

## The Duty of Parents to the Lord for Their Children

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I doubt not that the Lord is in this brief message tonight. The message last Sunday was on the topic of avenging ourselves, self-defense, and subjection to those in authority. This segues right into the topic of child discipline. Can you see the connection? Maybe not. Here's how I see it:

If we will not apply to our little ones biblical discipline now, doubtless we will certainly feel the need to avenge ourselves later for the way that they behave themselves when they are older. As self-defense is a preemptive strike against the actions of others that would ever provoke in us retaliatory feelings, I think biblical discipline circumvents a lot of sufferings later in life for parents, and the retaliatory feelings which would follow. So, let the parents take their places as God's ordained authority over their children and instruct them as the Lord commands. By this the Lord will greatly bless the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters.

We have a number of young couples in this congregation and babies are being added to them. We have some parents now that are older. They have gone beyond the half-way mark for raising some of their children. It's takes diligence to keep a godly home. The responsibility of this falls squarely on the shoulders of the husband and father. He must make a decision about his house.

*Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

Next, that decision is to be supported by the wife and mother.

*Pr 1:8 My son, hear the **instruction** of thy father, and forsake not the **law** of thy mother:  
9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*

A husband and wife, a father and mother must be agreed to serve the Lord. This is one of the reasons that a believing man or woman should never join themselves to unbelievers. The two will never be in union about the things of God. Believers should be able to come into union with each other about how to order their homes and to raise children.

Now, if the Lord will, these two believers will begin to have children. Those children are the Lord's. He entrusts them to a parents care.

*Ps 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

This does not mean that these children will all be brought to faith in Jesus Christ. We all should know by now that salvation is the business of the Lord alone. But as long as these children are in your care they are to be trained His way.

*Pr 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.  
Dedicate a child in the mouth of his way*

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*train up*, תָּנַחַךְ, *cha-no-k<sup>e</sup>*, Qal imper. of תָּנַחַךְ, *cha-nak*; KJV, tss. *Deu. 20.5* (twice); *1Ki.8.63*; *2Chron. 7.5*, *dedicate*; the nouns are always tss. with the English *dedication*.

Here is the child at the *mouth* of life, having his whole life before him; chart out that good course which the Lord would have for him. Impress upon the child a manner of life that will keep him when he comes into maturity. That is what a parent is to do. You can instill into the life of the child good qualities, such as, kindness, humility, honor, respect for authority, diligence, leadership, sacrifice, commitment, thoughtfulness, patience, etc. Those without Christ have these qualities, not for the glory of God, but to help them through life. These attributes never rise to the level of spiritual fruit. And do not have Christ at the beginning or the ending. This is the parents' duty to instill in those children which He blesses to every parent. A father is responsible to be sure that this is the goal.

*Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

**Or, And, ye fathers, anger not your children: but nurture them by the Lord's instruction and admonition.**

*wrath*, παροργίζετε, 2pl. pres. imper. of παροργίζω, παρά from, at, near, by, with + ὀργίζω, angry, wroth; **acts which prompt the child to become angry or wroth.**

*bring them up*, ἐκτρέφετε, 2pl. pres. imper. of ἐκτρέφω, ἐκ from of, out, out of, forth + τρέφω, KJV, **feed**, *bring up*, *nourish*; ἐκτρέφω, only twice, *Eph.5.29*, *nourisheth*; *Eph. 6.4*, *bring them up*

*nurture*, παιδεία, dat. sing. of παιδεία; tss. *nurture*; is right *instruction*; *chastening* (or, the Lord's *correction*).

*2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

*Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

*6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

*admonition*, νοουθεσία, dat. sing. of νοουθεσία; three times and always tss. with the English word *admonition*; the verb, νοουθετέω, is tss. **warn** and *admonish*.

*1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

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The Lord has an instruction and a warning that children are to be taught. Even the wise man said in Ecclesiastes to young men.

*Ec 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

Fathers bear the responsibility to ensure that under their leadership in the home that each child is fed a diet of the Lord's instruction and warning (both are singular). Whether they are brought to Christ in faith or not this is your duty. But if the will of the Lord is so that they do come to Christ they shall be all the better prepared to live for Christ. Timothy received such training. And who knows what the Lord is preparing these children for in the day before us?

