

PARENTING WITH GOD'S WISDOM

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Contemporary English Version: “Teach your children right from wrong, and when they are grown they will still do right.”

I. HOW HARD CAN IT BE?

“Train up a CHILD”

- Adult vs. Child
- Big vs. Small
- Experienced vs. Lack of Experience

The younger the child, the more effective appropriate, physical discipline is!

Proverbs 22:15 “A youngster’s heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.”

Step #1: In the overwhelming majority of instances:

- *Intervening* and *stopping* the inappropriate behavior is *sufficient to correct* the child.
- Simply step in and *calmly* and *firmly* interrupt the behavior.
- No yelling, smacking, or demeaning language.

Children respond much more quickly to action than emotion.

“It is not the elevated emotion in the parent’s voice which brings compliance, but the child’s recognition that action is about to occur once a certain decibel level is reached.”

(“*The Strong Willed Child*” – Dr. James Dobson)

Step #2: (Usually NOT necessary)

- Are your kids *important* enough for you to *lovingly compel* them to behave?

Spanking – “rod of discipline”

Proverbs 13:24 “Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.”

This statement is either *true* or *not true*, and the *truthfulness* and *authenticity* of *everything* in the Bible rides on *how you answer* this question.

I can count on one hand the number of times that I had to spank any of my three children, because of recognizing the rule of action over emotion.

“When the three year old looks at you with defiance, you had better win that battle!”
(Dr. James Dobson)

How easy to firmly correct a young child in a loving, yet firm way.

God clearly says that *loving the child* more than *we love ourselves* is the struggle.

The real issue is between God and the parent.

II. AM I SHOWING THE WAY?

“the way that he should go,”

Life is revealed in Proverbs...

- A life lived by God’s will is a HAPPY life. (Proverbs 3:21-26)
- A life lived by God’s will is a USEFUL life. (Proverbs 3:27-28; 12:18, 25)
- A life lived by God’s will does not JUST HAPPEN...one must SEEK after it. (Proverbs 9:1-6)

A. “Should” simply in terms of God’s WILL or HOLY CHARACTER

- What pleases God!
- It’s God’s Universe!
- Right or Wrong / Fair or Unfair / Selfish and Unselfish

Parents must enforce the universe that the child inhabits.

Rewards and Consequences

Mimicking real life out in the big, bad world!

Proverbs 13:1 “A wise son (heareth) his father’s instruction; but a scorner heareth not rebuke.”

B. “Should” in terms of the CONSEQUENCES of SIN in life

Proverbs is full of those consequences.

Don’t forget YOURSELF!

- You must be what you want the child to be.

“The secret of homemade rule is self rule, first being ourselves what we want our children to be.”
(Andrew Murray)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, but be sure you go that way yourself.” (C.H. Spurgeon)

III. DO THEY HUNGER FOR GOD?

“Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

The Child

One might almost say that *everything* is *settled* by the time a boy or girl reaches fifteen or sixteen. Most of the *trials* and *temptations*, and most of the *opportunities* for development, *still lie ahead*, but the way in which the boy or girl *will meet* those temptations, and *rise* or *fail to rise* to those opportunities, is to a large extent *already decided*.

“It’s almost the easiest thing in the world to bring a child to faith in Jesus Christ!” (A.W. Tozer)