

Preparing Your Kids for the Real World

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- I. The goal of raising your children is to bring them to maturity.
 1. Jesus Christ is the standard of maturity (**Eph 4:13**), so the goal should be to teach them to be like Jesus.
 2. There are four areas of development in which your child needs to be proficient to be a godly, decent, and productive Christian and member of society.
 - A. Parents must strive to guide their children in developing:
 - i. Physically
 - ii. Spiritually
 - iii. Intellectually
 - iv. Socially
 - B. As a child, Jesus Christ increased in wisdom (intellectually), in stature (physically), in favour with God (spiritually), and in favour with man (socially) (**Luk 2:52**).
 - C. Parents must guide and teach their children to grow in each of these areas.
 - D. The most effective way of teaching your children is by *showing them* what to do by your example.
 - E. Let's consider each of these areas in detail, but before we do, it's necessary to know how to discipline children.
 - F. If a child is not properly disciplined, teaching and instruction will become difficult, and his physical, spiritual, intellectual, and social development will be hindered.

- 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**).

- a. It is a general rule that parents who train their children in the way they should go will see them grow up to be good, wise, and well-behaved adults.
 - b. There will occasionally be good parents who did a good job training up their children who will see them grow up to become fools.
 - c. There will also occasionally be bad parents who did a terrible job training their children who will see them grow up to be good people in spite of their poor upbringing.
 - d. Therefore, parents with either good or bad kids should not automatically take the credit or the blame for it until they have carefully considered whether or not they trained and disciplined their children according to the scriptures.
- 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 disciplining children good for the children, it's good for the parents and others.
- 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, sorrow, and embarrassment.
 - 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)**
 - vi. Having children is no reason to have constant chaos and pandemonium at home and in public.
 - a. If parents properly discipline their children, they will be a joy for both parents and visitors to be around.

- b. I have had the pleasure to be in homes where the children were properly disciplined, and as a result they were quiet, polite, and not distracting or aggravating.
- c. It therefore can be done. It is just a matter of ensuring that your will, not your children's, is done.

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, adults, 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* to your kids.
 - a. If disobedience is not met with the rod at the first offence, it definitely should be at the second.
 - b. You should never have to repeat yourself more than once (and even that is too much).
 - c. A certain look from an effective parent is all it should take to make a child obey.
- iv. Train them that they must obey the first time you tell them to do something.
 - a. When they don't obey when they are told to do something, spank them with the rod.
 - b. They will quickly learn that you mean what you say and you will not have to repeat yourself.
 - c. Not making them obey the first time teaches them that:
 - (i) You don't mean what you say.
 - (ii) You don't keep your word.
 - (iii) You are weak and pathetic.
 - (iv) They are in control.
 - (v) Obedience is optional.
 - (vi) They don't have to obey God's commandments when they don't feel like it.
 - d. Telling them a second time in a raised voice teaches your children that they only have to obey when you raise your voice.
 - (i) This makes you look like an idiot in public.
 - (ii) This teaches your children that the only effective way to cause someone to do something is by yelling at them.
 - e. Your children will figure out at what point they must obey or else a spanking is coming.
 - (i) If they learn from a very young age that the spanking comes after the first command, they will quickly learn to obey the first command.

- (ii) If they learn that the spanking comes after the second command, they will only obey the second command.
 - (iii) If they learn that the spanking comes after the second command is screamed, then they will only obey when you scream at them.
 - (iv) If they learn that the spanking comes after you scream repeatedly and get red in the face, they will only obey when they are screamed at repeatedly by a red-faced, insane, foolish parent.
 - (v) Most children will obey when they are certain a spanking is coming immediately following the disobedience of a command.
 - (vi) So just establish a rule that they get spanked immediately when they do not obey and stick to it consistently for a week or so, and you will have obedient children and a peaceful home.
- f. The purpose of discipline is to make your children into godly adults.
 - g. When they become teenagers and adults, their boss will not tolerate having to tell them to do something more than once.
 - h. Allowing them to disobey your commandment the first time it is given could be deadly for them. For example:
 - (i) "Don't cross the street without an adult."
 - (ii) "Don't walk on the ice on the river."
 - (iii) "Don't play with a gun."
 - (iv) "Don't get into a car with a stranger."
 - i. Don't fall into the "counting" folly when your child doesn't obey your order: "Johnny, come here.....one....two....three".
 - j. 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).
- v. Allowing disobedience in children who are church members is facilitating them being excluded from the church (**Rom 1:30**).
- C. Backtalk or disrespect.
- i. Backtalk should never be tolerated.
 - a. Arguing with a command is rebellion and should be met with the rod.
 - b. If you allow your daughter to backtalk you, she will do it to her husband.
 - c. Do her and her future husband a favor and teach her to be submissive and respectful.
 - d. If you allow your son to backtalk you, he will do it to his boss.
 - e. Do him a favor and teach him to be submissive and respectful so that he doesn't get fired someday.
 - ii. Eye rolling should never be tolerated.
 - iii. Sighing should never be tolerated.
 - iv. Door slamming should never be tolerated.
- D. Lying.

- i. You must come down very hard on lying and deceit whenever you find it in a child.
 - ii. This is one thing that if not nipped in the bud can be very hard to root out when they are older.
 - E. Stealing.
 - F. Laziness (**Pro 10:5 c/w Pro 29:15**).
 - G. Hanging out with friends who are fools (**Pro 28:7; Pro 13:20**).
 - H. 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 (**Pro 13:24**).
 - iv. A parent hates his child who will not chasten him (**Pro 13:24**).
 - a. To not discipline a child with the rod when he needs it is to suffer sin upon him which is an act of hatred (**Lev 19:17**).
 - b. Parents who say that they love their children too much to punish them with the rod love themselves, not their children.
 - c. It would be a legitimate question to ask a parent why he hates his child when his not spanking him when he needs it.
 - 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. At what age is *early in life* (betimes)?
 - 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 to nine months old.
 - iii. This will happen long before the child is old enough to speak his opposition to your rules.
 - iv. Take care of major flaws in your children while they are young, and the problem is little, by whatever hurts the kid the most (usually spanking, but sometimes other things are more poignant, especially if they are mixed in with the rod.)
 - v. Don't wait until your kids are older and then kick yourself for certain things you allowed/missed that are now bigger problems because the kid is bigger.
 - 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. Never discipline your children when you are so angry that you are not in control of yourself. Calm down, and then punish them.
- vi. 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 be painful.
 - b. A slap with a hand on a diaper is worthless.
 - c. A beating should cause tears (**Pro 19:18**).
 - (i) Crying - 1. The action of the verb cry in its various senses; shouting, lamentation, weeping, etc.
 - (ii) Don't be fooled by fake tears and crying.
 - (iii) Don't stop as soon as a child lets out a cry (**Pro 19:18**).

- (iv) If you do, the child will quickly learn that all they have to do is start wailing after the first strike and it ends.
- (v) If the punishment is not sufficiently painful, it will not stop the bad behavior.
- d. Determine beforehand how many strikes 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. Correction should be grievous (**Pro 15:10; Heb 12:11**).
- f. The rod may leave bruises which are a sign that the foolishness has been driven out (**Pro 20:30**).
- g. Though it should be painful, a beating should not be excessive, cause injury, 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.
 - a. Making older children pay a fine to you from their savings every time they disobey or delay obedience can be very effective.
 - b. Start off by charging them \$1 every time they disobey. If that doesn't work, increase the amount.
 - c. This will only be effective if you make them work for their money and only buy them basic necessities and make them buy themselves the things they want (more on this later).
 - 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 very young 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 young adults 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. Punish them the first time, and every time, they disobey or behave badly.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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 you have a child that is mentally or physically handicapped, don't let their affliction stop you from disciplining them.
 - a. If they can understand your instruction and they intentionally disobey it, they should be disciplined, regardless if they are mentally retarded or developmentally challenged.
 - b. You cannot expect the same level of performance out of them, just as you would not punish a three-year-old for the same thing that you would punish a 12-year-old for, but disobedience and bad behavior of afflicted children should still be punished appropriately.
 - c. Autistic children are difficult to raise, and some parents say that they cannot be disciplined like other children.
 - (i) If the child understands when he does something wrong and he can associate pain with doing wrong, then he can and should be punished for disobedience.
 - (ii) Even animals, who are not rational creatures, can have their behavior corrected by being punished for undesirable actions.
 - (iii) Training is not an exact equivalent to teaching. One can train where academic teaching is inefficient.
 - (iv) One can train a sapling, dog, or child by manipulation, rewards, and punishment to achieve a desired product.
 - (v) A parent of a developmentally challenged child (or any child, for that matter) should ask themselves just who is doing the manipulating in the home: parent or child?
 - (vi) Comforting the feeble-minded should not be construed as excusing the feeble-minded's bad behavior.
 - d. Allowing a mentally or physically handicapped child to get away with bad behavior is not loving him, but hating him because he will be a terror to himself and others for the rest of his life.
 - e. Helen Keller's parents let her become Hellish Keller until a tutor put a stop to the unacceptable behavior.
 - f. If you have a disabled child, don't make the same mistake that Keller's parents did.
 - iii. If children are tired (especially if you are the one that had them out late), factor that into why they may be misbehaving.

