

How to Raise Children Properly

I. Introduction:

The Minnesota Crime Commission said this:

“Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants, when he wants it; his bottle, his mother’s attention, his playmate’s toys, his uncle’s watch. Deny him these once, and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness which would be murderous were he not so helpless. He’s dirty, he has no morals, no knowledge, no developed skills. This means that all children, not just certain children, all children are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in their self-impulsive actions to satisfy each want, every child would grow up a criminal, a killer, and a rapist.”

II. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- A. Parents must hear and listen to God’s instruction (v 4).**
- B. Parents must believe and love God with their whole heart (v 5).**
- C. Parents must be committed to what God tells them to do (v 6).**
- D. Parents must communicate God’s Word and principles to their children (V 7-9).**

Satan attacks every member of the family and every influence on the home to make the home ineffective for the Lord. His goal is to keep the Lord’s work from being passed on to the next generation. Notice how successful he is just in America.

1. Today 750,000 children live in foster homes, in 1998 520,000; in 1999 547,000
2. Four out of ten children will live in a broken home
3. Eighteen million children currently live with step-parents
4. Between seven and fourteen million children will become alcoholics (these figures are based on how many children there are born to alcoholics)
5. Sixty-five out of one-thousand children between the ages of seven and eleven have received psychiatric help. We are told that 1 in 10 adolescents suffer with a mental health problem.
6. Four billion dollars are spent each year for toys for children
7. Children now smoke at the age of ten and under. It used to be fourteen. Today 1 in 8 middle schoolers are lighting up.
8. One million girls between the ages of 12 and 17 become pregnant each year
9. Ten million minors have contracted VD
10. One child in five uses drugs twice a week
11. The only age of increased births in America is girls from age 11 to 14

The Bible states, "A child left to himself will bring shame."

- 1. A grief to his mother (10:1; 17:25).**
- 2. A rebel to his father (15:5).**
- 3. A sorrow to his father (17:21, 25).**
- 4. A disaster to his father (19:13).**
- 5. A disgrace to his parents (19:26).**
- 6. A user of his parents (28:24).**

III. Ephesians 6:1-3.

A. The submission of the child

1. V. 1 - "Children" = not infants but **offspring**. This speaks of anyone born from another person.

a. The idea is that anyone who is still under the roof of, under the domination of, in control of, or under the responsibility of his parents, is to obey the parents.

b. However, in a sense this authority will continue for the rest of the child's life. You will always want to respond to what the parents say no matter how old you are.

2. V. 2 - "Obey your parents"

a. This means to get under the authority of your parents.

b. In Exodus 20 the thought is if you obey your parents, you will succeed in any relationship in society.

c. Our culture says that we need to liberate our children from parental authority. God says the opposite.

B. Why all children need parents (Luke 2:52).

1. Children lack wisdom (mental capacity)

- They do not know the right foods to eat or what not to put into their mouths.

2. Children lack stature (physical maturity)

- Parents need to care for children after they are born

3. Children lack favor with men (Social graces)

- Children do not know the concept of sharing or taking turns. I want what I want and I want it now. That's mine!!

4. Children lack favor with God (Spiritual graces)

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 30:11-14

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

There is a generation O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

There is a generation whose teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth.

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocketh at his father and despiseth to obey his mother the ravens of the valley shall pluck it out, and young eagles shall eat it.

C. Why children should obey their parents.

1. They are to obey “in the Lord.”

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in all things.

Acts 5:29

We ought to obey God rather than man

Daniel 6:10

Daniel was told to stop worshipping God, but he still worshipped Him anyway. It was the right thing to do.

2. They are to obey “for this is right.”

- There were not 101 reasons for doing this, only because it was the right thing to do.

II. The Attitude of Honor (v 2-3).

A. Children are to honor their parents.

1. Honor means to reverence.
2. Honor means to worship.
3. Honor means to hold in awe.
4. Honor means to value at a high price.

- Jesus used the term honor in Matthew 15:1-6 to speak of financially supporting some one else.
- In I Timothy 5:17 the word honor derived its meaning from an Old Testament concept. Parents cared for the children when they were young. Later children cared for the parents when they were old and could no longer care for themselves.
- In the Old Testament 2 or 3 families often lived together.

B. Children receive a blessing for honoring parents.

1. Children who obey will pass on a heritage to their children
2. Children who obey will receive quality of life.

“That it may be well with thee.”

3. Children who obey will receive quantity of life.

“That thou mayest live long on the earth.”

A Five Minute Quiz for Christian Parents

(by Jessie Rice Sanberg)

1. Have you personally, persistently and prayerfully sought to win your own children to Jesus Christ? Do your children know without a doubt that their spiritual condition is more important to you than anything else in the whole world?
2. Do you ever relax with your children, laugh with them, enjoy their company, plan things to do together that they will enjoy? Do they know that you really like to be with them?
3. Do you give them any direction about their use of time? Do you encourage reading, Bible memorization, developing skills and abilities? Do you make sure they have adequate time for rest and play and study?
4. Do you positively refuse to allow any back talk, whining, temper tantrums, swearing or dirty talk? Do your children know that lying, cheating, stealing, rebelling against authority will bring immediate and thorough punishment?
5. Do you protect your children with adequate “fences”? Do they know exactly where they may or may not go, how long they may stay out, and with whom they will spend their time?
6. Have your children ever seen you on your knees alone? Do they ever see you weep over the needs of others? Do they know that you find your answers to life in the Word of God?
7. Have your children ever heard you say, “I love you.” “You’re wonderful!” “I’m sorry.” “Excuse me.” “I was wrong.” “Thank you.” or “Forgive me?”
8. Do you practice at home what you profess at church? Are you careful not to confuse and frustrate your child by constantly shifting your standards and compromising your convictions?
9. Do your children get the positive impression from you that serving the Lord wholeheartedly is the happiest of all possible ways to live?

10. Do you ever give your children a quick hug or a loving pat for no special reason at all? Do you ever say, "I sure am glad we've got you!" Do you avoid comparing him with other children in the family?
11. Are you listening to your children? Do you know their viewpoint regarding various contemporary issues? Do you know their friends? Have you observed what kind of music they listen to, what they read? Do they ever discuss spiritual matters with you? Do they feel comfortable telling you their deepest dreams, their greatest fears, their joys, and disappointments?
12. Do you keep special materials and tools in the house especially for the use of children - lumber scraps and pieces of fabric, paper, crayons, Scotch tape, scissors, cardboard, small boxes and glue? Do you find leisure in their creative productions and encourage them? In short, do you believe that children are more valuable than things? - or a perfectly ordered house?