

## **DEVELOPING UNITY THROUGH A COMMON PHILOSOPHY OF CHILD RAISING**

A. List several character traits you think parents should seek to develop in their children.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

B. List some areas many parents emphasize that you think should not be emphasized.

1. money
2. clothing
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

C. Look up the following verses, and see what character traits God wants children to have.

1. Ephesians 6:1

2. Ephesians 6:2 \_\_
3. I John 4:7
4. Philippians 2:4
5. Matthew 22:37 \_\_
6. Acts 20:35 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ephesians 4:25 \_\_\_\_\_
8. II Corinthians 8:21
9. Proverbs 12:22 \_
10. Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_
11. Galatians 5:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_
12. Luke 2:52 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Proverbs 1:5
14. Proverbs 23:12
15. Judges 13:24 \_\_
16. I Samuel 2:26
17. Ephesians 4:26-27
18. Ephesians 4:32
19. Proverbs 12:24; 13:4
20. Proverbs 13:3
21. Proverbs 16:5 \_
23. Proverbs 18:12\_
24. Proverbs 17:17\_
25. Proverbs 16:32

D. Study Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. List the parental responsibilities mentioned in this passage.

a

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

2. This passage encourages formal and informal, structured and unstructured Christian education.

A. How can you teach your children Christian doctrine, standards, values, principles in an informal way?

1)

2)

3)

4)

6)

7)

8)

b. How can you teach your children the Word of God in a formal or structured way?

1)

2)

3)

4)

6)

7)

c. One method of structured teaching is family devotions. How will you conduct family devotions? When? What tools will you use? How can you provide variety? How can you involve children? Ask other Christians. Read books. Pray about your devotions. Discuss and evaluate them with your mate. Write down your ideas.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

E. Study the following list of suggestions for raising children. Discuss them with your mate. Look up the Scripture verses. Evaluate your child raising view in light of this list. Put a circle around areas where you need help and make them a matter of prayer.

1. Pray for your child before he is born, and continue to pray for him afterward (I Sam.1:11, 27-28; Ps. 71:6; Gal. 1:15; II Tim. 1:5).
2. Examine your expectations for your child. Are they realistic? Evaluate them in light of the Bible (Gen. 33:12-14; I Cor. 13:11; Matt. 18:10).
3. Love your child unconditionally (Deut. 7:7; I John 4:19; 4:10).
4. Look for opportunities when you can commend him, express appreciation to him frequently (Phil. 1:3; I Thes. 1:2; II Thes. 1:3).

5. Seldom criticize without first expressing appreciation for good points (I Cor. 1:3-13).
6. Give your child freedom to make decisions where serious issues are not at stake. Your goal should be to bring your child to maturity in Christ and not to dependence on you (Prov. 22:6; Col. 1:27-28; Eph. 4:13-15; 6:4).
7. Do not compare your child with others (Gal. 6:4; II Cor. 10:12-13; I Cor. 12:4-11).
8. Never mock your child or make fun of him. Do not belittle your child. Beware of calling your child dumb or clumsy or stupid (Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:29-30; Col. 4:6; Prov. 12:18; 16:24).
9. Do not scold your child unnecessarily in front of others (Matt. 18:15).
  10. Never make threats or promises that you do not intend to keep (Matt. 5:37; James 5:12; Col. 3:9).
  11. Do not be afraid to say "no"; and when you say it, mean it (Gen. 18:19; Prov. 29:15; 22:15; I Sam. 3:13).
  12. When your child has problems or is a problem, do not overreact, or lose control of yourself. Do not yell or shout or scream at him (Eph. 4:26-27; I Cor. 16:14; II Tim. 2:24-25).
  13. Communicate optimism and expectancy. Do not communicate by word or action that you have given up on your child and are resigned to his being a failure (Philemon 21; II Cor. 9:1-2; I Cor. 13:7).
  14. Make sure your child knows exactly what is expected of him. Most of the book of Proverbs is specific counsel from a father to his son.
  15. Ask his advice, include him in some of the discussions about family activities (Rom. 1:11-12; II Tim. 4:11; I Tim. 4:12; John 6:5).

16. When you make a mistake with your child, admit it, and ask your child for forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-24; James 5:16).

