

Children

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I. Introduction.

- A. Most parents underrate their ability to be parents.
- B. The Scripture only seems to cover two areas concerning parenting.
- C. Prayer for parenting.

II. Commands in Scripture.

- A. Teaching children. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
- B. Command children. (Genesis 18:19)
- C. Train children (Proverbs 22:6)
 - 1. There seems to be somewhat of a promise in Proverbs 22:6 that if we train them that the commands of the Lord will always be with them.
 - 2. This does not always turn out how we want it though.
- D. Chastening children early. Some modern psychologists disagree with this. (Proverbs 13:24)
- E. Scripture is heavy on the idea of corporal punishment (Proverbs 17:25; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15)
 - 1. One of the most significant verses is Proverbs 23:13-14.
 - 2. There seems to be a connection between memory and the seat of the pants.
 - 3. Disciplining a child is preparing a child to become a Christian; the child that will never submit his or her will to you will never submit his or her will to Christ.

III. Some severe examples in the Old Testament.

- A. The burning of a daughter who disobeyed the law. (Leviticus 21:9)
- B. The stoning of a son. (Leviticus 21:18-19)
- C. The responsibility of the father. (I Samuel 3:13)

IV. Some examples in the New Testament.

- A. There are few example in the Old Testament about normal family life - for example, polygamy, etc.

B. In the New Testament we find discipline tempered with mercy. (Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21)

V. A prayer from Ann Landers.

VI. A hint: if we regard our children as that which can be personal adornment, then anything they do that does not reflect personal credit to us, we can take it out on them. They will end up maladjusted. We need to develop them into the person God wants them to be.

VII. Questions.

A. Question: were you working toward objectives with your children? Answer: yes, we tried, but every parent is different. They surrounded their children by prayer. The main focus was belief in Christ.

1. Those who are parents are much more realistic. For example, your children are not equal in a practical sense until they are older. To be a success you should do what is natural to you and sensible.

2. There is flexibility in Scripture, but some of the main principles are teaching and discipline.

B. Question: are there things to determine your children's aptitudes? Answer: yes, but it is difficult because most today have a lack of clarity concerning goals.

C. Question: is it good to spank the children until they almost are crying as it seems to teach in Proverbs? Answer: any kind of punishment should be impersonal and the punishment should be done to see that the child understands. Therefore, the speaker would not go along that idea. Have a predetermined number of strikes.

D. Question: what age would you say the spanking is eliminated. Answer: this would vary with the advancement of communication.

E. Question: one verse says that you should not continue in discipline to the point of discouragement. How do you know when to stop? Answer: remember that they are children and not adults and that their concept of time is far different than ours. We need to keep in mind differences of opinion here and appreciate them.

Application questions.

1. What observations are made about discipline in the Old and New Testaments by the speaker?

2. How did you feel about the charge that we need to physically discipline our children? Why is this so unpopular in our culture? Where do you stand? How should the biblical command be interpreted rightly so that it is faithful to the text and God's principles for all time?

3. How do you plan to discipline your children if you have them? If you do not have them, how will you discipline them if you plan to have children in the future? Develop a plan to make yourself accountable to a consistent method of discipline.