- iv. 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 won't 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 dinnertime be mayhem at home and expect to not be embarrassed by your unruly children at a restaurant.
 - E. 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.
 - F. 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. Physical development

1. Make sure your children get adequate sleep which is crucial for physical health and growth.
- A. Sleep is important for good mental and physical health (**Psa 127:2; Joh 11:12-13; Pro 3:24; Ecc 5:12**).
 - B. Sleep is critical for children from infancy through adolescence.
 - C. Infants need to sleep a LOT (up to 18 hours per a day).
 - D. Growth (of the body and the mind) happens during sleep.
 - E. School-aged children need sound rest for both the development of their body and mind.
 - F. I have been told that the book *Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child* by Marc Weissbluth is a good reference on the subject.
 - G. Encourage your children who can read to read before bed. This will help them fall asleep and is good for their mental development.
 - H. Parents, it is your responsibility to make sure your children get sufficient sleep.
 - i. Establish early bed times and enforce them.
 - a. Create a bedtime schedule and make sure the whole family knows it.
 - b. Even if your children say they are not tired, make them go to bed and be quiet.
 - c. This will improve their mental and physical health and it will help you maintain your sanity.
 - d. You will then have a few hours of quiet time to spend with your spouse and to unwind, read, pray, meditate, etc. before you go to bed.
 - ii. It's also necessary for young children to take naps during the day.
 - a. Establish a napping schedule and stick to it.
 - b. This will give your young children a much needed couple of hours of sleep during the day.
 - c. If they don't want to sleep, make them stay in their beds without any video games or other electronics and remain quiet for two hours.

- d. Make your older children who no longer need naps read or at least remain quiet during that time.
- e. This will give mothers a much needed break to rest, regain their mental health, or accomplish things that require their concentration.

2. Teach your children to eat right.

A. Food gives us strength (**1Ki 19:8; 1Sa 14:28; Mat 15:32**).

B. It is lawful to eat any food (**1Ti 4:4-5**).

i. In the NT the only food restrictions are eating blood and animals that were strangled or offered to idols (**Act 15:29**).

ii. There is no Christian diet.

a. A vegan diet is not a Christian diet (**Rom 14:2-3 c/w Rom 14:17**).

b. A paleo diet is not a Christian diet (**Rom 14:2-3 c/w Rom 14:17**).

c. There is nothing that we can eat besides the above mentioned that can defile us (**Mar 7:18-19**).

iii. While it is lawful to eat any type of food, it might not be expedient to eat certain foods (**1Co 10:23**).

a. While it is lawful to eat any type of food, it is not wise to eat too much of sugary foods (**Pro 24:13; Pro 25:16; Pro 25:27**).

b. While it is lawful to eat any type of food, it is unlawful to eat anything excessively to the point to gluttony (**Pro 23:20-21**).

C. Teach your children to not waste food.

i. Lazy people waste food (**Pro 12:27; Pro 18:9**).

a. They are too lazy to plan out how much food they need for a meal and to plan their meals ahead of time so that food doesn't go bad in the refrigerator.

b. They are too lazy to put it in a container and preserve it in the refrigerator for the next meal.

c. They are too lazy to box it up and take it home from the restaurant.

d. It is easier to just throw it in the garbage.

ii. Jesus did not waste any food, nor throw away leftovers (**Joh 6:12**).

iii. Wasting food leads to poverty (**Pro 18:9 c/w Pro 20:13 c/w Pro 24:30-34**).

iv. Do not allow your children to waste food.

a. Teach them by your example.

b. If you waste food, so will they.

c. Make your children clean their plates and not leave so much as a grain of rice uneaten.

d. Note: leaving a spoonful or more of food on a plate is NOT finishing your dinner!

e. Explain to them that there are millions of people in this world that would be very grateful to have the food that they want to throw in the garbage.

f. Teach your children that food costs money.

g. Explain to them that they would have had to work for hours at their current earning potential to pay for the meal that is in front of them.

- h. Explain to them that we are to be good stewards of what God has blessed us with.
 - D. Dealing with children that won't eat.
 - i. How do you discern between a small appetite and pickiness in your child?
 - a. If your children can't or won't finish their meal, don't try to force them to eat it.
 - b. Just put it in a container and save it until the next meal or the next time they are hungry.
 - c. Don't give them any other food until that food is gone.
 - d. If they want to play hardball and refuse to eat it, just keep giving them that food for every meal until they eat it.
 - e. They certainly will not starve themselves to death (**Pro 27:7**).
 - f. You need to be stronger than your children and win this battle.
 - g. Otherwise they will turn out to be picky eaters and food wasters when they grow up.
 - ii. Make your kids eat whatever is prepared.
 - a. Don't allow them to decide what's for dinner.
 - b. Only ask them what they want to eat if they are paying.
 - c. Of course you can consider their suggestions and go along with them sometimes when it is reasonable, but don't put them in control.
 - d. Don't give your kids hotdogs, chicken nuggets, snack food, etc. because they don't want to eat what's for dinner.
 - e. Not only is this very unhealthy for them, it also puts them in control.
3. Teach your children to be active.
- A. Child obesity has increased dramatically in the last 40 years.

"Today, about one in three American kids and teens is overweight or obese. The prevalence of obesity in children more than tripled from 1971 to 2011. With good reason, childhood obesity is now the No. 1 health concern among parents in the United States, topping drug abuse and smoking.

"Among children today, obesity is causing a broad range of health problems that previously weren't seen until adulthood. These include high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and elevated blood cholesterol levels. There are also psychological effects: Obese children are more prone to low self-esteem, negative body image and depression.

"And excess weight is associated with earlier risk of obesity-related disease and death in adulthood. Perhaps one of the most sobering statements regarding the severity of the childhood obesity epidemic came from former Surgeon General Richard Carmona, who characterized the threat as follows: "Because of the increasing rates of obesity, unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity, we may see the first generation that will be less healthy and have a shorter life expectancy than their parents."

"The prevalence of obesity (BMI-for-age values at or above the 95th percentile of the 2000 CDC growth charts in children ages 2-5 increased from 4.8 percent in 1971-74 to 12.1 percent in 2009-2010. For 6-11 year old children, the prevalence of obesity increased from 4.0 percent in 1971-74 to 18.0 percent in 2009-10. The prevalence of overweight in adolescents ages 12-19 increased from 6.1 percent to 18.4 percent." (*Overweight in Children*, [American Heart Association](#), 7-5-2016)

- B. This is due in part to terrible eating habits.
- C. It is also due in large part to inactivity which is facilitated by TV, video games, computers, tablets, and smartphones.
 - i. Kids were not made to watch TV and play video games, but rather to play outside (**Zec 8:5**) and to help out with chores around the house.
 - ii. Previous generations did not have to deal with childhood obesity because their kids were not raised on TV, video games, and the internet.
- D. Though exercising godliness is far more important, bodily exercise is still profitable (**1Ti 4:8**).
- E. Instead of letting the kids play video games, watch TV, or play on a phone or tablet, send them outside to play.
 - i. Limit the amount of time your kids are allowed to spend on electronic devices.
 - ii. If you can't control them, or if they cause you too much grief, get rid of them.
 - iii. I personally will not allow TV or video games in our home.
 - iv. Nor would I allow my young children to play on computers, iPads, or smartphones because of the developmental, social, and behavioral problems that they cause.
 - v. I would explain to my children the dangers of these things and why I limit the use of them, both before and after they are old enough to understand, with hopes that it will sink in and be easier for them to accept and embrace.
 - vi. I would allow my kids to play video games for a very limited amount of time at their friends' or cousins' house so that they were exposed to it and wouldn't feel totally disconnected from this world, but I would not allow it in my home.
 - vii. See the series on "The Digital Invasion" for a more detailed explanation of the dangers of electronic devices for children:
https://www.minneapolischurch.net/audio/by/album/the_digital_invasion.

4. Teach your children to work hard.

- A. Kids used to know how to work.
 - i. In generations past, children grew up working on the family farm or at the family business.
 - ii. They were taught to work from a very young age.
 - iii. Not long ago, kids in their early teens got a part time job at a local business in order to make their own money.

