

Training Up Our Children

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- This Proverb applies to most, if not all, circumstances, whether good or bad. Sadly it does apply to dysfunctional households where Godly morals are near impossible to instill. So as soon as a child is of the ability to understand words they are in need of instruction that points them to, what **should** be the ultimate goal of every accountable soul, Heaven. As they grow there should exist an urgency by the parents to teach them right from wrong and things like etiquette and how to mind their manners and being polite by keeping silent when necessary. We should never reward bad behavior by giving in to temper tantrums or other such unpleasant acts of bad conduct. Throwing fits can be a child's way of understanding the limitations the parents actually need to have established beforehand. The child may be truly crying out to know those boundaries. As time goes by it becomes more difficult (*near impossible*) to reshape an already molded piece of pottery.

The tale of: "The Two Wolves"

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

- Every action, good or bad, that a child does should be rewarded with either praise or correction. Praise is best done vocally. Gifts as rewards for good behavior, **if given on a regular basis**, will only promote the desire to be good by way of **expecting** them. Being held ransom to behave, especially in public, can, and should, be embarrassing to the parent if that's the way their child has been trained. And "political correctness" has had a devastatingly negative effect toward "disciplining" future members of the church and for even society in general with regards to good citizenship. "Discipline", according to Webster, can either be a "training that develops self-control, strict control to enforce obedience or treatment that corrects or punishes". Parents need **not** be **strict** disciplinarians as much as they need to "make disciples" of their children to follow the teachings of scripture.

Ecc 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

- Long before old age, with all of its aches and pains, and while we still have our mental faculties intact there is still time, minus any accidental occurrence, to get right with God. "It's never too late before it's too late!"

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Emp. Added)

"Literally, Paul says children are to keep on obeying their parents [from cradle to the grave as long as they have them]. This is restricted by the expression "in the Lord" which means a child may refuse to obey his parents if they ask him to do something that is wrong in God's sight."

"Obeying and honoring one's parents helps to develop a character well suited for a long life on earth. Such takes self-control, a teachable spirit, self-discipline and recognition of authority, which are necessary ingredients for living on this earth."

Gary Hampton

- And even though the assurance of a long life on earth was an Old Testament promise (found in Deut 5:16) it still has application within today's present civilization.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers (addressing the fathers here shows how important they are in the lives of their children), provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (Gk.3809- **training**) and admonition (Gk.3559- **warning**) of the Lord.

*Pro 9:10 The fear (Heb.3374- **reverence**) of the LORD is the **beginning** of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy (Heb.6918- **sacred** [ceremonially or morally]) is understanding. (Emp. Added)*

"To facilitate the child's obedience, Paul commands fathers not to provoke their children to wrath. Discipline is an important part of the parent/child relationship (Heb 12:5-11). Yet, harsh discipline can cause a child to want to strike back. Also, being inconsistent in discipline, by laughing about something today and spanking for it tomorrow, can lead to outbursts of anger.

A child is not a piece of property or tool but a young man or woman needing molding and training."

*"Notice it is the "admonition (warning) of the Lord," which is a loving reproof or encouragement to do what is right. ... God's correction is **always given out of love** [Emp. Added] for the one corrected with the purpose of yielding righteousness as its fruit. Our motivation needs to be the same as His."*

Gary Hampton

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation (earnest urging) which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening (Gk.3809- correction[ive]: - nurture[ing]) of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth (Gk.3811-discipline), and scourges (Gk.3146- to flog [**figuratively**]) (whatever disciplinary action it takes, out of love by the one doing the correction, to get them to come around) every son whom He receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening (Gk.3809- correction), God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement (Gk.3809- correction), whereof all are partakers (Gk.3353- participant), then are ye bastards (Gk.3541- illegitimate [children]), and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence (Gk.1788- respect): shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of

spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after **their** own pleasure (*Gk.1380- good*); but He for **our** profit (*Gk.4851- advantage*), that *we* might be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised (*Gk.1128- trained*) thereby. (*Emp. Added*)

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

- In order for formed, dried pottery to be “reshaped” it first has to be broken. Sometimes discipline is necessary in the case of those who are rebellious in order to break their spirits so they can come to realize their lost state. It may cause pain to the one(s) applying the discipline (*“this is going to hurt me more than it will hurt you” is the saying*) but should never be done without love.

We are to appreciate our children, even **before** they are born.

- Thomas Jefferson wrote: *“To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”* Not that we aren’t to pay our taxes because even Jesus paid His share toward a government that later scourged Him and hung Him on a cross for speaking the truth.