*2Ti.3.14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;  
15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Turn to Ps. 32.8-10. Here, as the Lord leads His own children that are in Christ fathers should lead their children. Notice how the Lord leads us. We are warned not to rebel against His instruction else He will apply more forceful means to effect a change in our minds. Parental instruction works much the same way.

*Ps.32.8 I will instruct thee (the Lord's own child) and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.  
9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.  
10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.*

Parents are instructed to be faithful to impress the child so that he becomes compliant. In Pv. 23.12-16, the implication is that a young father might not appreciate his role as a father when it comes to training up his children. The truth is, there are some unpleasant and demanding issues related to leading a home and raising children. Particularly the father and the child stand to benefit from a good application of proper training. There are times when the training requires a bit more force than at other times. This removes evil things and evil behaviors for better things and excellent behaviors. Notice to that parent He writes:

*Pv.23.12 ¶ Apply thine (young father) heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.  
13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.  
14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.  
15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. (as a grandfather)  
16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.*

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*Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

Few things probably hurt more than for me as a grandparent to see my little ones disciplined for wrongdoing. It hurts more than I ever hurt when disciplining my own children. But it is right! I will not get in the way and discourage my sons and daughters from training up their children. I will encourage them. They will, by the grace of God, save their children from very ruinous behaviors and from very dangerous people and situations in life. Grandparents need to support their children with prayer and encouragement to raised their children, not as they did, but as God would have them to.

Children cannot appreciate this until they grow up, but chastening is unpleasant on both end of the rod. Brother King taught me as a very young father to follow up chastening with love and instruction. I do recall making it an act of my will to apply that rule. And I failed many times. But what this did was cause me to approach more as an act of my will as opposed to the feelings of an immediate passion (anger.) We do not need to *feel* love or anger in order to discipline. Proper discipline is an act of love whether I feel it or not.

*Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.* Certainly, there is more to training up a child than the use of corporal punishment. The single-most influential part of training for a child is not the application of the rod, but the living subjection of the father and mother to the doctrine of Christ that has the most impact on a child.

*De 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life (it begins with personal holiness in dads and moms): but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons ...*

*De 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*

*5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

*6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: (notice again, it begins with a real religion in the home with dad and mom)*

*7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Our children see the reality of our religion as we live in the home day in and day out. *bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord* means they will see the doctrine of Christ demonstrated in dad and mom's life. Do they see how we are gentle in our dealings with others? Do they see how we wait upon the Lord and refrain from hasty judgments? Do they see us thank God for His daily provision? Do they see us praise God for His works through the day? Do they see us search the Scriptures for answers to the various issues of life? Do they see a growth of grace in us? Are they witness to our loving devotion to one another as husbands, wives, fathers and mothers? Do they see our love and care for the saints of God? Do they in us the commitment and sacrifices we make to be faithful to be with the saints when we meet together? Do they see how important Christ is to us, or just a religious exercise that we do on Sunday mornings? Parents, be committed to training up those children that the Lord has placed in your care just as He commands. Look at what the LORD Himself said of His servant Abraham.

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*Ge 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

The rod is such a small part of the whole system of discipline which the Lord would have us employ in the training up of our children. I do not say that the rod isn't necessary because sometimes it is. Notice that most instances when the rod is used it is with reference to chastening men for their evil conduct.

*Pr 20:30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.*

Men, most often, evil men were beaten with rods as a punishment. The rods were used to help them change their minds about their misbehaviors. I don't want anyone to think that I am teaching you to beat your children black and blue. I am not saying that! These that were beaten were men. But the use of the rod is applied to children. But the Bible never tells us to apply it to children like it is applied to these wicked men. The use of the rod in children gives a strong stinging sensation. The placement of the rod, I believe, is best when applied to the butt. There is the safest place. The child is not harmed when properly applied. However, the will of the child will be affected. The Bible says that it *cleanses away evil* in the heart. In other the rod changes the child's affections for the evil he has committed. It changes the *inward parts of the belly*; it changes the disposition so that desire to do evil distasteful. 'It ain't worth it!