- iv. Today, many kids never get a job until they graduate from college (if they can even find one).
 - v. Growing up in suburbia, many kids are not made to work at all and are accustomed to having everything handed to them.
- B. Being an adult means working to provide for yourself; therefore, teaching your kids to work, and to work hard, is absolutely essential to prepare your children for the real world.
- C. God expects us to work fervently at whatever we do (**Rom 12:11**).
- i. Slothful *adj.* - 1. Of persons, etc.: Full of sloth; indisposed to exertion; inactive, indolent, lazy, sluggish.
 - ii. Fervent *adj.* - 1. Hot, burning, glowing, boiling. 2. Of persons, their passions, dispositions, or actions: Ardent, intensely earnest. From 17th c. almost exclusively with reference to love or hatred, zeal, devotion or aspiration.
 - iii. Whatever we do, we should do it with all of our might (**Ecc 9:10**).
 - iv. Whatever we do, we should do it heartily as if we were working for God (**Col 3:23; Eph 6:7**).
 - v. The man who is diligent in his business will go far (**Pro 22:29**).
 - vi. Teach your children to have a mind to work (**Neh 4:6**).
 - vii. Teach your children to be like the ants who work hard when they can and save for a time when they can't (**Pro 6:6-11**).
 - viii. Teach your children that laziness is wickedness that God hates (**Mat 25:26**).
 - ix. Teach your children that laziness leads to poverty (**Pro 13:4; Pro 24:30-34**).
 - x. Teach your children that no one will want to hire them if they are lazy (**Pro 10:26**).
 - xi. Teach your children to work in unpleasant conditions (**Pro 20:4**).
 - xii. Teach your children to not make excuses for their laziness (**Pro 22:13**).
 - xiii. Teach your children to focus their effort on working instead of coming up with reasons why they shouldn't (**Pro 26:16**).
- D. Lead by example.
- i. Show your kids how to work hard by doing it yourself.
 - ii. If they don't naturally follow your example, make them do so.
 - iii. Give them incentives to work hard by paying them to do jobs around the house that are *in addition to* their regular chores (more on this later).
 - iv. If that doesn't work, teach them with the rod.
- E. No man or woman who doesn't have a strong work ethic is fit for the real world.
5. Teach your children good hygiene.
- A. Some kids will naturally want to be clean as they mature, others will need to be encouraged or even forced to do so.
 - B. Teach them to brush their teeth and floss daily. This will save them a lot of pain and money when they become adults.
 - C. Teach them that cleanliness is next to godliness (**Lev 15:5-8, etc.**), and therefore they should bath regularly and not go around smelling foully.

- D. Sin is described as filth in Scripture and salvation from sin is oft described as cleansing, washing, etc.
 - E. No young man or woman who has poor personal hygiene is fit for the real world.
6. Teach your children about puberty and sex.
- A. Before your children enter puberty, let them know about the changes that will shortly begin in their bodies.
 - B. When they enter puberty and begin to develop sexually, talk to them frankly and openly about sex.
 - i. If you don't teach them about sex, their friends will.
 - ii. Do not fail in this extremely important area of child training.
 - iii. Let them know that they can talk with you about anything and encourage them to do so.
 - iv. Teach them that sex must be reserved for marriage (**Heb 13:4**) and that fornication is a grievous sin in the eyes of God (**1Co 6:18-20; 1Th 4:3-7**).
 - v. Warn them of the power of sexual temptation (**Pro 5:19-20; Pro 6:25-26; Pro 7:10-27**) so that they have firm principles when they begin dating.
 - vi. Warn them of the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and how they can destroy their lives (**Pro 5:11**).
 - vii. Warn them that having children out of wedlock has the potential to ruin both their and their children's lives.

IV. Spiritual development

1. What if your children are not elect?
 - A. This is not something to worry yourself with because it is God's choice, not yours (**Joh 1:13; Rom 9:11-16**).
 - B. Raise all of your children as if they are God's elect by doing the things listed below.
 - C. If your children are elect:
 - i. If your children are God's children and they embrace the faith out of pure heart, then give God the glory (**2Jo 1:4; 3Jo 1:4**).
 - ii. If your children are God's children and they reject the faith after you taught them well by instruction and example, then you are off of God's hook because you did your job (**Eze 3:19; Eze 33:9; Act 20:26-27**), and God will chasten them (**Heb 12:6**).
 - iii. If your children reject the faith and it appears that they are being judged by God afterward, then that is evidence that they are children of God because God only chastens His children (**Heb 12:7**).
 - iv. If your children are God's children, and they reject the faith because you did not teach them and live it as an example for them, then you will be judged by God for it (**Eze 3:20; Eze 33:8**).
 - D. If your children are reprobates:
 - i. If your children are not God's children and they reject the faith, and you didn't teach nor warn them, then God will judge you for not warning them (**Eze 3:18; Eze 33:8**).

- ii. If your children are not God's children and they reject the faith after you have taught and warned them, then you can live in peace because you trained them up in the way that they should go (**Eze 3:19; Eze 33:9**).
- iii. If your children do not appear to be under God's judgment after they reject the faith, then that is evidence that they are not children of God because those that are not chastised by God are bastards and not sons (**Heb 12:8**).
- iv. If your children are reprobates, hopefully they will be decent, hardworking reprobates who will be good children to you.
- v. If your children are not God's children and they embrace the faith with a feigned faith, God will root them out eventually (**1Jo 2:19; Mat 22:11-14**).
- vi. This is a sad outcome, but you will bear no guilt for it because you did what you were commanded to do.

2. Teach them to believe in God.

- A. Teach them that God is real (**Heb 11:6**) and He lives in heaven (**Mat 6:9**).
- B. Teach them that God created the universe, the earth, and everything in it (**Gen 1:1**).
- C. Teach them that Jesus Christ is God (**Joh 1:1,14; 1Ti 3:16**) and that He lives in heaven (**Mar 16:19**).
- D. Teach them that the Lord Jesus Christ is a real superman.
- E. There is no need to imagine super heroes who can do incredible things because Jesus Christ is REAL and has ALL POWER (**Mat 28:18; Eph 1:20-23**).

3. Teach them the scriptures.

- A. The scriptures are the revealed will of God.
- B. The word of God is the truth (**Joh 17:17; Psa 119:142, 151**).
- C. The word of God will prevent us from sinning against God when it is read and hidden in the heart (**Psa 119:11**).
- D. Taking heed to the word of God will enable a young man to cleanse his way (**Psa 119:9**).
- E. The scriptures will make a young man wise unto salvation (**2Ti 3:15**).
- F. It is the parents' duty, and primarily the fathers', to teach their children the scriptures (**Eph 6:4; Pro 22:6; Psa 78:4-6; Isa 38:19**).
- G. It is as important to read the Bible daily as it is to eat daily (**Mat 4:4**).
 - i. You wouldn't like to go a day, much less many days, without food and drink for your body; don't starve your soul by depriving it of its nourishment.
 - ii. You NEED it! Just as your body needs a continual supply of nourishment, so does your soul.
 - iii. Reading or studying something once does not mean you have no more need of reading or studying it again; no more than eating or drinking something once means you have no more need of eating or drinking it again.
 - iv. Make time to consume God's word just like you make time to eat.
 - v. Make it part of your daily routine.
 - vi. The further you get from the consumption of food, the weaker you become.
 - vii. That is true naturally and that is true spiritually.

- viii. In other words, the further you get from consuming God's word, the weaker you become spiritually, thus the more susceptible you are to falling, to being overcome by the enemy, etc.
 - ix. Use this analogy with your children to help them understand the importance of reading the word of God.
4. Teach them to obey God.
 - A. Teach your children that their whole duty is to fear God and keep His commandments (**Ecc 12:13; Deu 13:4; Deu 27:10**).
 - B. Teach them that God will bless them for obeying Him and curse them for disobeying Him (**Deu 11:26-28; Deu 30:19-20**).
 - C. Teach them that if they love Jesus Christ, they must keep His commandments (**Joh 14:15**).
 5. Teach them to love and seek the truth.
 - A. Teach your children that God is seeking them that seek to worship Him in spirit and in truth (**Joh 4:23-24**).
 - B. Teach them that if they seek the truth with their whole heart they will find it (**Jam 1:5-7; Pro 2:1-6**).
 - C. Teach them that knowing Jesus Christ in truth is worth giving up anything and everything (**Php 3:8**).
 - D. Teach them to seek God in their youth (**Pro 8:17; Ecc 12:1; Lam 3:26-27; 2Ch 34:3; Isa 55:6-7**). 50
 6. Teach them to pray.
 - A. Teach them to pray always in every situation and throughout the day, staying in continual communion with God (**1Th 5:17; Luk 6:12; Luk 18:1; Act 12:5; Eph 6:18; Col 4:2**).
 - i. Teach them to pray before bed and when they get up.
 - ii. Pray with them before they go to bed.
 - iii. Let them see you praying regularly, both in private and as a family.
 - B. Teach them to pray before every meal (**Joh 6:11; Mat 15:36**).
 - i. Jesus gave thanks for food He created: how much more so should we give thanks for food that God has given us!
 - ii. After Jesus fed the 5,000, His prayer was mentioned, but the miracle was not (**Joh 6:23**).
 - iii. Teach your children to pray before meals even when they are in public or in the presence of unbelievers (**Act 27:35**).
 - iv. This is one way to be a light in a dark world.
 - v. Teach them this by your example.
 - C. Teach them the following guidelines for effective prayer:
 - i. Follow the pattern of the Lord's prayer (**Mat 6:9-13**), but don't repeat it verbatim (**Mat 6:7**).
 - ii. We must ask, seek, and knock if we expect our needs and desires to be given unto us (**Mat 7:7-8; Jam 4:2; Num 27:1-11**).

