

Child Discipline, Training, and Education

- I. The importance of this study.
 1. The family is the backbone of society.
 2. Your children are the future.
 3. You (parents) are responsible for the training and education of your children, whether you do it yourself or you delegate it to others.
 4. You have a responsibility to God, your children, and society to discipline your children to ensure they grow up into God-fearing, honest, hard-working, responsible, and mature people.
- II. Child discipline - children's behavior must be controlled before training and education can be effectively imparted.
 1. Why must children be disciplined?
 - A. Foolishness is bound in their hearts and it must be driven out (**Pro 22:15**).
 - i. Notice that foolishness is *bound* not *found* in their hearts.
 - ii. Bound - 1. a. Made fast by a tie, confined; fastened down; bandaged: also *fig.*
 - iii. Foolishness - *n.* 1. The quality or condition of being foolish.
 - iv. Foolish - *adj.* 1. Fool-like, wanting in sense or judgement.
 - v. Fool - *n.* A. n. I. 1. a. One deficient in judgement or sense, one who acts or behaves stupidly, a silly person, a simpleton. (In Biblical use applied to vicious or impious persons.) The word has in mod. Eng. a much stronger sense than it had at an earlier period; it has now an implication of insulting contempt which does not in the same degree belong to any of its synonyms, or to the derivative foolish.
 - vi. Foolishness must be *driven* out; it will not leave naturally.
 - a. Drive - 1. a. *trans.* To force (men or animals) to move on before one, or flee away from one, by blows or intimidation; to urge on or impel with violence.
 - b. A child *left to himself* brings his mother shame (**Pro 29:15**).
 - vii. The goal is to train them up in the way they should go with the hope that when they grow up they will not depart from it (**Pro 22:6**).
 - B. This foolishness in the hearts of children comes as a result of their sinful nature (**Eph 2:3**).
 - i. This sinful spiritual nature which is dead in trespasses and sins was passed to them from Adam (**Rom 5:12**).
 - ii. It is present at:
 - a. youth (**Gen 8:21**).
 - b. birth (**Psa 58:3**).
 - c. conception (**Psa 51:5**).
 - C. Not only is it good for the child, it's good for the parents.
 - i. Children should not be your oppressors (**Isa 3:12**).
 - ii. If they are it harms them and you.
 - iii. If you correct your children, they will give you rest (**Pro 29:17**).
 - iv. If you correct your children they will bring you much happiness.
 - a. "A wise son maketh a glad father..." (**Pro 10:1; Pro 15:20**)

- b. " My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine." (**Pro 23:15**).
 - v. If you don't correct your children, they will bring you much pain and sorrow.
 - a. "...a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." (**Pro 10:1**)
 - b. "...a foolish man despiseth his mother." (**Pro 15:20**)
 - c. "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him." (**Pro 17:25**)
 - d. "A foolish son is the calamity of his father..." (**Pro 19:13**)
 - e. "He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach." (**Pro 19:26**)
 - f. "Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father." (**Pro 28:7**)
2. What types of behavior merit discipline?
- A. Rebellion must be met with the rod.
 - i. Rebellion - 2. Open or determined defiance of, or resistance to, any authority or controlling power.
 - ii. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and must be punished sternly (**1Sa 15:23**).
 - B. Disobedience to parents, grandparents, teachers, etc.
 - i. Children must obey their parents (**Eph 6:1; Col 3:20**).
 - ii. Disobedience must be punished.
 - iii. You don't need to say something more than once.
 - iv. If disobedience is not met with the rod at the first offence, it definitely should be at the second.
 - v. You should never have to repeat yourself more than once (and even that is too much).
 - vi. Don't fall into the "counting" folly when a child doesn't obey your order: "Johnny, come here.....one....two....three".
 - vii. All that does is teach him that he can disobey you for at least 2.5 seconds before you react (or start counting over again like too many pitiful parents).
 - C. Backtalk or disrespect.
 - D. Lying.
 - E. Laziness (**Pro 10:5 c/w Pro 29:15**).
 - F. Hanging out with friends who are fools (**Pro 28:7; Pro 13:20**).
 - G. Sin in general.
3. When should children begin to be disciplined (at what age)?
- A. The rod should be applied, when needed, early in life (**Pro 13:24**).
 - i. Betimes - 1. At an early time, period, or season; early in the year; early in life.
 - ii. Chasten - 1. *trans.* To inflict disciplinary or corrective punishment on; to visit with affliction for the purpose of moral improvement; to correct, discipline, chastise.
 - iii. A parent loves his child who chastens him early in life.
 - iv. A parent hates his child who will not chasten him.
 - v. God sets for us the pattern of chastening children (**Heb 12:5-8**).
 - vi. Good fathers will follow God's lead (**Heb 12:9-11**).
 - B. You only have a short period of time *while there is hope* (**Pro 19:18**).
 - C. Once a person gets to be a full grown fool, it's too late (**Pro 27:22**).