Mat 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute *money* came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when He was come into the house, Jesus prevented (*Gk.4399- anticipated*) him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto Him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding (*Gk.1161- but*), lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them **for Me** and thee. (*Emp. Added*)

- Out of our taxes we fund the services that Planned Parenthood provides, the most horrid of which is the abortion of the unborn (*and also the practice known as “post birth abortion”*), at a cost of *“more than half a billion dollars of our hard-earned tax money last year”* alone. Margaret Sanger, who founded this *“breathhtakingly evil organization”* was *“a racist devoted to Adolf Hitler and the eugenics movement (devoted to improving the human species by controlling heredity), who envisioned a world where physically and mentally challenged individuals and people of color would simply be aborted, sterilized or eliminated. She had equal contempt for people of faith, calling ‘reckless and irresponsible’ anyone ‘whose religious scruples prevent from control of their numbers’ stating that ‘there is no doubt in the minds of all thinking people that the procreation of this group should be stopped’.* Rarely has such a cold-hearted woman been lionized as has Margaret Sanger.” Recently a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood was questioned by a Florida Representative regarding a practice that is currently being repeated in many of these “clinics”. When asked *“If a baby is born, on a table, as a result of a botched abortion, what would Planned Parenthood want to have happen to that child that is struggling for life?”* Pressed further the Rep. asked *“What happens in a situation where a baby is alive, breathing on a table, moving? What do your physicians do at that point?”* Answer: *“I do not have that information.”*

Doug Patton, Sentinel Editorial, 4/10/13

Psa 127:3 Lo, children *are* an heritage (*Heb.5159- heirloom*) of the LORD (*Children are “passed on” to us for their protection and safe keeping, just as their children should be to them, as a rare family heirloom, for the purpose of protecting them and rearing them up to be pleasing in God’s sight.*): and the fruit of the womb is *his (is a)* reward (*Heb.7939- benefit*).
 4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed (*Heb.954- confused*), but they shall speak (*Heb.1696- subdue*) with (*Heb.854- against*) the enemies in the gate.

“The meaning is, that they would do honor to the family, and gratify the heart of the parent, by their valor in defending their city and home, or in attacking the cities of the enemies of their country.” (Making the case for a Christian in joining the military.)

Albert Barnes

- There was a time when the effects of smoking, drinking and drug abuse while pregnant were not known and thus not communicated. Some of us were around before the surgeon general issued the warning that ultimately became mandatory that it be displayed on every pack of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Now, even the **effects** of second-hand smoke have made it illegal to smoke in most public establishments. How many of us can remember as children riding in a car in the middle of winter with the heat on and the windows up while the parents puffed away on their non-filtered cigarettes? There are finally laws being passed where smoking in a vehicle with innocent, helpless children will bring fines and even jail time for the parent or guardian who breaks such decrees. Even back when Jesus walked the face of the earth as a man He saw the innocence and helplessness of the little children of His day.

Mar 10:13 And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and *His* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*. 14 But when Jesus saw *it*, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16 And He took them up in His arms, put *His* hands upon them, and blessed them.

- Children are beloved by God because of their innocence. But He has allowed, by the choice of governments and other institutions, for millions of these precious lives to be snuffed out while in the one place that should be considered the safest in this world; the mother’s womb. Since they first entered the public discourse, abortions have rapidly increased since the landmark decision in Roe v. Wade. God hates the “hands that shed innocent blood” (*Pro 6:17*) and He **will** have His vengeance on those who do such and that refuse to repent of it. But even if/when a child reaches the age of accountability they are then responsible for their own behavior. All a godly parent can do is pray that when they leave home they do so as a faithful Christian.

When children leave home unprepared for Satan’s darts.

“Many Christians know the ache of David’s heart when he wept for his rebellious son, saying: “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son!” (2 Samuel 18:33). (Emp. Added) David went aside by himself and wept bitter tears. Many Christians know the bitterness of such tears — the helplessness that David must have felt — the burden of regret and sorrow. One of the most terrible feelings known to Christians is that which is felt when a beloved son or daughter turns

their back on Christ and becomes unfaithful. There are no words adequate to describe the broken hearts."

Watchman Magazine. By Tom Roberts, July 1, 1999

- David didn't mourn the loss of his son to Bathsheba because as he said "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Sam 12:23) understanding where he went. Not so with Absalom. Many parents will go to their graves mourning the loss of preemies, newborns, toddlers and even younger school aged kids. I am one of them. But nothing comes close, gives more stress, cuts deeper or brings more heartache than knowing your children are **presently** headed to a devil's Hell. I said **presently** because there's **always** the hope of their return.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish (Gk.3516- immature) things.

1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass (Gk.2072- mirror), darkly (vaguely, once there was a need for more information in order to fully understand) ; but then face to face (when the New Testament was complete in written form, the canonization of scripture became the final authority on all things spiritual): now I know (Gr.1097- understand) in part (Gk.3313- portion [of what was then yet to be revealed]); but then shall I know even as also I am known (Paul said he, even as an apostle of Christ, didn't know everything but it would be possible once the inspired writings were gathered and put together in book form [a.k.a. codex]) . 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity (Gk.26- love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love).

- Successfully raising children, with the understanding and full knowledge of God's word, would be to see them grow to become faithful to the Lord even when the time comes when we are no longer to around to "bandage a skinned knee" because...

Lam 3:25 The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul *that* seeketh Him.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and **now is**, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth. (Emp. Added)

- Are your children worshipping God "*in spirit and in truth*"? Are you?

Hear: Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**" (Emp. Added)

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is** and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Emp. Added)

Repent: Act 3:19 ... "**Repent** ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Emp. Added)

Confess: Acts 8: 36-37 "And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here* is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**" (Emp. Added)

Be baptized: Romans 6:3-4 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are **buried with Him by baptism** into death..." (Emp. Added)

Remain faithful: Romans 6:4 "...that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Rev 20:6 “Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the **first resurrection**: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (*Emp. Added*)

Charli Yana

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(All scripture is from the KJV with the substitute of glosses from the Greek.)