attendance (Heb. 10:25).
2. There should be some rules set concerning who your children can have as friends (Psa. 1:1; I Cor. 15:33).

3. There should be some rules set concerning the places where your children are permitted to go (Prov. 1:15; I Thess. 5:22).
4. There should be some rules and regulations set regarding when your child is to get up, when he is to go to bed, and when he is to be home (Dt. 6:7).
5. There should be some rules set regarding leisure time. Household duties and studies should be done before recreational activities are permitted.
6. There needs to be rules set regarding respect for the parents in the home (Eph. 6:2).
7. There needs to be some rules set regarding what your children do with whatever money they are given.
8. There needs to be rules set regarding who your child is permitted to date (II Cor. 6:14).

B. Some reasons why we should practice this

1. First of all training requires it. Without certain rules and regulations there can be no training because there is no standard for conduct.
2. Secondly, children need to know what is required of them so they will not be provoked to anger or confused when they are disciplined for infractions.
3. Thirdly rules and regulations are necessary in order for a child to be disciplined for disobedience or praised for obedience. Proper training must instill these two principles.

C. Some ways we can carry this out

1. Parents must first of all be consistent concerning the rules they have set. To discipline one time for an infraction and not to discipline another time for the same infraction teaches a child he can sometimes do wrong and get by.

2. Secondly parents need to understand that their children have a sin nature and that they will do wrong and disobey the rules. When this happens the child should be reprovved and disciplined. Someone has said "Before you put the paddle on the bottom, you should put the principle in the top." This involves" a process of sitting down with the child and asking questions like: What did you do? Haven't I told you not to do that? Do you understand why that was wrong to do? Do you think you deserve to be disciplined?

3. Thirdly and perhaps most important is the positive side of things. Oftentimes parents apply only discipline in the training of their children. All the child ever gets is a spanking or a sermon. But there are some other things that must be involved in child-training.

a. Parents need to praise or commend their children when they do right and reward them for their obedience.

b. Parents need to show affection toward their children and tell them often that they love them. This is especially true during a time for discipline.

c. Parents need to encourage their children real often especially during times of failure or dejection.

4. If a child is praised and shown affection for doing right, disciplined for doing wrong, and encouraged when he has not attained something, he will grow up loving and respecting his parents and trying to please them and make them proud of him.

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IV. PARENTS NEED TO DISCIPLINE THEIR CHILDREN IN A BIBLICAL AND PROPER MANNER

A. Some of the things this involves.

1. This involves first of all fulfilling a God-given responsibility (Prov. 22:6; 13:24; 23:13,14).
2. This involves choosing God's way over man's ways or our own personal feelings (Prov. 1:28-31).
 - a. Some parents are influenced by the humanistic philosophy that children are basically good and if left to themselves will grow up into happy, well-balanced and well-adjusted individuals. Discipline is looked upon as a hindrance to this process. But note what God says in Prov. 19:18; 22:15.
 - b. Some other parents have a misunderstanding of the meaning of love and say "I love my child so much I can't bear to spank him." But real love chooses the best for others and oftentimes it demands discipline to correct something in a child's life which would keep him from what is best for him. Notice God says love and lack of discipline do not go together (Prov. 13:24).
3. This involves parents taking the time which is necessary when it is necessary in order to train their children (Dt. 6:7).
 - a. Often parents are lax and say "I don't have the time to spank my child like it should be done." But just like a farmer must put in the work to gather his fruits, so must parents put in the time to discipline their children if they expect to see righteous fruits in their lives...
 - b. Parents should look upon the need for discipline as an issue which love cannot compromise. And the question is really one of love: Do we love our children enough to take the time to correct them properly?
4. This involves avoiding two extremes
 - a. Oftentimes parents are sinfully permissive with their children and allow them to do wrong and get by without any real discipline. This ought to be viewed as a form of child abuse because it will result in great harm to the child later on in life.

- b. On the other hand parents oftentimes discipline in an improper manner or go to the other extreme and inflict physical harm on their children. It should be seen that many times child abuse comes about as a result of having no proper method of discipline established in the home. So what happens oftentimes is done in an angry response and out of frustration to disobedience.
- 5. This involves several specific areas in the process of discipline
 - a. Firstly, children should be disciplined for willful disobedience. In doing this a parent needs to clearly discern the difference between what a child is not able to do and what a child will not do.
 - b. Secondly children should be taught to obey their parents promptly. Parents should view delayed obedience as disobedience.
 - c. Thirdly obedience should be carried out completely. It is still disobedience to obey in part. King Saul presents a striking illustration of how God views this kind of obedience (I Sam. 15).
 - d. Fourthly obedience should be unquestioned. It shouldn't be based upon whether something is reasonable or unreasonable to a child.
 - e. Finally children should be taught to obey their parents with the right heart attitude. It is not proper obedience for a child even to do what he is told to do if he does it with a complaining, grumbling, or sassy attitude. Obedience with a right attitude is set forth as God's requirement in Dt. 28:45-47.
 - f. Now to summarize - obedience is doing exactly what we're told to do, when we're told to do it, and doing it completely with the right heart attitude. When any of these things are lacking it should be viewed as willful disobedience and it calls for discipline.
- B. Some reasons why we should practice this.
 - 1. Parents should discipline their children first of all because it is God's prescribed method of dealing with disobedience and it will bring the desired results if it is followed (Prov. 29:15, 17).
 - 2. Parents ought to discipline their children because love demands it (Prov. 13:24).
 - 3. Thirdly parents need to see that lack of discipline usually leads to more serious problems later on in a

child's life. Notice a statement released some years ago by the Minnesota Crime Commission:

"Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it: his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toy, his uncle's watch. Deny him these and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous if he were not so helpless. He is dirty. He has no morals, no knowledge, no skills. This means that all children - not just certain children- are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in the self-centered world of his infancy, given free reign to his impulsive actions to satisfy his wants, every child would grow up a criminal, a thief, a killer, a rapist."

C. Some ways we can carry this out

1. Parents need to use the right instrument when spanking a child for disobedience. The "rod" in Prov. 13:24, 22:15; 23:13,14, 29:15 means a flexible branch or twig or what we would call a switch. Parents should not use their hands as instruments for discipline. The rod is a neutral object which should become identified with discipline. The hands should be identified with expressing affection or loving service.
2. Parents should spank their children promptly when they are guilty of willful disobedience. They should never defer discipline until daddy comes home or sometime later. Notice if the rod is the first response and not the last resort children will learn immediate obedience. Parents oftentimes fall into the trap of repeated warnings and no action. This usually leads to the parents reaching the point of anger or frustration and sometimes striking the child in an improper manner. Children will always press things to the limit and they quickly learn where the line of response is. What parents need to do is to make the line of response to follow right after an act of willful disobedience
3. Parents should find a private place when disciplining their children. Embarrassment should not be a part of the process.
4. Parents should make sure their children understand the reason for being spanked. They should realize that discipline is not an attack upon them but correction for their wrong-doing.
5. Parents need to spank their children in the proper place. A child's bottom is the safe and proper place.
6. Parents need to have a period of reconciliation with their children after they are spanked. During this time they should be reassured of love for them.

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V. PARENTS NEED TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN DEVELOP POSITIVE AND PROPER ATTITUDES

A. Some of the things this involves

1. This involves first of all keeping controversial issues between the parents and avoiding arguments in front of the children.

In a recent survey it was reported that 40% of the parents polled were guilty of arguing in front of their children. In the same survey it said that most family arguments occur over how to discipline their children.

2. Secondly this involves showing respect for others especially those in authority and not criticizing or running them down in front of your children. Incidentally the same practice should be the rule when the children are not present (I Thess. 5:12, 13).

Many times families go home from church and have "roast preacher" for dinner. They chew on something in the sermon that was said or the manner in which the pastor did a certain thing. Don't be surprised if your children grow up and have no interest in church or the things of the Lord if criticism of others is a regular practice in your home.

3. Thirdly this involves application of a certain principle. Negative talk produces negative attitudes; positive talk produces positive attitudes. And the kind of attitude we have about someone or something determines how we are going to act toward them. I have seen cases where parents have run down the pastor in front of their children and they imagine it is all

hidden but it soon comes out in how the children act toward the pastor.

4. This development involves establishing a rule of no gossip in the home (Prov. 17:9; 18:8; Psa. 15:3; 19:4). The thing about gossip is that it usually involves conversation that hurts someone else rather than helps them. We are exhorted to say things that edify or build others up (Eph. 4:28).

5. This process involves reflecting upon and rehearsing God's blessings before your children on a regular daily basis (Psa. 68:19; 103:2). Some people are always complaining and griping about what they don't have instead of thanking God for what they do have.

6. This development involves showing concern for the needs and the burdens of others and involving your children in prayer for them and in ways to help them (Phil. 2:4).

7. Finally this development involves responding to trials and adverse circumstances in ways which will teach your children to rely upon the Lord and seek Him for the strength they need to sustain them (Psa. 34:19).

When adversity comes, make it a matter of family prayer. Look for possible blessings in it and make the best of bad situations by claiming God's promises and keeping in mind that God is working all things together for our good even though we may not understand it at the time (Rom. 8:28).

B. Some reasons why we should practice this

1. This is necessary for a child to grow up and act in a God-honoring way. Parents should be far more concerned about the kind of attitude their children display than most of them are. Attitudes produce actions.
2. Secondly parents should try to instill positive and proper attitudes so their children will have a greater potential for serving the Lord and being a blessing to others.
3. Thirdly this is a must for children to enjoy life for themselves and make it enjoyable for others.

C. Some ways we can carry this out

1. First we can reflect upon God's blessing at meal times and other times when we are together as a family.
2. Secondly we can have family discussions and in them discuss positive things to produce positive actions.
3. Next we can share the needs of others during devotional times and not only pray for them but develop some plans to help them.
4. Finally we can show respect for others by speaking well of them rather than criticizing them before our children.