- i. Bray - v. 1. *trans.* To beat small; to bruise, pound, crush to powder; usually in a mortar.
 - ii. One hundred stripes to such a fellow won't do what a few good ones would to a young child (**Pro 17:10**).
 - D. So at what age is *early in life*?
 - i. As soon as a child starts trying to exert his will over his parents' will is when chastening must begin.
 - ii. This can be as young as six months old.
 - iii. This can happen long before the child is old enough to speak his opposition to your rules.
 - E. When should a child be chastened in relationship to the time of the offence?
 - i. Parents should correct their children as quickly as possible after the need for correction arises.
 - ii. In other words, when a child has done something improper, the correction should be given quickly.
 - iii. This helps the child to associate the improper behavior with the pain of the correction, resulting eventually in the corrected behavior.
 - iv. Putting off disciplining the child until you are at your wits' end could result in your losing your temper and hurting the child.
 - v. If you are in a public place where it would not be wise to discipline your child, then tell them that they will get it when you get home and make sure you follow through with it no matter how good the rest of the day goes.
- 4. How should children be disciplined?
 - A. The primary method of correction should be beating with a rod (**Pro 13:24; Pro 22:15; Pro 23:13-14; Pro 29:15**).
 - i. Don't be scared of the word *beat*; it means little different than *spanking*.
 - a. Beat - v. 1. a. *trans.* To strike with repeated blows.
 - b. Strike - v. V. To deal a blow, to smite with the hand (occas. another limb), a weapon or tool. 25. *trans.* To deal (a person, an animal) a blow; to hit with some force either with the hand or with a weapon.
 - c. Spank - v. 1. a. *trans.* To slap or smack (a person, esp. a child) with the open hand.
 - d. Slap - v. 1. a. *trans.* To strike or smack (a person or thing) smartly, esp. with the open hand or with something having a flat surface; to hit (one) on, upon, or over (a certain part) in this way.
 - e. Smack - v. 5. a. To strike (a person, part of the body, etc.) with the open hand or with something having a flat surface; to slap. Also spec. to chastise (a child) in this manner and fig.
 - ii. A rod should be the primary instrument of punishment (**Pro 22:15, Pro 23:13-14 et al**).
 - a. Rod - 1. a. A straight, slender shoot or wand, growing upon or cut from a tree, bush, etc.
 - b. Wand - 1. a. A straight slender stick. Now Sc. and dial. In Scottish use, chiefly a slender pliant stick cut from a stem or branch of a shrub or young tree.

