

# What Every Child Should Know

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Proverbs 1:9.

B. It is important that we rediscover the biblical meaning of the home.

C. The home is where the process of child rearing ought to happen. (Deuteronomy 6)

1. The parental process.
2. The responsibility of parents to teach.
3. The process of teaching.
4. The sign of authority.

## II. The responsibility of parents to teach.

A. Children ought to know two fundamental facts.

1. The fundamental wrong of human nature revealed by the law.
2. Love that gives attention to the child.

B. Child rearing is not an easy task—it is challenging to know when to apply confrontation or affirmation.

C. All that children need to know is two basic things—children need to know that they are accepted and that love comes from God as well.

D. It is wonderful to see trust develop in the feeling of a secure home. We treat our children with tenderness, not sarcasm.

E. Life is too big to handle by ourselves, and we never become too old to need the help of some source.

1. The parent is supposed to be the source of the home initially.
2. We are fallen creatures—we do not have the perfect response intended for man. Truth comes to us warped.
3. Guidance is needed all life long, even when children depart from the parents.
4. All knowledge must start in the home.
5. We want our children to understand how to handle failure and guilt.

III. Advice from the father in Proverbs.

- A. A father and mother's teaching makes one attractive to others.
- B. How to handle material wealth—one is to rely on more than human wisdom by trusting in the Lord because one can be easily deceived in the matter of material wealth.
- C. The heart is to be kept with all vigilance because the matters of life flow from it. One cannot control life around it, but he can control his reaction to it.
- D. The father's wisdom about life is what holds up the light.

**Application questions:**

1. What makes rearing children so difficult?

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2. How does having a two-point curriculum simplify raising a child? What curriculum does the speaker recommend?

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3. Was any aspect of child rearing mentioned by the speaker absent from your own childhood? What stood out from the message that you would use to train your own children? Explain.

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