- iii. Ask in faith and believe that God will answer your prayers if it is His will to do so (**Mat 21:22; Jam 1:5-7**).
- iv. Ask, believing that God is able to give you your request (**Mat 9:28-30**).
 - a. Ask God, believing that He *can* grant your prayer, but not demanding that He will, or presuming that He must (**Mar 1:40-42**).
 - b. All things are possible with God (**Luk 1:37; Mat 19:26**).
 - c. God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think (**Eph 3:20**).
 - d. If we believe, all things are possible (**Mar 9:23-24**).
 - e. But remember, just because it's possible for God to do something doesn't mean that He will, which is why we must pray according to His will and be ready to accept the outcome (**Mar 14:36**).
- v. Pray in Jesus' name (**Joh 14:13-14; Joh 15:16; Joh 16:23-24**).
 - a. What does it mean to pray *in Jesus' name*?
 - (i) Name *n.* - 11. *in one's name, in the name of*: a. In phrases expressing invocation of, reliance upon, or devotion to, the persons of the Godhead. c. Denoting the use of another's name to give authority or countenance to one's acts; or implying that the action is done on account or on behalf of some other person or persons. Hence, by contrast to this, *in one's own name*.
 - (ii) Invocation - 1. The action or an act of invoking or calling upon (God, a deity, etc.) in prayer or attestation; supplication, or an act or form of supplication, for aid or protection.
 - b. Praying in Jesus' name is praying to God with reliance upon Jesus that those prayers will be heard because Jesus makes intercession for us, and therefore God will answer them for Jesus' sake (**Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25**).
 - c. The apostles could heal people and cast out devils when they called upon Jesus for the power to do so, invoking His name (**Mar 16:17, 20; Act 3:6-7; Act 16:18**).
 - d. Though we don't have those miraculous gifts today, the same principle still applies to our prayers; if we want God to hear and answer them, we must pray *in Jesus' name*.
- vi. Abide in Jesus to have our prayers heard and answered (**Joh 15:7**).
- vii. Don't go to God in prayer with unforsaken sin in your life because God will not hear your prayers (**1Pe 3:12; Joh 9:31**).
 - a. Our sin separates us from God and causes Him to not hear us (**Isa 59:2**).
 - b. If we have sin in our hearts, the LORD will not hear us (**Psa 66:18**).
 - c. The LORD is far from the wicked, but hears the prayers of the righteous (**Pro 15:29**).
 - d. This is why a scorner who seeks wisdom from God will not find it (**Pro 14:6**).
- viii. Pray according to God's will (**1Jo 5:14-15**).
 - a. Ask only for things that God approves of in His word (**Jam 4:3**).

- b. Amiss *adv.* - 1. Erroneously, in a way that goes astray of, or misses its object.
 - ix. Be persistent with God (**Luk 11:5-10; Luk 18:1-8; Mat 15:21-28; Mar 2:1-5; Mar 10:46-52**).
 - a. Importunity - 4. Troublesome pertinacity in solicitation. 1526 Tindale Luke xi. 8 Because of hys importunite he woll ryse and ge ve hym as many as he nedeth.
 - b. Just keep pestering God until He gives you your desire (if it is according to His will).
 - x. Pray to prevent temptation (**Mat 26:41**).
 - xi. Always give thanks to God (**1Th 5:18; Eph 5:20; Ecc 7:14**).
- 7. Teach them to repent and ask for forgiveness when they sin.
 - A. Teach your children that anytime they sin, they have sinned first and foremost against God (**Gen 39:9; Psa 51:4**).
 - B. Teach them that in addition to sinning against God they have also sinned against whomever they trespassed (**Gen 42:22; Luk 15:18; Luk 17:3-4; 1Co 8:12**).
 - C. Teach them that when they commit sin to first repent and confess their sin to God and ask for forgiveness (**Psa 32:5; Psa 38:18; 1Jo 1:9**).
 - D. Teach them that each time they pray to think of the sins that they have committed that day and ask forgiveness for them (**Mat 6:12**).
 - E. Teach them that after they have asked God's forgiveness, they should approach the person they sinned against and ask for his forgiveness (**Luk 15:18**).
 - F. Teach them that they will not prosper if they try to hide and cover up their sins (**Pro 28:13**).
- 8. Teach them to forgive others.
 - A. Teach them that we must always forgive those who ask us to because God forgave us (**Col 3:13**).
 - B. Even if someone repeatedly sins against us, we must forgive them if they repent and ask for forgiveness (**Luk 17:3-4**).
 - C. Teach them that if they don't forgive others then God will not forgive them (**Mat 6:14-15; Mat 18:21-35**).
- 9. Teach them that in order to be a Christian *as the Bible defines it* they must repent and be baptized, thereby being added to a local church with which they assemble.
 - A. Teach your children that the first act of obedience to God after hearing and believing the gospel and repenting of sins is to be baptized (**Mat 3:1-2,6; Mat 28:19; Act 8:12; Act 8:35-38; Act 18:8**).
 - i. Teach them that the act of baptism adds a believer to a local church (**Act 2:37-42,47; 1Co 12:13**).
 - ii. Teach them that baptized disciples who assemble themselves with the local church are called Christians (**Act 11:26**).
 - iii. Teach them that they are not Christians until they have been baptized and added to a local church which is the body of Jesus Christ.
 - iv. Note: in scripture, the term *Christian* is NOT synonymous with a child of God, an elect person, a person who is born again, or a person who is saved eternally. A Christian is a person who is all those things *and* has been

baptized and added to a local church with which he assembles to worship Jesus Christ.

- B. Teach them that being in the kingdom of God which is the local church is worth more than anything else in this life (**Mat 13:44-46**).
 - C. Don't pressure them to get baptized, just teach them that the Bible commands those who believe the gospel to be baptized.
 - i. Let the Holy Spirit convict them (**Act 2:37**).
 - ii. You don't want your kids to get baptized for you, but for Jesus Christ.
10. Teach them the importance of church and worshipping God.
- A. Teach them that God desires to be worshipped in spirit and in truth by His children (**Joh 4:23-24**).
 - i. Teach them that God doesn't want to be worshiped in vain by the traditions of men (**Mar 7:6-9,13**).
 - ii. Teach them that any old church will not do, but only a true church that worships God in truth according to His word.
 - iii. Teach them that God will not be pleased if they grow up and go to an incorporated entertainment facility.
 - B. Teach them that God values His house more highly than any other place (**Psa 87:2**) and so should they (**Psa 23:6; Psa 27:4; Psa 84:1-2, 10**).
 - i. The best way to teach them this is to show them that the church is more important than any other place to you by *your actions*.
 - ii. If you choose to be somewhere else on a Sunday morning, you are teaching your children and others that that other place is more important to you than God's church.
 - iii. Your words mean little -- your heart is where your treasure is (**Luk 12:34**).
 - C. Teach them to seek God's kingdom first in all that they do (**Mat 6:33**).
 - D. Teach them that the church is the place where God dwells (**1Co 3:16; Eph 2:19-22**).
 - E. Teach them that the church belongs to Jesus Christ and that He protects it (**Mat 16:18; Act 20:28**).
 - F. Teach them that the church is where praise and glory are given to God from now until the end of time (**Eph 3:21**).
 - G. Teach them that Christians ought not to forsake assembling with the church (**Heb 10:25**).
 - H. You should teach your children to value church by your example.
 - i. On the way to church ask them if they are ready to go to God's house and worship the LORD.
 - ii. On communion Sundays, tell them that it is a solemn time to examine yourself.
 - iii. On the way home from church, ask them what the sermon was about and what they learned.
 - iv. Quiz them on things that you learned from the sermon and show them that you value being taught the word of God in church.

