

RAISING YOUNG CHILDREN

From Andre in Madagascar

This is the summary of what I am teaching for parents of young children

- **The Value of the children: They are so precious to us and to God.**

The parents must know the value of the young children:

- They are heritage and reward from the Lord; they will shut the mouth of our enemies, so we must take care of them.

Psalm 127:3-5 Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; *And* the fruit of the womb is *his* reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: They shall not be put to shame, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

- They are a source of joy for us parents.

Pro 10:1 ASV

A wise son maketh a glad father; But a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

- We, the parents are judged by the children. The childhood prepares the future of the children; therefore we must well pay attention to it. Prov. 22:6.

"The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." (Mat 11:19 NKJV)

- **The most important for raising children is to teach them obedience. that is the key.**

Many people said that the loss of a child (died) was the most terrible thing in life. Right! after while , you may forget it by God's grace. However, a disobedient or foolish son will torment the parent day and night and break their hearts. So we need to pay more attention since the child is at younger age.

No one can be wise without being saved. Therefore we need to preach to the children the Gospel at very young age and it needs repeating many times in different ways until they are old enough (12 or 13) to understand. The children are rebellious if they are not saved because they have different spirit.

God's Word says children are to obey and respect their parents in Ephesians 6:1-3 so that they can be blessed. If they don't, the worse thing will happen in their lives later on according to in Proverb 20:20.

How can they obey and respect the parents?

- The children imitate a lot the adults who live with them. Therefore, we parents must obey and follow the rules we set at home, especially God's rules for the children to be seen.
- In addition, we taught them and explain that if they don't obey certain rule they will get one spank with the rod. If they recognize their faults and ask us to forgive them, we are not allowed to spank them.
- We need to restore the relationships by saying that we love them (caressing), but they must be spanked to get ride

from that bad behavior. We are against the punishment asking them to go to their rooms and stay there alone. That will hurt the child and make him discouraged. That will tell him also that his room can be sometimes a prison. They need comfort and love after punishment.

- Pray for each child by name in the morning. Have a special time with each child treat him unique. Tell him, I love you the most. I did it to each of my children, and each one of them thought that way. One day 5 years ago, while I was telling that to one child another one heard me, and said. I thought I was the one you loved the most. All 4 of them caught me. I told them I love all of the most; no one is less or more. They are happy. One day I asked them to be sure whom I loved the most. They all answered all of us. I didn't love more one child than other, because that is very dangerous. Like Jacob and his first 10 sons.

We need to pour out our love to all of our children because is the biggest key for them to obey us. People always obey those who love them - like Joseph, the sons of Jacob obeyed him even taken far away from him, because he was beloved at home. Love the children more than the car, more than fishing, etc.

If we have failed, we shouldn't get discouraged but accepted the failure and repent. Then start all over again with the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember God can restore the years that the locust has eaten. Joel 2:25. Don't lose heart. Nothing is impossible with God. What should you do? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to work on your child, then you come and gently talk with him where he or you have gone astray.

To raise a child is to raise 3 persons: raise his mind and intelligence, raise his body and raise his soul. If one of this person is not well educated, that will affect the whole body of the child and he/she won't be the person that God wants him to be.

When we visit a new born baby, we look at him and say: he got the nose of his father, the lips of his mother, etc. no one ever said," he looks like a pastor, he looks like a doctor, or he looks like a robber or she looks like a prostitute" etc... The environment where the child lives is so important in influencing the education of our children.

THE PARENTS ALSO MUST BE HEALED FROM THEIR WOUNDS TAKEN FROM THEIR PARENTS IN ORDER TO RAISE GODLY CHILDREN.

The way we were raised impacted a lot the way we are raising our children. There are 5 kinds of parents who and we need to check ourselves from these categories of parents.

These parents love their children but they didn't know the right way to raise them.

- DOMINATING PARENTS ==> depressed children. They like to run away from home.
- PERMISSIVE PARENTS ==> discouraged children. They are more attracted by bad friends.
- NEGLIGENT PARENTS ==> children who don't have personality
- LOVING AND FIRM PARENTS ==> joyful and obedient parents
- QUERELLING PARENTS (fighting parents in front of their children) ==> depressed children.

