

Questions Parents Ask About Rearing Children, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

II. Evaluating the American family.

A. The condition of the family is bleak.

B. Children are harmed when their parents are in open conflict.

III. Parents should not feel guilt if their children rebel.

IV. Christian parents are especially guilty of not letting go of their children.

A. Our tendency is to hold too tight.

B. Parents need to free children when they become adults.

C. Some adolescent rebellion is healthy because it is the process of becoming an adult.

D. The healthy home gives a child some freedom but also responsibility.

E. Parents need guidelines to know where to bring in the ship.

V. A woman should take spiritual leadership if the husband is not. There is a critical period in which children need to learn spiritual values.

VI. Toddlers must be disciplined carefully.

A. They cannot be expected to act like adults.

B. Love and responsibility must be communicated.

VII. Parenthood is a guilt-saturated affair.

VIII. Physical punishment should be delayed until at least fifteen months.

IX. Spanking should stop into teenage years.

X. Rebellion is natural—it is part of children accepting views as their own.

XI. Teach children by your own manners. If this does not work, use discipline.

XII. The best test about whether a parent has control is whether the person can keep their child on a chair for discipline.

Applications questions:

1. Which principle for discipline do you find to be most valuable for child-rearing?

2. Why do Christian parents have more difficulty letting their children go? Explain.

3. Why should rebellion of some sort be expected? Explain.