11. Teach them the importance of giving a portion of their income back to God.
- A. Teach them that God expects them to give to Him the firstfruits of all their increase **(Pro 3:9-10)**.
 - i. Giving God the *firstfruits* means giving him a percentage of your income *first*, before spending any of it.
 - ii. Giving God what you have left after you have covered all of your expenses is giving God the *leftovers*, not the *firstfruits*.
 - iii. Giving God the firstfruits of *all thine increase* means giving God a percentage of any and all money you receive.
 - iv. Start by teaching your children to give to God a set percentage of any money they get for birthdays, graduation, etc.
 - v. When they earn money by doing jobs around the house (more on this later), or when they start a kid-business (more on this later), or when they get their first job, sit them down and teach them to give God a set percentage of it before they spend or save any of it.
 - B. Teach them that there was a pattern of giving 10% in the Old Testament, both prior to and while the law of Moses was in effect.
 - i. Before the law of Moses, Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek **(Heb 7:1-2,4)** who was a type of Jesus Christ, and whose priesthood was conferred on Him **(Heb 6:20)**.
 - ii. Before the law of Moses, Jacob promised to give God a tithe of everything that God would give him **(Gen 28:22)**.
 - iii. After the law of Moses was instituted, the nation of Israel gave 2 1/3 tithes per year **(Num 18:21; Deu 14:22-27; Deu 14:28-29)**.
 - iv. Unless you can make a Biblical case (and not just an arbitrary one) for giving less than 10% to God, then teach your children to follow every known example in the Bible and give at least 10% of their income to God.
 - v. My dad taught me to give 10% of my gross income to God by his example, and I am thankful that he did.
 - C. Teach them that God will bless them if they give unto Him willingly and bountifully.
 - i. If we give the firstfruits, God will fill our barns with plenty **(Pro 3:9-10)**.
 - ii. If we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully **(2Co 9:6)**.
 - iii. If we give to God, He will make sure that it comes back to us in spades **(Luk 6:38)**.
 - D. Teach them that it's a blessing to give **(Act 20:35)**.
 - E. Teach them to purpose in their hearts what they will give to God and to stick to it **(2Co 9:7)**.
 - F. Teach them to lay up money in store for God and His purposes so that they have money to give when a need arises **(1Co 16:1-2)**.
 - G. Teach them to give as God has prospered them **(1Co 16:2)**.
 - i. When we get a raise, we should give proportionally more to God.
 - ii. When we get a demotion or laid off, we should give proportionally less to God.
 - H. Teach them to give willingly and cheerfully **(2Co 9:7; 2Co 8:1-5; Deu 15:7-11; 1Ch 29:6,9,14,17)**.

- I. Teach them that God will punish them if they don't give Him what they should (**Hag 1:3-11; Mal 3:8-10; 2Co 9:6**).
 - J. The most effective way to teach your children to give their firstfruits to God is to show them by your example.
 - K. This will prepare them for the real world because they will experience the blessing of God in their lives for giving to Him, and they will not have to eek their way through life like so many of their peers.
12. Teach them the importance of going to Bible study.
- A. Teach them that it's important to study the Bible (**2Ti 2:15**).
 - B. Teach them that in addition to personal study, it's also needful and beneficial to have a teacher guide them to help them understand (**Act 8:30-31; Eph 4:11-14**).
 - C. Teach them that part of their pastor's ministry is to teach people privately in homes (**Act 20:20**).
 - D. Teach them that Bible studies are:
 - i. An opportunity to hear the other 50% of what the pastor teaches the church outside of the church service.
 - ii. A mid-week spiritual pick-me-up.
 - iii. A time when they can fellowship with other church members.
 - iv. A time when they can get their questions answered.
 - E. Teach them the importance of going to Bible study by going yourself.
13. Teach them to sing hymns.
- A. Teach them that singing hymns is God's music program for the church (**Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Mat 26:30**).
 - B. Singing hymns is:
 - i. A good opportunity for you teach your children doctrine (**Col 3:16**).
 - ii. A great opportunity for families to bond.
 - iii. Helpful in teaching your children to sing and read music.
14. Teach them to value family.
- A. Outside of the church, the family is the most important institution that God created.
 - B. Teach your children to honor their parents (**Eph 6:1-3**).
 - C. Encourage your children to be best friends with each other and treat each other well.
 - D. Don't let your children fight and grow resentful of each other.
 - i. Have them memorize Bible verses that will remind them of how to get along with each other such as:
 - a. "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins." (**Pro 10:12**)
 - b. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." (**Pro 15:1**)
 - c. "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling." (**Pro 20:3**)
 - d. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (**Rom 12:18**)
 - e. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" (**Heb 12:14**)

- f. "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." (**1Pe 3:9**)
 - ii. If two of your children are fighting, spank them both to teach them to keep the peace.
 - a. If there is a fight, they are likely both to blame in some way.
 - b. If they know that they will get a spanking if they are involved in a fight with one of their siblings, they will be less likely to instigate a fight, or continue one when it is instigated.
 - c. It would be wise to make a little inquiry before spanking them both to make sure that one was not the unprovoked aggressor and the other was innocently defending himself.
 - (i) If this is the case, then only spank the aggressor.
 - (ii) This will probably rarely be the case though -- it usually takes two to tango.
- E. Teach them that meal times are important family times.
 - i. Make a strong effort to eat meals together as a family, which is one of the greatest blessings a family has (**Psa 128:3**).
 - ii. Spend time talking together at meals.
 - iii. Enforce discipline at meal times so that they are quiet, calm, relaxing, and enjoyable times.
 - iv. Forbid smartphones, electronics, and toys at the dinner table.
- F. Jealously guard your family's time together.
 - i. As much as possible, BE HOME with your family.
 - ii. SHOW by your presence (and presence of mind) that your family is important.
 - iii. Sacrificing some worldly gains, pleasures, and status may be required, but it's worth it.
 - iv. Say "no" to intrusions into your home-life by school activities, sports leagues, hobbies, and other activities that will take you or your children away from the home during the evenings and weekends.
 - v. Encourage your children to make neighborhood friends, but also make sure to put a limit on how much time they spend at their friends' houses, or how much their friends interfere with your family time.

15. Teach them to embrace the God-ordained roles in families.

- A. Teach your children (by precept and example) that the father is the head of his wife and children (**Eph 5:22-24; Gen 18:19**).
- B. Teach them that the wife is supposed to submit to her husband (**Eph 5:22; 1Pe 3:1**).
- C. Teach them that children must obey their parents (**Col 3:20**).
- D. Teach them that the father is supposed to be the bread-winner (**Eph 5:28-29; 1Ti 5:8**).
- E. Teach them that the wife is supposed to be a keeper at home (**1Ti 5:14; Tit 2:4-5**).
- F. Teach your girls to look for a godly man to marry who will be her head, leader, provider, and protector.
 - i. Teach them to want to be stay-at-home wives and mothers.

- ii. Teach them that being a homemaker is the most important job that they ever can or will do.
- iii. Don't encourage your daughters to go to college and get a worthless degree that they have to go tens of thousands of dollars in debt for and will have to work for years to pay off.
 - a. Why would you want to encourage your Christian daughters to go to college and rack up debt that they or their husbands will have to work for years to pay off?
 - b. Why would you want to teach them to be in bondage (**Pro 22:7**)?
 - c. Why would you want to encourage your Christian daughters to go to college to prepare them to have a career outside the home?
 - d. Why would you want to encourage your Christian daughters to go to college to learn that they don't need a man to provide for them?
 - e. Why would you want to encourage your Christian daughters to go to college to have their good, godly virtues undermined and corrupted?
- iv. Though I highly advise against sending your daughters to college for the reasons given, it may not be a bad idea for a young woman to obtain some training or education that would enable her to provide for herself in case she is suddenly desolated by divorce or death, and/or is forced to provide for infirmed parents or orphaned siblings.
 - a. The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 was obviously skilled in commerce and real estate, utilizing those skills for the betterment of the home under her husband's oversight.
 - b. Her work took her outside the house to purchase materials (**Pro 31:13-14**), to buy land and plant a vineyard (**Pro 31:16**), and to sell the goods that she made at home (**Pro 31:24**).
 - c. However, the Proverbs 31 woman was not a career woman who worked outside the home and gave her kids to a daycare facility to raise them for her. She was working from the home to take care of her family.
- v. Teach them to submit to their husbands by showing them by your example (wives) (**1Pe 3:1-6**).
- vi. Teach them to practice submitting to their husbands by submitting to their father.
- vii. Do not tolerate any back-talking or disrespect from them.
- G. Teach your boys to look for a godly woman to marry who has a meek and quiet spirit (**1Pe 3:4 c/w Pro 7:11**) and who desires to be a stay-at-home wife and mother.
 - i. Teach them to be decisive and to be good leaders.
 - ii. Teach them to be gentle and courteous with women (**1Pe 3:7**).
 - iii. Teach them how to work hard and to be providers (more on this later).
 - iv. Teach them to be protectors of their wives and children.