So we need to change the ways we were raised

Ideas from Doug and Doris Reed

- **Things we did right:**
 - Spoke verbally of God as our Heavenly Father who is involved in every aspect of our lives, who cares about us as individuals, who wants to have a relationship with us, who can help us with things as insignificant as finding a shoe needed for a choir concert – currently can have significant spiritual conversations with 3 of our 5 children
 - Worked on our kids having good relationships with each other
 - did not allow any physical fighting or physical “teasing” (had friends who would allow their kids to give each other a “teasing” kick in the rear or punch in the arm and I observed that this practice was hurtful to the person receiving it and it often escalated into more unkindness and conflict)
 - talked consistently about Ephesians 4:29 (look this up and study it) – only speech that would build each other up, no teasing or sarcasm – “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will wound my spirit” was my observation
 - Big one – the difference between “I’m sorry” and “Will you forgive me?”
 - “I’m sorry” is when something accidentally happens
 - “Will you forgive me?” must be said when some intentional misdeed occurs; the asking of forgiveness must be done with a true attitude of repentance which often requires the offender to sit until they can state their offense and ask forgiveness in the proper spirit and they should not be allowed to go on about their day until this happens (if it is revealed that this offense was a result of an offense to them, then mom or dad will have to get the other party into the same process and probably help mediate)
 - My biggest help about raising babies –during daytime breastfeeding always plan on rousing the baby back to full awakesness after a nursing session so that they can “play” on a full stomach and then nap; if they fall asleep while nursing and you let them nap first then they will have a shorter playtime before they want to be fed again so you will end up nursing more often with babies and younger children, a general schedule of the day helped me be more productive and them be less frustrated because they knew what to expect when
 - Family identity – find activities that build family identity and cohesiveness, we made annual vacation a priority (and we camped a lot at first so we could afford it; friends come and go but family is there for the long haul (and I think this is something that has helped pull our troubled daughter through – this support system of brothers and sisters)
 - Thankfulness – train your kids to say “thank you” to mom for their meals – it’s helps mom SO MUCH to be appreciated for her mundane repetitions in life – my husband was good about saying this phrase to the children for several years when he left for work, “Be a blessing to your mother” and I appreciated that
 - At age 13, though you might want to do it at 12, we took each of our children on a special weekend away to go through the Passport2Purity material designed by Dennis and Barbara Rainey of Family Life Ministries. At the end of this study, you ask your child for a commitment to abstinence.
 - favorite resources – the peacemaker chart, the brother offended chart, growing kids God’s Way material, the house rules, Annie book, Keepers at Home, etc.
 - **Things we have not been successful in:**
- (Pronouns are changed to protect my child)
- Allowed our troubled child too much time with “fools” – Proverbs verse?
- we did not enforce our values because we allowed him/her to have too much time in other homes that were not on the same page (don’t assume Christian people have your values)

- we gave into his/her whining and manipulative ways because we grew weary of the battle of his/her dissatisfaction with us
- He/she took on other values SO we would greatly encourage you to have children over to **your** home only so you can monitor the situation
- do you trust your child to do the right thing behind closed bedroom doors (you can make a rule early on to require that doors be open at all times – sin seldom operates in the open, in the light)
- computer media sites - don't allow computers in the bedroom and have a good filter to filter out the porn – so much garbage out there for our boys' eyes and appetites (and girls)
- if we had it to do over again we would probably not allow “overnights” – the amount of “time” during overnights often breeds foolish behavior plus gets kids behind in their sleep which can affect them for a couple of days

We did not have consistent dates with each child and cannot say that we knew each ones love language

Big challenge with modern life is keeping children busy and productive i.e. combatting the time spent on video games, time on social media and the internet.

I (mom) have been a poor trainer when it comes to assigned chores, regular cleaning, requiring help in the kitchen or with laundry, teaching cooking skills – so that is an area your listeners might want to think through

SCOLDING IS NEVER IN ORDER

Many a father who will not strike his child feels free to scold him And a scolding mother is not always deemed the severest and most unjust of mothers Yet while it is sometimes right to strike a child it is at no time right to scold one Scolding is in

fact never in order in dealing with a child or in any other duty in life To scold is to assail or revile with boisterous speech The word itself seems to have a primary meaning akin to that of barking or howling From its earliest use the term scolding has borne a bad reputation In common law a common scold is a public nuisance against which the civil authority may be invoked by the disturbed neighborhood This is a fact at the present time as it was a fact in the days of old And it is true today as it was when spoken by John Skelton four centuries ago that

“A sclauderous tunge a tunge of a skolde Worketh more mischiefe than can be tolde”

