

# ***Biblical Principles for Parenting***

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## Introduction

***Introduce Michelle and Me.***

***Let the Yates introduce themselves.***

Parenting is hard. Parenting is humbling. Embrace the struggle. The end. Can we get it right? Yes and No.

### **What about these Old Testament passages?**

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

This is a principle not a promise. It is expressing God's design, it is expressing an ideal, a truism, a sowing and reaping principle/outcome that is *generally* true, but not *absolutely* true in every case.

Same with ...

**Joshua 24:15** – But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

This is a principle, not a promise. You can choose to serve the Lord and model it to your children, but not a promise that they will be saved.

Can't do justice to the topic, so the goal is to give you a few key thoughts and just spend as much time as possible answering questions and encouraging you.

## The Goal of Parenting

### **The Main Goal for Every Christian Parent**

*To be faithful to God's word by his grace and for his glory. We can be faithful to God even if our children are not faithful (The Faithful Parent By Peace and Scott)*

Faithful to what? Faithful to teach, train, disciple, "bring them up," etc.

We can't make the mistakes that the goal is simply to get them to "BEHAVE" a certain way, though we are aiming at helping them learn and grow in character.

We can't make the mistake that the goal is simply to get them to "BELIEVE" the right way, though we are aiming at teaching them the gospel and calling them to faith.

## The Design/Paradigm/Pattern for Parenting

There really are very few instructions about parenting specifically, because I believe God desires His people to take all the standards of truth and discipleship and simply try to model, teach, and apply them in the home as you faithfully seek to teach/disciple your children in the faith.

**Deuteronomy 6:6–9** — **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This looks pretty regular, thorough, and situational. It was probably true that much of the teaching in their day happened in the fields, not around the dinner table.

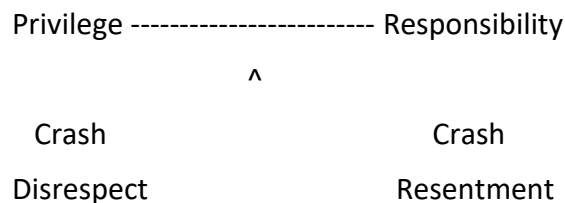
Paul’s brief instruction also implies regular and active attention to training our children.

**Ephesians 6:4** – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- **Fathers** (lead, take responsibility, be intentional)
- **Do not provoke** (goes beyond picking fights, but embittering them through hypocrisy, harshness, arbitrary standards, inconsistency, double-standards, or general failure)
- **Bring them up** (Present, Active, Imperative – must be continual, can’t be passive, it is a command not a suggestion)
- **... in the discipline of the Lord** (*padeia*, instruction and discipline in all its forms)
- **... in the instruction of the Lord** (*nouthesia*, admonition, instruction, caring and affectionate call to truth)

## Privileges and Responsibilities for Young People

### ***The See Saw Principle (Sanford Peace)***



**Responsibilities and privileges**

There is a fine balance.

- ✓ If the teen is not being very responsible, you will not be able to give them very many privileges.
- ✓ If you do not reign in their privileges their sinful response will be to crash down into disrespect—
  - You'll be trying to control it, but they'll be so used to the freedoms that they'll be disrespectful when you try to monitor or take them away.
- ✓ If they are being responsible, then you need to give them more privileges.
- ✓ If you do not grant more privileges when they are showing themselves to be trustworthy, their sinful response is to crash down into resentment.
  - By not giving freedoms and privileges when warranted, they will get angry, frustrated, and resentful for being “cooped up” in terms of freedoms, etc.

## Parenting Teenagers

**What about teenagers?**

The battle is not a foregone conclusion, but the training in biblical wisdom and foolishness needs to start early.

As they mature, they become increasingly convinced they have the wisdom and should have the freedom to make more of their own choices (“they know what they want, and they think they know what is good for them”).

It is right and good for young people to desire and develop a growing independence. But that means you are going to have to figure out how to do that wisely, and in a way that helps them further grow in wisdom and put off foolishness.

The Proverbs are full of good material about “Wisdom vs. Foolishness”

- Teens are going to be given more freedom to make either wise or foolish choices.
- Parents are going to be given more opportunities to respond wisely when their teen chooses foolishly.
- Proverbs 18:2 "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion."
- Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice."

- Proverbs 19:1 "Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool."
  - Proverbs 20:3 "It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling."
  - Proverbs 26:12 "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."
  - Proverbs 28:26 "Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered."
  - Proverbs 29:11 "A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back."
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- ✓ Address the HEART
  - ✓ Teach them about "wise wants" and "foolish wants"
  - ✓ Don't be a walking "No Machine"
  - ✓ Help them grow in wise independence!
  - ✓ Don't take things personally