- iii. When a child gets a beating, it should consist of more than one strike with the rod (see definition).
 - a. A beating should cause tears (**Pro 19:18**).
 - b. Crying - 1. The action of the verb cry in its various senses; shouting, lamentation, weeping, etc.
 - c. Correction should be grievous (**Pro 15:10; Heb 12:11**).
 - d. Determine beforehand how many whacks the infraction merits and don't stop until you have given that many, regardless of yelling or crying from the child (**Pro 19:18**).
 - e. The rod may leave bruises which are a sign that the foolishness has been driven out (**Pro 20:30**).
 - f. Though it should be painful, a beating should not be excessive or cause long lasting pain to the child.
 - iv. A beating with a rod will not kill the child (**Pro 23:13**),
 - a. Rather, it will save him from more severe punishment later in life (**Pro 23:14**).
 - b. This is beating the hell out of children.
 - v. Once the punishment has been given, then you should affirm your love to them.
 - a. This should be done so that they understand that you punished them because you love them.
 - b. This will also show them a picture of God's punishment of sin and subsequent forgiveness and forgetfulness of it.
- B. Other methods of disciplining children.
- i. Some punishments are more effective than others with different children.
 - ii. With older kids, taking things or privileges away from them might work.
 - iii. Tailoring punishments with crimes such as washing out a mouth with soap for lying or flicking the mouth for talking back are options.
 - iv. The primary method though should be the rod as the Bible prescribes.
 - v. If you start when they are babies and are consistent, you shouldn't have to worry about coming up with creative ideas for punishment when they are teenagers because they should be well-behaved and well-mannered kids by that point.
- C. The importance of consistency.
- i. You must be consistent when it comes to punishments for offenses.
 - ii. Do not punish a child today for something you allowed yesterday or pass over an offense today for which you punished him yesterday.
 - iii. Mean what you say and keep your word.
 - a. Don't say, "If you do that again, you're not going to Grandma's tomorrow" if you don't mean it.
 - b. If make a threat, you must follow through with it.
 - c. If you don't, the child will quickly figure out that you are a liar and that you don't mean what you say and that they will not actually get the punishment that you are threatening.
 - iv. Don't let your kids get away with something just because you are tired, or because you have had such a good day with them that you don't want to ruin it with a spanking.
- D. Other considerations.

- i. If your child is sick, take that into consideration if they are acting up, but don't give them too much leeway.
 - ii. If they are tired (especially if you are the one that had them out late), factor that into why they may be misbehaving.
 - iii. God remembers that we are but flesh and is compassionate toward our weakness (**Psa 78:38-39**), and so ought parents to be toward their children.
- 5. Where should children be disciplined?
 - A. Children should primarily be disciplined consistently AT HOME.
 - B. If they are, then you will not have to worry about being seen in public spanking your child.
 - C. Don't let the only beatings you give your kids be in public because you are embarrassed at how they are acting and don't want to appear as a parent who doesn't discipline their children.
 - D. Don't let your kids run around screaming all day at home and then expect them to be quiet and still in church for an hour and a half.
 - E. If you need to, "play church" at home during the week where you make them sit quietly and listen to or watch a sermon for an hour.

III. Training and educating children.

- 1. The goal of educating children is to bring them to maturity.
 - A. Maturity - The state or quality of being mature (having the powers of the body and mind fully developed); fullness or perfection of development or growth.
 - B. Jesus Christ is the standard of maturity (**Eph 4:13**).
 - i. Jesus was trained up by his parents who provided Him with a well-rounded and quality education (**Luk 2:51-52**).
 - a. He matured:
 - 1) intellectually (in wisdom).
 - 2) physically (in stature).
 - 3) spiritually (in favor with God).
 - 4) socially (in favor with man).
 - b. It is important to make sure each of these elements are included in your children's education.
 - ii. A mature person possesses wisdom which brings life to its fullest potential (**Pro 4:7-13**).
 - C. A child's education should start very early (**Isa 28:9**).
 - i. The things of God should be among a child's first concepts and words.
 - ii. Children learn first by imitation, then orally, and then by reading.
 - iii. Watch what you say around them because they absorb both good and bad.
 - iv. They understand more than you think.
 - v. Your example of godly living and religion will teach them more than your words.
- 2. The responsibility of child training rests on parents, not the local, state, or federal government.
 - A. Modern, secular education is described well in **2Ch 15:3**.
 - i. Government schools are "without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law."