17. Have family conferences where you discuss:

- a. Aims of the family
- b. Family projects
- c. Vacations
- d. Devotions
- e. Chores
- f. Discipline
- g. Complaints
- h. Suggestions
- i. Problems

18. Assess your child's areas of strength and then encourage him to develop them. Begin with one, and encourage him to really develop in this area (II Tim. 1:6; 4:5; I Peter 4:10).

19. Give your child much tender loving care. Be free in your expression of love by word and deed (I Cor. 13:1-8; 16:14; John 13:34-35; I Thes. 2:7-8).

20. When your child does something well, commend him. Especially let him know when his attitude and effort are what they should be (I Thes. 1:3-10; Phil. 1:3-5; Col. 1:3-4; Eph. 1:15).

21. Be more concerned about Christian attitudes and character than you are about performance or athletic skill or clothing or external beauty or intelligence (I Sam. 16:7; Gal. 5:22-23; I Peter 3:4-5; Prov. 4:23; Matt. 23:25-28).

22. Have a lot of enjoyment with your child. Plan to have many times of fun and many special events with your children. Make a list of things your family can enjoy together (Prov. 5:15-18; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Ecc. 3:4; Luke 15:22-24; Prov. 15:13; 17:22).

23. Help your child to learn responsibility by administering discipline fairly, consistently, lovingly, and promptly (Prov. 13:24; I Sam. 3:13; Prov. 19:18; Prov. 22:15).
  24. Look upon your child as a person growing and developing as well as already a human being. Look upon the task of raising children as a process that takes many years to complete (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Gal. 6:9; I Cor. 15:58; Isa. 28:9-10).
  25. Live your convictions consistently. Your children will learn more by observing your example than they will by listening to your words (Deut. 6:4-9; I Thes. 2:10-12; Phil. 4:9; II Tim. 1:5-7).
  26. Recognize that you are responsible to prepare your child for life in this world and in the world to come (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 78:5-7).
  27. Be very sensitive to the needs, feelings, fears, and opinions of your child (Matt. 18:10; Col. 3:21).
  28. Treat your child as though he is important to you and accepted by you (Matt. 18:5-6).
  29. Avoid the use of angry or exasperated words (Prov. 15:1; Eph 4:31-32).
  30. Maintain the practice of daily Bible reading, discussions, and prayer (Deut 6:4-9; II Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:4; Ps. 1:1-6; 78:5-8; 119:9-11).
  31. Become thoroughly involved as a family in a Biblical church (Heb. 10:24-25; Eph. 4:11-16).
  32. Make your home a center of Christian hospitality, where your child will be brought into frequent contact with many Christians (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:1-2; II Kings 4:8-37).

33. Make it easy for your child to approach you with problems, difficulties, and concerns. Learn to be a good listener. When your child needs you, give your undivided attention. Avoid being a mind reader or an interrupter or a critic. Show an interest in whatever interests your child, but seek to guide those interests aright. Make yourself available when your child needs you --- even if you are busy (James 1:19-20; 3:13-18; Isa. 3:16-18; I Cor. 9:19-23; Phil. 2:3-4).

34. Seek to bring your child to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Labor to bring your child to Christ. Become all things to your child that you might win your child for Christ. God, of course, must do the saving, bring conviction, give repentance and faith. You, however, may provide the environment in which God saves by your prayers, Godly speech and example, daily devotions, and involvement in a sound biblical church (II Tim. 3:14-17; II Tim. 1:5-7; Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:4-9; Mark 10:13-14; Rom. 10:13-17; I Cor. 1:18-21).

#### Books on Child Rearing

*Spanking: Why, When, How? The Heart of Anger*

Roy Lessin, (Bethany House Pub. Lou Priolo, (Calvary Press, Minneapolis, Minn. 55438). Amityville, NY).

*Growing Up God's Way*

John A. Stormer, (Liberty Bell Press, P.O. Box 32 Florissant, Missouri

*Hints on Child Training*

H. Clay Trumbull, (Great Expectations Book Co. Eugene, Oregon).

*Boundaries with Kids*

Henry Cloud & John Townsend  
(Zondervan Pub. House, Grand Rapids, MI).

*Shepherding a Child's Heart*

Tedd Tripp, (Calvary Press, Amityville, NY).

*Age of Opportunity*

Paul Tripp, (Presbyterian & Reformed Publishers, P.O. 817, Phillipsburg, NJ).