Today, men are not sent to *penal* institutions, but correction facilities. The whole country would be changed almost overnight if we applied punitive measures to criminals. Rods would work miracles, where education has failed. You can't educate people to hate evil.

For children, if the rod is not applied or is not applied thoroughly the child's bent to evil continues. Listen, this training works in nature. This training is effective. You don't have to be born again to have an altered behavior. So, what do we do if a child is corrected and you can see that the rebellion is still present? Apply the corrective measure again, immediately. Look for contrition. Look for a change in the will. Don't let them run off to a private place to fume and kick and back-talk. Bring the tears; look for repentance. If this is not done it will be only a couple of years, if that, that you will have a children that is completely unmanageable. Parents need to examine what is going on. Am I in control? Does my child obey me when I speak the first time? Does my child hear me when I speak and respond respectfully? Or, am I being controlled by them? Am I running around like a chicken with my head cut off trying to keep them happy and out of things?

How discipline works in the home is something each parent has to work out. It is my opinion that both parents should correct the child. I think that one of the worst things that a mother can do is to tell their child, '*you just wait until your father gets home.*' A mother that loves her child will discipline that child. There was a couple of instances when my mother disciplined me, and then when my father got home I got it again.

*Pv.13.24 ¶ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

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*betimes*, שָׁחַר, shi-ch<sup>a</sup>-ro, Piel (intensive act.) pret. 3ps. masc. w/3ps. masc. suff. of שָׁחַר; in Piel pret. it is tss. *Job.7.21*, to **seek early**; *Ps.78.34*, to **enquire early**; in Piel inf. it is tss. *Pv. 7.15*, to **diligently seek**.

Mothers, don't lay this burden on the father. Fathers don't lay this burden on the mothers. Both should correct the child. But I didn't say the discipline would be administered equally between the two of you. Most of the time mothers will be disciplining the children more often than the father because the mother is usually more involved in the day to day activities of the child. Parent must support each other. Neither should play the child against the other parent.

Discipline is heathy for the home. It sends a strong message to the children: this home is a stable. Few things are more distressing for children than to see that dad and mom are fighting and in disagreement. I think children that are trained according to the word of God and see the love that father and mother have for each other feel safe and secure in that home. I'm not intimating that I grew up in a perfect home, but I never recall thinking that my dad and mom didn't love one another. I never recall seeing them fight in front of us. They disciplined us. And I cannot recall ever thinking that our home was in danger of break apart. I never distressed about that. That was the one place I felt safe and secure. Not everyone had that upbringing, I know that. But if we will raise our children as we should we will not perpetuate that experience in our children.

Children do stupid things. It is dad and mom's job to help turn that foolishness out of their heart before they hurt themselves.

*Pr 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

A good number of babies are coming along in the congregation. Give some prayerful consideration to what we have said. Parents, help your children to think before they act. Help them to think before they speak. Don't let them misbehave. If you tell them not to go outside, they shouldn't go outside. If you tell them not to touch something, they should not touch it. If you tell them not to run they shouldn't run. If you tell them to be quiet, they should be quiet. It's that simple. See to it that they obey you. You can train them to obey you when you speak the first time, or you can train them to respond on the thirtieth time. You can train them to respond when you speak calmly, or you can train them to respond when you yell or slap them in the face. You will make a choice. But we ought to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That is the right way. But remember this as parents: the Lord has placed these children in your care and you are to do with them as He commands you.

To children that are old enough to understand what I am saying, you have a responsibility too. Especially if you have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ you are commanded to obey your parent even if they fail to train you properly.

*Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

So, every man, woman, boy and girl in Christ shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive for the things done in this body. We will give an account for what we did and didn't do before our Lord Jesus Christ.

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*2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

NO matter what anyone else does, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters.

*... do all to the glory of God. 1Co.10.31.*

Be Faithful to Him who loved us so much that He gave up His life so that we might have eternal life.  
Amen.

file: documents/Bible Studies/ Craig's Misc. Subj/child-rearing