- ii. Consequently, we are witnessing unrest, great vexations, and destructions (**2Ch 15:5-6**).
- B. Fathers, not State bureaucrats, are told to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (**Eph 6:4**) (this responsibility can be delegated - more on that later).
- i. Bring - v. 27. *bring up*. a. To bring into a higher position; to elevate, raise, rear, build up; to raise to a point or amount, etc. b. To rear from childhood; to educate, breed.
 - ii. To *bring up* your children is to educate them.
 - iii. Nurture - 1. Breeding, upbringing, training, education (received or possessed by one). b. Moral training or discipline.
 - iv. Admonition - 1. The action of admonishing; authoritative counsel; warning, implied reproof.
 - v. Admonish - 1. *gen.* To put (a person) in mind of duties; to counsel against wrong practices; to give authoritative or warning advice; to exhort, to warn.
 - vi. Mothers are also supposed to help in this duty (**Gen 2:18; Pro 1:8**).
 - vii. The father is the guide of youth (**Jer 3:4**).
 - viii. Paul assumes that fathers exhort, comfort, charge, and warn their children (**1Th 2:11; 1Co 4:14**).
 - ix. Fathers should have more weight in influencing their children than other instructors (**1Co 4:15-16**).
 - x. The book of Proverbs presents a father instructing his son in a wide variety of subjects (**Pro 4:1-4; Pro 23:15-26**).
 - xi. Fathers are supposed to *train* up their children in the way they should go (**Pro 22:6**).
 - a. Train - III. 5. To treat or manipulate so as to bring to the proper or desired form; spec. in Gardening, to manage (a plant or branch) so as to cause it to grow in some desired form or direction, esp. against a wall, or upon a trellis or the like.
6. To subject to discipline and instruction for the purpose of forming the character and developing the powers of, or of making proficient in some occupation. (Also with up.) a. To instruct and discipline generally; to educate, rear, bring up. 1611 Bible Prov. xxii. 6
Traine vp a childe in the way he should goe.
 - b. When a child is trained up in the way he *should* go (not in the way he *wants* to go), he will not depart from it *when he is old*.
 - c. Like the prodigal son, he may depart from it for a season, but every parent's hope is that they will return to what they were taught.
 - d. Make sure you have trained them up in the way they should go if you expect them to not depart from it when they are old.
 - e. Don't live with regret because you didn't take the time to train them up right and they strayed from the Lord.
 - xii. A father's primary duty should be to educate his children in the Lord's ways.
 - a. This will include every area of life as God through His word guides and regulates all aspects of our lives.

- b. Education - 1. The process of nourishing or rearing a child or young person, an animal.
 2. The process of 'bringing up' (young persons); the manner in which a person has been 'brought up'; with reference to social station, kind of manners and habits acquired, calling or employment prepared for, etc.
 3. The systematic instruction, schooling or training given to the young in preparation for the work of life; by extension, similar instruction or training obtained in adult age. Also, the whole course of scholastic instruction which a person has received. Often with limiting words denoting the nature or the predominant subject of the instruction or kind of life for which it prepares, as classical, legal, medical, technical, commercial, art education.
 - c. Educating your children ensures they are prepared for the work of life, including religious instruction, scholastic instruction, social instruction, and vocational instruction.
- C. The most important area of your children's education is teaching them God's truth in the scriptures. This is God's commandment in the N.T. (**Eph 6:4**) and it was also God's commandment to Israel in the O.T. (**Isa 38:19**).
- i. It was the fathers who were supposed to make known God's truth to their children.
 - ii. Too often today the only religious instruction kids get is from their mothers because the fathers abdicate their responsibility.
 - iii. God's word should be passed down from the fathers (and mothers) to their children (**Psa 78:4-6**).
 - a. It is important to do this so that the wonderful works of God are instilled in the minds of your children (**v. 4-5**).
 - b. They then can teach them to their children who then can teach them to their children (**v. 6**).
 - c. This is done so that each new generation can set their hope in God and not forget His commandments (**v. 7-8**).
 - d. This is why churches die - the generation which saw the works of the Lord pass on, and the upcoming generation doesn't know them (**Jdg 2:10**).
 - e. Think about this in our situation: many of us experienced great deliverances from God from lives of sin, false religion, and false doctrine and we are forever thankful for what God saved us from.
 - f. But your children will grow up in the church, not having seen the same great deliverances in their own lives.
 - g. They don't have to spend years searching for that pearl of great price; it's right in front of them.
 - h. You must tell them of the wonderful works of God in your own lives and teach them His truth and impress upon them how important it is.
 - iv. This is done by incorporating the scriptures into every aspect of your family's life (**Deu 6:4-9**).