16. Teach them to prefer the people of God.

- A. Teach them that God's people are the apple of His eye (**Deu 32:10; Zec 2:8**).
- B. Teach them that they should have affection for church members (**Rom 12:10; Eph 4:32**).

- C. Teach them that they should prefer their brethren in the church over themselves (**Rom 12:10; Php 2:3**).
- D. Teach them that they should love the brethren (**Joh 13:34-35; 1Pe 3:8**).
- E. Teach them that they should pray for their brethren and be concerned about them (**1Th 5:25**).
- F. Teach them that brethren should want to spend time together (**Psa 119:63; Mal 3:16**).
- G. Teach them that brethren should desire to see each other (**1Th 3:6; 2Ti 1:4; Rom 1:11-12**).
- H. Teach them these things by doing them yourselves.
 - i. Have church people over to your home for dinner.
 - ii. Have lunch or coffee with them after church.
 - iii. Don't make plans for immediately after church so that you can stick around for a while and fellowship with the brethren.
 - iv. Encourage your kids to talk to other kids and adults before and after church - get them out of their comfort zone.
 - v. Don't let other activities take precedent over church activities.
 - vi. Have your kids get involved in making things for a potluck or a church get-together.
 - vii. Have them get a church member's bed ready who is coming to stay.
 - viii. Pray for church members at meals, talk up visits from other church members.
 - ix. Help church members move, etc.

17. Teach them to hate evil.

- A. You must teach your children to refuse the evil and choose the good (**Deu 1:39; Isa 7:16**).
- B. Teach them that God hates evil (**Heb 1:9; Jer 44:3-4; Pro 8:13**).
- C. Teach them that God commands them to hate evil (**Amos 5:15; Rom 12:9**).
- D. Teach them that in order to fear God and love Him they must hate evil (**Pro 8:13; Psa 97:10**).
- E. Teach them most of all to hate their own sin (**Rom 7:15**).

18. Teach them to be content.

- A. By nature, children are not content with what they have (**Pro 27:20; Ecc 1:8**).
- B. Teach them to be content with what they have (**Heb 13:5**).
- C. Help them learn contentment by not giving them everything they want.
- D. Teach them to learn to be content in whatever state they are in (**Php 4:11**).
- E. Teach them that they already have all that they need to be content because they have food and clothing (**1Ti 6:8**).
- F. Teach them that they will lead rich lives if they have godliness with contentment (**1Ti 6:6**).

19. Never use the Bible as punishment.

- A. It is unwise to make children write out Bible verses numerous times (or other similar exercises) for punishment.

- B. This will make the child associate the Bible with negative experiences and could cause them to resent it.
- C. It is wise to show a child who has disobeyed you, or otherwise sinned, the Bible verses that forbid that behavior.
- D. This will let them know that God condemns their bad behavior and not just their parents.

V. Intellectual development

1. The responsibility of children's education and 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 commanded 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. Mother's 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.
- i. The word of God is more valuable than silver and gold and precious jewels - it has no equal (**Psa 19:10; Pro 3:13-15; Pro 8:11,19**).
 - a. It stands to reason that spending more time in God's book than any other is the most profitable.
 - b. I firmly believe that if you had no other book but the Bible, you could be very well educated.
 - ii. Teaching your children the scriptures 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**).
 - iii. It is fathers who are supposed to make known God's truth to their children.
 - iv. Too often today the only religious instruction kids get is from their mothers because the fathers abdicate their responsibility.
 - v. 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 by 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, teach them His truth, and impress upon them how important it is.
- vi. Teaching your children God's word 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 meditate 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**).
 - (i) When you sit in your house (at the dinner table during meals is a good time).
 - (ii) When you are walking by the way (or driving places with your kids).
 - (iii) When you lie down (praying with them before bedtime).
 - (iv) When you rise up in the morning (around the breakfast table).
- vii. Learning and living the scriptures will give a man more wisdom and understanding than enemies, teachers, and ancients (**Psa 119:98-100**).
- viii. 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.

2. A child's education should start very early (**Isa 28:9**).

- A. The things of God should be among a child's first concepts and words.
- B. Children learn first by imitation, then orally, and then by reading.
- C. Watch what you say around them because they absorb both good and bad.
- D. They understand more than you think.

- E. Your example of godly living and religion will teach them more than your words.
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 failing in your duty before God.
 - B. This should include teaching by your example.
 - C. You **WILL** teach by example. Make sure it's a good one.
 - D. 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.
 - E. This can include fully educating your children by homeschooling them.
4. Formal education (through high school)
- A. Remember parents, it's your responsibility to ensure that your children get the best education they can.
 - B. Depending on your situation, finances, and ability, you have three choices for formal education: homeschooling, private schooling, or government (public) schooling.
 - C. Homeschooling
 - i. You have been given the right by God to homeschool your children and personally provide their education (**Eph 6:4**).
 - ii. Homeschooling may not be for everyone.
 - iii. It's a good way to limit the indoctrination your children will receive in public or private schools.
 - iv. It's a good way to limit the amount of sinful garbage your children are taught at school and pick up from their friends.
 - a. Don't worry about your kids being sheltered from the real world when they are young.
 - b. If you're doing your job teaching your children the scriptures, they'll be aware of the evils of the world.
 - c. They should learn about them from God's word *before* they are exposed to them *in the world* so that they will know how to deal with them correctly.
 - v. Homeschooling is a good way to limit the amount of control and influence that the government has over you and your children.
 - vi. It has been shown to be superior to traditional schooling (more on this later).
 - a. One of the reasons for this is the teacher/student ratio and the personalized attention that it affords.
 - b. It's hard for a homeschooled child to be "left behind," so to speak.
 - vii. 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. If the parents decide to go with a curriculum in which the parents teach their children as a school teacher would, this means that Dad might 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.
 - c. When mothers are homeschooling, husbands should not expect to have museum-quality homes, nor should they overload their wives with unnecessarily large homes.
 - d. Parents might want to instead consider a self-taught curriculum such as the Robinson Curriculum or the Ron Paul Curriculum which are both excellent curricula which require little to no direct teaching from the parents.
 - e. Self-taught curricula are less work than some other curricula for a homeschooling mother, but they still require checking up on your kids to make sure they are doing the work correctly.
- viii. Objections to homeschooling.
- a. Objection 1: I'm not smart enough to homeschool my kids.
 - (i) Nobody is more qualified to teach your children than you.
 - (ii) Nobody cares more about your children's education than you.
 - (iii) You can hire labor and service, but not true caring.
 - (iv) For advanced subjects, you can use tutors, YouTube, or other parents in a homeschooling association.
 - (v) Self-taught curricula remove your own limitations from the equation.
 - b. Objection 2: I don't know how to teach.
 - (i) Yes, you do. You have taught your young children everything they know.
 - (ii) There are great self-taught curricula like the Robinson Curriculum and the Ron Paul Curriculum.
 - (iii) The Robinson Curriculum is focused heavily on reading, writing, and math. Once students learn to read, it is self-taught.
 - (iv) The Ron Paul Curriculum is self-taught after the second grade and is video based, so your children are learning from qualified teachers.
 - 1. It also gives children regular reading and writing assignments so they are not learning solely through a computer screen.
 - 2. The downside to it is that it requires your children to spend a lot of time in front of a screen.
 - 3. This can be potentially harmful for children.
 - 4. It could also teach them that the way to acquire information is by watching a video instead of reading a book.
 - c. Objection 3: I'm afraid that my children will not be socialized.