Scolding is always an expression of a bad spirit and of a loss of temper This is as truly the case when a lovely mother scolds her child for breaking his playthings willfully or for soiling his third dress in one forenoon by playing in the gutter which he was forbidden to approach as when one apple woman yells out her abuse of another apple woman in a street corner quarrel In either case the essence of the scolding is in the multiplication of hot words in expression of strong feelings that while eminently natural ought to be held in better control The words themselves may be very different in the two cases but the spirit and method are much alike in both It is scolding in the one case as in the other and scolding is never in order If a child has done wrong a child needs talking to but no parent ought to talk to a child while that parent is unable to talk in a natural tone of voice and with carefully measured words If the parent is tempted to speak rapidly or to multiply words without stopping to weigh them or to show an excited state of feeling the parent's first duty is to gain entire self-control Until that control is secured there is no use of the parent's trying to attempt any measure of child training The loss of self-control is for the time being an utter loss of power for the control of others This is as true in one sphere as in another Mr. Hammond's admirable work on Dog Training already referred to in these pages says on this very point to the dog trainer You must keep perfectly cool and must suffer no sign to escape of any anger or impatience for if you cannot control your temper you are not the one to train a dog Do not allow yourself says this instructor under any circumstances to speak to your pupil in anything but your ordinary tone of voice And recognizing the difficulties of the case he adds Exercise an unwearied patience and if at any time you find the strain upon your nerves growing a little tense leave him at once and wait until you are perfectly calm before resuming the lesson That is good counsel for him who would train a dog or a child for in either dog training or child training scolding loud and excited talking is never in order In giving commands or in giving censure to a child the fewer and the more calmly spoken words the better A child soon learns that scolding means less than quiet talking and he even comes to find a certain satisfaction in waiting silently until the scolder has blown off the surplus feeling which vents itself in this way There are times indeed when words may be multiplied to advantage in explaining to a child the nature and consequences of his offense and the reasons why he should do differently in the future but such words should always be spoken in gentleness

and in self-controlled earnestness Scolding rapidly spoken censure and protest in the exhibit of strong feeling is never in order as a means of training and directing a child Most parents even the gentler and kindlier parents scold their children more or less Rarely can a child say My parents never scold me Many a child is well trained in spite of his being scolded Many a parent is a good parent notwithstanding the fact that he scolds his children But no child is ever helped or benefited by any scolding that he receives and no parent ever helps or benefits his child by means of a scolding. Scolding is not always ruinous but it is always out of place If indeed scolding has any good effect at all that effect is on the scolder and not on the scolded Scolding is the outburst of strong feeling that struggles for the mastery under the pressure of some outside provocation It never benefits the one against whom it is directed nor yet those who are its outside observers however it may give physical relief to the one who indulges in it If therefore scolding is an unavoidable necessity on the part of any parent let that parent at once shut himself or herself up all alone in a room where the scolding can be indulged in without harming anyone But let it be remembered that as an element in child training scolding is never, never in order.

Hints on Child-training by [Henry Clay Trumbull](#) and J.D. Wattles, 1893

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- My Background
- Work on your marriage

(Ephesians 5:25)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

- Children vs. Sons and Daughters

Proverbs 23:13 – children

(Proverbs 23:13)

Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 27:22 – adults (sons and daughters)

(Proverbs 27:22)

Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, *Yet* his folly will not depart from him.

- Ideas from Galatians – Law vs. Grace

Galatians 3:23-26

Galatians 3:23-26 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. (24) Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. (25) But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:1-5

Galatians 4:1-5 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, (2) but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. (3) So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. (4) But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- Law vs. Grace continued

Proverbs 22:15

(Pro 22:15)

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14

(Proverbs 23:13-14)

Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod, And deliver his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 29:15

(Proverbs 29:15)

The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

- Scolding is never in order – Henry Trumbull, “Hints on Child Training”.

(James 1:20)

for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

- Some Other Ideas

- Transitions
- Personal stories – things I have learned along the way
- Questions??

- Resources – email me and I will send you the PPT.

John Mahon

- <http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?speakerWithinSource=&subsetCat=&subsetItem=&mediatype=&includekeywords=&exactverse=&keyword=gci&keyworddesc=gci&currsection=sermons&AudioOnly=false&SourceOnly=true&keywordwithin=teens&x=0&y=0>
- The next link has to do with the rod, these deal with younger children but I usually address when to not use the rod as well
- <http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?speakerWithinSource=&subsetCat=&subsetItem=&mediatype=&includekeywords=&exactverse=&keyword=gci&keyworddesc=gci&currsection=sermons&AudioOnly=false&SourceOnly=true&keywordwithin=rod&x=0&y=0>
- This last link is to the FDS workbook, you may find chapters and worksheets helpful
- <http://gciweb.org/2014/05/family-discipleship-workbooks/>
- Hints on Child Training
- http://books.google.com/books?id=WpZLAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
- Growing Kids God's Way
- <http://www.growingfamiliesusa.com/>