- a. God's words first need to be in *your* hearts, parents (**v. 6; Pro 3:3; Pro 6:21**).
 - b. Once they are stored in *your* heart, you can mediate on them throughout your day (**Psa 119:97; Psa 1:1-3; Jos 1:8**).
 - c. When the scriptures are in *your* heart and on *your* mind, they will guide you when you are on the go, when you are sleeping, and when you wake up (**Pro 6:22**).
 - d. When the word of God is an integral part of who *you* are, then you can teach it diligently to *your children* by incorporating it into all you do (**Deu 6:7**).
 - 1) When you sit in your house (at the dinner table during meals is a good time).
 - 2) When you are walking by the way (or driving places with your kids).
 - 3) When you lie down (praying with them before bedtime).
 - 4) When you rise up in the morning (around the breakfast table).
 - v. Learning and living the scriptures will give one more wisdom and understanding than enemies, teachers, and ancients (**Psa 119:98-100**).
 - vi. Teaching children the things of God contrasts forgetting the things of God (**Deu 4:9-10**).
 - a. Parents who do not teach their children have likely forgotten what God has taught them.
 - b. Parents who teach their children better remember what they themselves have learned.
3. Parents should directly take part in their child's education.
- A. This should include teaching them the scriptures.
 - i. This should begin at birth (or before) by reading the scriptures together with your children present.
 - ii. If the only exposure to Bible reading your children get is at church, you are wrong.
 - B. This should include teaching by your example.
 - C. This should include early education like teaching them proper grammar, how to read (which is the most important skill you can teach them), how to count and do basic math, etc.
 - D. This can include fully educating your children by homeschooling them.
 - i. This may not be for everyone.
 - ii. It is a good way to limit the indoctrination your children will receive in public or private schools.
 - iii. It is a good way to limit the amount of sinful garbage your children are taught at school and pick up from their friends.
 - iv. It is a good way to limit the amount of control and influence that the government has over you and your children.
 - v. Homeschooling is a major task and commitment.
 - a. The majority of this responsibility will fall on Mom since Dad is away at work for most of the day.

- b. This means that Dad will likely have to help out around the house (cleaning, laundry, dishes, etc.) since Mom will be spending much of her time doing schooling that she would have been doing those other things.
- 4. Parents can also *delegate* this task of educating their children to others, but the *responsibility* of their children's education still rests on the parents.
 - A. Paul was *brought up* at the feet of Gamaliel and was *taught* by him (**Act 22:3**).
 - i. Bring - v. 27. *bring up*. a. To bring into a higher position; to elevate, raise, rear, build up; to raise to a point or amount, etc. b. To rear from childhood; to educate, breed.
 - ii. In other words, Paul was educated from childhood by a teacher who was not his parent.
 - B. Samuel's education and upbringing were entrusted to Eli (**1Sa 1:24-28**).
 - C. Paul used an illustration of a child being under tutors and governors at the behest of his father to describe how the church was under the law for a time until it grew up (**Gal 4:1-2**).
 - D. Delegating your child's education to another may be a necessary alternative to doing it yourself.
 - i. If you chose this option (public school, private school, homeschool association) remember that the responsibility of ensuring your child gets a good education is still yours.
 - ii. You would do well to investigate the school they are attending, get to know their teachers, and regularly review their text books and homework to ensure that the material is high quality and that it is free of moral filth.
 - iii. Be ready to counter-teach your children if they are attending public or private schools, as they will be taught lies such as evolution, acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle, and false doctrine in general.
 - iv. If you entrust their education to a public school with no oversight on your part, don't be surprised if your child doesn't make it through unscathed.
 - E. One entity that you must be very careful delegating much of your child's education to is the TV.
 - i. The TV will teach your children much, most of which will not be good.
 - ii. Evil communication corrupts good manners (**1Co 15:33**).
 - iii. It will also teach them to have short attention spans and to not appreciate reading and real learning.
 - iv. If you use the TV as a babysitter, be prepared to face the consequences.
- 5. There are limits to what can be accomplished by education.
 - A. No matter how qualified the teacher, nor how correct the method, nor how good the curriculum, a stubborn fool will not learn (**Pro 1:7; 17:16; 27:22; Jer 17:23**).
 - B. Education will not change peoples' nature; only God can do that.
 - C. Education will not produce paradise on earth; only God will (**2Pe 3:13**).