- (i) This is probably the most common objection to homeschooling which is promoted by God-hating people with an agenda.
 - (ii) Modern public cesspools only socialize children with other children their age.
 - (iii) The socialization amounts to other children teaching your children bad habits (**1Co 15:33**).
 - (iv) Consider *the kind of socialization* that your children will receive in the public cesspools.
 - (v) Most homeschooled children that I know are well socialized and can communicate with older and younger children and adults quite well because they are not segregated with other children their age all day long.
 - (vi) If you are concerned with socialization, then make sure they get social interaction.
 1. Take your children out and let them experience other people.
 2. Encourage them to talk to others at church.
 3. Encourage them to make friends with other children at church.
 4. Encourage them to make friends with the neighbor kids (if they are decent kids).
- d. Objection 4: I'm afraid that my children will not receive as good of an education as their public-schooled peers.
- (i) Our nation was built by people who were homeschooled.
 - (ii) "The effectiveness of homeschooling was not in question during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of the most well-known writers and inventors were homeschooled. Thomas Edison, who attended only three months of elementary school, was taught by his mother. Other famous homeschoolers include Benjamin Franklin, John Wesley, Beatrix Potter, Charles Dickens and Alexander Graham Bell." (History of Homeschooling in America, www.sharefaith.com)
 - (iii) Test results and college entrance exams have shown that homeschooled kids statistically do far better than public-schooled kids.
 - (iv) "Homeschooled students score about 72 points higher than the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The average American College Test (ACT) score is 21. The average score for homeschoolers is 22.8 out of a possible 36 points. Homeschoolers are at the 77th percentile on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills." (*Do Homeschool Kids Really Rate Better on Standardized Tests?*, www.wehavekids.com, 9-7-2017)

- (v) Homeschoolers spend far less time in school and consistently outperform their peers who spend far more time in the asylum.
- e. Objection 5: I don't have time because I have to work.
 - (i) Prioritize your children and cut back your standard of living so that you can live on the husband's income.
 - (ii) If you desire to homeschool your children, then purpose in your heart that you will do so and beg God for help to provide for your family with one income.
 - (iii) The battle is for the mind; therefore, prioritizing the development of the mind is critically important.
 - 1. This may require some sacrifice.
 - 2. This must be carefully considered by each family. It may not be possible in some cases, but it should be considered.
 - 3. Don't default to the world's ways without careful consideration of the costs.
 - 4. You will be paying for that fancy job or that second income.
 - 5. Consider whether it's worth it or not (**Ecc 11:1**).

D. Government (public) and private schools

- i. 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.
- ii. Paul was *brought up* at the feet of Gamaliel and was *taught* by him (**Act 22:3**).
 - a. 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.
 - b. In other words, Paul was educated from childhood by a teacher who was not his parent.
- iii. Samuel's education and upbringing were entrusted to Eli (**1Sa 1:24-28**).
- iv. 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**).
- v. Delegating your child's education to another may be a necessary alternative to doing it yourself.
- vi. 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.
- vii. Government (public) schools
 - a. This is the cheapest solution because it's "free."
 - b. Remember, you get what you pay for.
 - c. It has been claimed that some government schools give a quality education.

- d. Even if this is true, be aware that they are going to indoctrinate your child with a plethora of propaganda and lies.
 - e. 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.
 - f. Be ready to counter-teach your children if they are attending public school, as they will be taught lies such as evolution, acceptance of the sodomitical lifestyle, transgenderism, abortion, government propaganda, and false doctrine in general.
 - g. I was recently in a local high school and the sign on the front door read:
 - (i) This school welcomes...
 - students of all races, ethnicities and nationalities
 - students with diverse abilities
 - students who are LGBT**
 - students of all family structures**
 - students who are English language learners
 - students of all religions
 - students from all socio-economic backgrounds
 - students of all body types
 - ...YOU
 - h. If you entrust your children's education to a public school *with no oversight on your part*, don't be surprised if they come out spiritually, morally, mentally, intellectually, socially, and emotionally damaged.
- viii. Private schools
- a. Private schools are often run by "Christian" organizations and therefore will hopefully not pollute your child's mind with moral filth like the public cesspools do.
 - b. But if they are religious schools, they will be indoctrinating your children with religious and spiritual filth that you will have to un-teach your children.
 - c. Private schools are also prohibitively expensive for many families.
- E. One entity that you must be very careful delegating your child's education to is the TV.
- i. The TV will teach your children much, most of which will not be good.
 - ii. Consider **Psa 101:3** before you allow your children to watch TV: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..."
 - iii. Evil communication corrupts good manners (**1Co 15:33**).
 - iv. It will also teach them to have short attention spans and to not appreciate reading and real learning.
 - v. If you use the TV as a babysitter, be prepared to face the consequences.
 - a. Using the TV as a babysitter back?res because the child then craves constant entertainment and they don't learn to entertain themselves.

- b. Consequently they are in your hair and on your heels all the time wanting you to provide amusement/attention for them.
 - c. Lots of TV will handicap you in educating your child because it will decrease their attention span and their interest in reading and books.
 - d. Video game playing and internet usage is similar.
 - e. Watching TV is even worse for kids now than when we were kids because of the speed of pictures flashing on the TV screen.
 - vi. If parents don't let their kids watch TV, but they watch a lot of it themselves, then they are still teaching their kids that this is how to relax.
 - vii. "Amusing Ourselves to Death" by Neil Postman has been recommended to me as a good book on this topic.
- 5. Don't limit their education to school time.
 - A. Heed the principle in **Deu 6:6-7** and teach your children at all times.
 - B. Use situations in life to teach them.
 - C. Point out things as you're driving and explain what they are and how they work or are done (farming, construction, advertising, cars, etc.)
 - D. Teach your children to appreciate the wonder of the free market and its spontaneous order that produces all the products we use every day.
- 6. Establish a daily routine for your children.
 - A. Establishing a regular routine is very valuable for children.
 - B. It provides them with consistency, safety, and security.
 - C. This will make for a orderly, predictable life, not one of chaos.
 - D. This will foster an environment in which your children will develop intellectually.
- 7. Teach them to read, and read to them.
 - A. Reading will open up the world to your child.
 - B. Reading will allow them to learn the word of God.
 - C. Reading will enable them to learn anything they want to.
 - D. Read to your children when they are young, and even after they can read themselves.
 - E. Auditory consumption of quality literature, especially when done as a family, helps with the child's imagination and grasp of language (intonation, inflection, etc.).
- 8. Teach them to value reading, learning, and social interaction over anti-social and intellectually destructive habits such as:
 - A. Smartphone addiction
 - B. Texting
 - C. So-called "social networking"
 - D. Playing video games
 - E. Watching TV
- 9. Teach them to manage money.
 - A. Don't give them an "allowance."
 - i. Giving them an allowance teaches them an entitlement mindset.

- ii. They grow up expecting someone to just give them money when they want it.
 - iii. This gives them no concept of earning money or the value of it.
 - iv. Their "allowance" is getting to live in your house and eat your food.
 - B. Offer to pay them money for *extra* work they do around the house which is in *addition to* the chores.
 - i. Emphasize the importance of doing the job well.
 - ii. Don't pay them until it is done satisfactorily.
 - C. Supply their needs (food, clothing, etc.) and get them gifts on special occasions, but other than that, when they want something, make them work and save for it.
 - D. When they make money, or are given money as a gift, teach them how to manage it by:
 - i. Giving 10% of it to the Lord.
 - ii. Saving 10% of it for the future.
 - iii. Saving for a car, college (only for boys, and only if they want to go into a field for which it is absolutely required and it will pay off), a house, etc.
 - iv. Creating a budget (when they get older).
 - E. If they want a smartphone and you think they are old enough to handle it, then make them work and save up the amount of the retail price of it and buy it outright, and then make them pay the monthly service fee.
 - F. If they want a car, make them save for it and buy it themselves.
 - G. See sermons on [Money Management](#).
10. Teach your boys to "think outside the box" when it comes to acquiring education or training for a career.
- A. This is 2018, not 1992.
 - i. The days of getting a bachelor's degree in anything, sending out resumes, and waiting by the phone for a company to hire you are over.
 - ii. Most bachelor's degrees are worthless today.
 - iii. In fact, they are worth much less than nothing because they are worth about (-\$40,000) because of the debt one incurs obtaining them.
 - iv. *Remember, it's never too late to drop out of college.*
 - B. Teach your kids to be entrepreneurs.
 - i. This will teach them
 - a. The value of money and hard work.
 - b. How to satisfy consumer wants by providing a good or a service at a competitive price.
 - ii. Encourage them to start their own kid-businesses when they are young such as:
 - a. Lawn mowing
 - b. Dog walking
 - c. Plant watering
 - d. Babysitting
 - e. Music coaching
 - f. Lego club
 - g. Face painting

- h. Baked goods
 - i. Knitting or sewing homemade products
 - j. Lemonade stands
 - k. Raking leaves
 - l. Shoveling snow
 - m. Vending machines (gum ball, M&Ms, etc.)
 - n. Check out the Junior Money Makers Podcast to learn more about young entrepreneurship: www.juniormoneymakers.com.
- C. Teach them to volunteer to train under a professional in a field they are interested in.
- i. This is an old-fashioned apprenticeship.
 - ii. Spending a few months as an unpaid apprentice of an expert in a field would be time and money well spent.
- D. Search out cost effective non-traditional education programs.
- i. There are cheap online schools that will teach you how to be a computer programmer.
 - ii. Code School is one such program that costs \$29/month. - www.codeschool.com.
 - iii. Skillshare is an online learning platform that offers thousands of courses on all kinds of things which only costs \$15/month or \$99/year. - www.skillshare.com.
- E. Skip college and spend one year in Praxis interning with a startup company.
- i. The program is composed of a six month pre-apprenticeship bootcamp and a guaranteed paid six month apprenticeship at a startup company.
 - ii. You will make more working during the internship than the program costs.
 - a. The program costs \$11,000.
 - b. The apprenticeship pays \$14,000.
 - iii. At the end of the internship you are guaranteed a job making at least \$40,000 per year, and the average graduate is offered \$50,000 per year.
 - iv. They have a 98% success rate at placing graduates.
 - v. Check it out at www.discoverpraxis.com.

