

POWERFUL PARENTING PRINCIPLES FROM PROVERBS

How Godly Parents Raise Their Children

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Why the Proverbs for Parenting (1:2, 5)?
- B. There Are Happy Blessings of Parenting (20:7; 23:24-26; 31:28).
- C. Children Show What Kind of Parents They Have (20:11).
- D. The Responsibilities of Parenting.
 - 1. Raising children is not the responsibility of the church (about 1% influence), the schools (about 7% percent influence; humanism, secularism, etc.), or the government.
 - 2. Parents (about 92% influence) are given that responsibility and they do not need to neglect it.
 - 3. Parents can cause trouble in the home (11:29) and tear it down (14:1) if they are not careful.
 - 4. Let's consider five principles of godly parenting from the book of Proverbs.

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF INSTRUCTION.

- A. Parents Are to Teach Their Children God's Way (the Right Way).
- B. Proverbs 1:8-9; 4:1-4; 6:20-23; 13:1; 31:26.
 - 1. What are you teaching? Proper spiritual values? The main goal: Know Him (God) and make Him known.
 - 2. Do you take time for teaching?
 - 3. Is someone or something else teaching your children?
 - 4. Do both parents do the teaching?
 - 5. Are you building your house on God's word (24:3-4)?
- C. Suggestions.
 - 1. Speak Biblical principles to your children outside of the church assembly (more than just what the preacher says or the Bible class teacher). Talk about the sermon or Bible class after service is over.
 - 2. Daily Bible reading together.
 - 3. Make sure their Bible class lessons are prepared.

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF CORRECTION.

- A. Parents Are to Warn (Reprove, Rebuke) Their Children of the Wrong Way.
- B. Proverbs 3:11-12; 12:1; 15:5, 10; 19:18.
 - 1. Children can be foolish (10:1; 17:25; 19:13).
 - 2. Children can be lazy (10:5).
 - 3. Children be scoffers who ignore rebuke (13:1).

4. Children can despise and mock their parents (15:20; 23:22; note the eye (look) that mocks in 30:17).
5. Children can be violent toward their parents (19:26).
6. Children can curse their parents (20:20; 30:11).
7. Children can shame their parents (28:7).
8. Children can rob from their parents (28:24).

C. Suggestions.

1. Know what will hurt your child, not just physically, but also morally (31:1-9).
2. Be willing to say “No” and mean it!
3. Use your child’s mistakes to teach lessons.
4. “Preach” outside the pulpit. Point out the mistakes/faults in others around you as lessons. Point out what is wrong with our culture and society (news stories, social media, etc.).

IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF DISCIPLINE.

A. Parents Are to Discipline (Punish) Their Children.

B. Prov.13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17.

1. Discipline is the consequence of not heeding instruction and correction.
2. There is no love without discipline and there is no discipline without love (13:24).
3. Discipline is not an excuse for brutality or physical abuse.
4. Discipline is physical, corporal punishment, not just saying words: “No, no...” It is not giving a child “time out”.
5. Discipline needs to be carried out even if you were not disciplined by your parents.
6. Discipline will vary depending upon the disposition of the child. Each child is different.
7. Discipline that is abused in society should not deter us from doing it properly. “Don’t let a few bad apples spoil the bunch.”

C. Suggestions.

1. Start early.
2. Don’t get side-tracked by their “cute” conduct.
3. Don’t accept worldly mottos: “Terrible twos” or “Boys will be boys”, etc.
4. Perform the discipline as close to the infraction as possible; don’t wait.
5. Spanking.
 - a) Use a private setting when possible.
 - b) Remind the child of why he/she is getting a spanking (29:15).
 - c) Be firm. Make it hurt enough to be a deterrent (stay in control, no abuse, no bruising, lacerations, welts, broken bones).
 - d) Use an instrument (rod). Let the “rod” contact the skin, not the outside of the clothes.
 - e) Make the punishment match the infraction: mouth, legs, bottom, or hand.
 - f) When to spank? Deliberate disobedience vs. an honest mistake or accident. Serious infractions (lie, steal, bad words, hit) vs. trivial behavior.

V. THE PRINCIPLE OF TRAINING.

A. Parents Are to Guide Their Children to Go the Right Way.

B. Proverbs 22:6.

1. "Train up" = grow or shape in a particular direction.
2. "A child = don't wait too late (20:11).
3. "In the way he should go" = according to God's word.
4. "When he is old..." = proper adult behavior is formed early in life.
5. Training from youth (immature, foolish) to adulthood (mature, wise).
6. Training from sinner to saint (Christian).
7. Are you raising a wise child or a fool?
8. Are you raising a respectful child (31:28)?
9. Are you raising a wise, law-abiding child (28:7)?

VI. THE PRINCIPLE OF HERITAGE.

A. Parents (Grandparents) Are to Continue Leaving a Lasting Heritage or Legacy for Their Children.

B. Proverbs 13:22; 17:6.

1. Parents, pass on your values to your grandchildren. Wisdom from parents does not end when the last child leaves home.
2. Stay faithful to God in your old age so that you can continue to be a positive influence in the lives of your children/grandchildren.
3. Children/grandchildren who are unfaithful will need their grandparents' influence.

C. Suggestions.

1. Raise your grandchildren just like you did your children. Show your grandkids love without changing the rules. Illus. I buy my grandson toys, but he's still not allowed to throw a ball in the house, just like his mother was not allowed to throw a ball in the house.
2. Continue to give advice to your adult children in your old age without over-stepping your bounds (31:1-9).

VII. CONCLUSION: WHAT KIND OF PARENT ARE YOU? LET'S PRACTICE THESE WISE PRINCIPLES SO THAT WE CAN HAVE FAMILIES PLEASING TO GOD.

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