11. Concluding remarks on intellectual development. 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; Pro 17:16; Pro 27:22; Jer 17:23**).
- B. So beat that foolishness out of your children early! (**Pro 22:15; Pro 13:24; Pro 19:18**)
- C. Education will not change peoples' nature; only God can do that.
- D. Education will not produce paradise on earth; only God will (**2Pe 3:13**).

VI. Social development

- 1. Teach your kids how to talk and interact with adults and other children.
 - A. Teach them to shake hands firmly when they greet someone.
 - B. Teach them to make eye contact with people when they talk.

- i. Teach them that face-to-face communication is preferable to writing, texting, or talking on the phone (**2Jo 1:12; 3Jo 1:13-14**).
 - ii. Making enough, but not too much, eye contact during conversation is a skill that takes practice.
 - C. Teach them to smile when they greet someone.
 - D. Teach them to introduce themselves to strangers (in church, etc., not to random strangers).
 - E. Teach them to listen and pay attention when another person is speaking and not only care about what they themselves have to say (**Php 2:3-4**).
 - F. This involves eye-contact and active listening.
 - G. Teach them how to have a conversation, not just give one-word answers.
 - H. Teach them that in order to be interesting, they have to be interested.
 - I. Teach them that the younger they are, the less advice they should have to offer.
 - J. They have two ears and one mouth: teach them to use them proportionally (**Jam 1:19**).
 - K. Teach them how to tactfully express a disagreement (**Pro 12:16; Pro 29:11**).
 - L. Teach them when to keep silent and when to speak (**Ecc 3:7**).
- 2. Teach them to be respectful of authority including:
 - A. Parents
 - B. Pastors
 - C. Police
 - D. Judges
 - E. Owners of private property
 - F. Adults in general
 - G. Also teach them that all authority is limited and to never submit to ungodly, immoral, or unethical orders (**Act 5:29**).
- 3. Teach them manners, such as:
 - A. Addressing adults as Mr. and Mrs.
 - B. Saying *please, thank you, no thank you, you're welcome*, etc.
 - C. Listening to and obeying adults that they or their parents know.
 - i. You should teach your children to obey an adult you or your children know when he or she tells them to quiet down or stop running inside a building, for example.
 - ii. You should teach them to be respectful to adults.
 - iii. If an adult tells them to settle down in a public area, you should teach them to obey him.
 - iv. Never let your children backtalk an adult.
 - v. Teach them to obey him, and then if they think he was out of line to come and tell you about it.
 - D. Not interrupting when someone else is talking.
 - i. Children need to learn that they are not the most important beings in the universe.
 - ii. Teach them to not interrupt adults when they are talking.
 - iii. I recommend teaching them the following:

- a. When they want something and you are talking to someone else, teach them to put their hand on your arm to get your attention.
 - b. You then will respond by putting your hand on their hand to let them know that you know that they are there and they need something.
 - c. When you have a chance, ask them what they want.
 - d. This will prevent them from interrupting, but will also make them know that they are important to you.
 - E. Eating: teach them to...
 - i. Sit quietly while eating (**Pro 17:1**) and speak in turn.
 - ii. Ask to be excused from the dinner table before leaving.
 - iii. Eat whatever is set before them without complaining.
 - iv. Decline food politely.
 - v. Thank the cook for the food.
 - vi. Be honest, but tactful, when asked what they thought of a meal.
 - F. Not burping and farting in public or around anyone outside of the immediate family.
 - G. Behaving in public: teach them to...
 - i. Not yell or scream in public.
 - ii. Not run in public or inside buildings.
 - iii. Not wander around a store or a restaurant.
 - iv. Not grab things off of a shelf at a store.
 - v. Not beg for things at the store.
 - vi. Not touch other people's possessions such as their car, furniture, home decorations, etc.
4. Teach them to share and not be selfish.
- A. Teach them to take turns.
 - B. Teach them to not be bossy with other children and especially with adults.
 - C. Teach them to be kind, and encourage them to share with others.
 - D. But teach them that they do not have a right to someone else's property and that another child is not obligated to share with them.
5. Teach them to clean up after themselves, such as...
- A. Making their bed.
 - B. Cleaning their room.
 - i. Have your kids give or throw away things that they don't use or don't need on a regular basis.
 - ii. This will teach them to be neat and organized.
 - C. Washing their clothes.
 - i. There is no reason that a mother should be doing the laundry of teenagers.
 - ii. Girls should be taught to do laundry at young age so that they are prepared for marriage.
 - D. Doing the dishes directly after dinner.
 - i. Teach them to not procrastinate and let dishes sit in the sink after a meal.
 - ii. Assign children tasks that are done after each meal (clearing and wiping down the table, sweeping the floor, washing the dishes, etc.)

- iii. There is no reason that a mother of children should be doing all the cleanup after meals.
 - E. Wiping off the rim of the toilet after they use it (boys).
 - F. Putting the seat down as a courtesy to girls and women.
- 6. Teach them to volunteer to help family, friends, brethren, or strangers that are in need of help.
 - A. Teach them to love to help out the brethren (**1Co 16:15**).
 - B. Teach them to be quick to volunteer to help a friend who is moving, working on a project at home, etc.
 - C. Teach them to be that friend that their friends always know they can count on.

VII. Time to kick them out of the house

1. Once you have trained your children and prepared them for the real world, it's time to give them the boot (especially boys).
 - A. Some young men, who are motivated and responsible, will need no prodding and will be eager to move out as soon as possible.
 - B. Some will need some encouragement.
 - C. A few will stick around and mooch off of you as long as you'll let them.
 - D. Millennials today are living with their parents into their 20s and 30s at record rates.
 - i. Part of this is due to a poor job market.
 - ii. Part of this is due to poor character which results in a poor work ethic and poor money management.
 - iii. "At one point in time in America, living at home with mom and dad after crossing out of your teenage years and into your 20s was embarrassing and something that was generally avoided at all costs. And while hard times come and go, 20-somethings who were forced back into their parents' care worked their tails off until they could save up enough money to once again regain their freedom. But, these days millennials seem to be embracing the free room and board provided by their parents. According to a new study from the Census Bureau, roughly one-third of all millennials live at home with their parents and one-fourth of them can't be bothered with enrolling in school or finding a job." ([Here's How Much Retirees Are Spending To Support Their Adult Kids](#), www.zerohedge.com, 12-9-2017)
 - "Parents could miss out on almost a quarter-million dollars in retirement savings by paying their adult kids' expenses: According to NerdWallet analysis, a parent's retirement savings could be \$227,000 higher if they chose to save the money that would otherwise go to their child's living expenses and tuition.
 - "Parents paying college costs could be missing out on almost \$80,000 in retirement savings: More than a quarter of parents of children 18 and older (28%) are paying or have paid for their adult children's tuition or student loans. The average parent takes out \$21,000 in loans for their child's college education, but the hit to retirement savings is almost quadruple that amount.

- "Most adult children are living with their parents for more than a year after they turn 18: Almost 3 in 5 parents with kids 18 and older (59%) have had adult children living with them for more than a year; over 1 in 5 (23%) have had adult children living with them for more than five years. On average, these parents say the longest period of time they have had their adult children living with them is 4.5 years.
 - "Parents expect their kids to help them financially during retirement: Almost a quarter of parents saving for retirement (23%) expect their children to provide financial support for them after they retire. Millennial parents are most likely to say this (44% vs. 25% of Generation X parents and 5% of baby boomer parents), despite saving more than parents from other generations." ([Here's How Much Retirees Are Spending To Support Their Adult Kids](http://www.zerohedge.com), www.zerohedge.com, 12-9-2017)
- E. If you have trained your boys well, they should be working through their teenage years and should have money saved to move out within a maximum of a couple of years after graduating high school.
- F. I would encourage them to get out on their own and be completely financially independent at the earliest age possible.
- G. I would allow my boys to live at home for two years after graduating high school if they were working hard and saving money, and for four years during the time they were attending college, as long as they were getting a degree in something I approved of which would be economically beneficial to them.
2. For my Christian girls that were Biblically minded and wanted to marry and be homemakers, I would allow them to live with me until they found a Christian man to marry and be their head and provider.
- A. Encouraging or forcing them to move out and live on their own would only make it more difficult for them to submit to their future husbands and embrace the God-ordained role of homemaker.
- B. While they were living at home, I would expect them to work (preferably from home, or running their own business) and save money to help get them in a good financial position when they marry.