

Biblical Parenting Notes

Part 1 - The model of pro-active parents in the Scriptures:

Introduction – Let us encourage you parents to look for older families whose children are grown and where those children are walking closely with Jesus. I would highly recommend that you go to those older parents and seek to learn from them regarding godly parenting.

Proposition: The goal of our parenting isn't simply to have obedient or compliant children. Nor is it for our children to excel in their academics or in their profession. Nor is it even that they have a "good marriage". If they aren't walking with Jesus, the other things not only pale in significance they often won't last or make an impact on our world. As parents, we should equip and encourage our children to walk with the Lord in a dynamic way. We should desire that our children possess their own faith and relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Preliminary thoughts:

- **For Fathers**, here are two of the best passages for raising our children:

[1 Peter 3:7](#) – Be considerate and respectful of our children's mother

[Ephesians 5:25-29](#) – Love our children's mother

Mentoring (Mothers and Fathers):

[Titus 2:1-5](#) - There is great need today for older believers to help mentor fathers and mothers to be godly parents. (My wife, Paula, and I didn't do as good a job at that as we should have when our children were younger. We followed what is still pop-culture by mostly seeking advice from other young parents rather than those who had actually done a good job at parenting.)

- **The model of pro-active parents (especially the dads) in the Scriptures.**

- [Ephesians 6:4](#) - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- [Colossians 3:21](#) - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

- [Proverbs 23:22](#) - Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

- [Proverbs 4:1-4](#) - Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,

² for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

³ When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,

⁴ he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live."

- **For Mothers** - [Proverbs 31:1](#) – An oracle that his **mother** taught him

- Both parents need to be actively praying for their children that the Lord would be working in the hearts of our children and that we as parents would be discerning on what is happening spiritually with each child.

Part 2 - Family Devotions

Starting at the earliest ages, we need to be training up our children in the Lord. For our family, we began to have routine family morning devotions when our oldest was a few years old. We found that having a consistent time of family devotions gave our children a framework to be in other settings to hear and process the God's Word for their own lives.

- **Suggested elements for family devotions:**

- Scripture reading and discussion
- Worship Music
- Memory Verses
- Prayer

(*We have found that the hearts of children, especially when they are younger, are often open and reflective as a day comes to an end. This is a good time to seek to discern what the Lord is doing in the hearts our children).

- **What can stand in the way of family devotions?**

- The range of age differences among the children
- Time challenges and scheduling
- Knowing what to do when the family is together**

The class talked about how to work through these struggles to accomplish God's purposes in our families.

(**Ask God for wisdom ([James 1:5](#)) in this area and He will you.

- **Challenge** - If parents aren't currently having devotions with their family we try to encourage them to add this to their schedule by starting with at least 1-2 times a week.

Part 3 - Shepherding our Children's Hearts

As a springboard passage to "*shepherding a child's heart*" let's looked at [Deuteronomy 6:4-7](#). What are some of the various ways we can seek to shepherd them?

- **Traditions (examples)** (Do you have any traditions at the holidays to help point your children Jesus?)

- **Christmas**
- **Easter**
- **Other Holidays**

- **Influences**

- **Media** - Help to determine appropriateness
- **News** - [Worldmag.com](#)
- **Electronic gadgetry** (antidote from Dr. Ben Carson)

- **Friends** - [Proverbs 13:20](#) Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

- [1 Corinthians 15:33](#) - Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

- **Accountability (Parent and child)** - Have a routine time.
- **Sexuality** – begin early and in an appropriately way teaching that God created sexuality. Little boys need to be affirmed that God made them as males and it is very good. And little girls need to be affirmed that God made them as females and it is very good. And, as appropriate, teach them that the desires for sexual intimacy within marriage are also very good.

Body of Christ - Our children need to be in a local body of Christ where they can not only see us (as parents) participate, serve, worship and minister, but where their own faith can grow within the setting of a family integrated environment.

Conclusion:

Parents need to continually be humbled before the Lord as they seek to not only shepherd their children but be transformed by God's spirit. "Healing comes through Brokenness"

I Thessalonians 2:7a-12: Though this passage above is describing Paul's ministry, he uses the illusion of the sacrificial life of mothers and the God given purpose of fathers to encourage, comfort and urge our children to live lives worthy of God.

Part 4 - Disciplining / Household Chores

Key Point – In our parenting, consistency and participation is a key to successful parenting. We also need to seek the Lord to discern the strengths and weakness in our children and try to proactively address those both through encouragement and challenging disciplines. For the parent, it means being attentive. It can be very difficult for some parents to be engaged in some activity with others and at the same time to "keep an eye on or an ear out" for their children. We need to pray as parents to have good attentiveness in regards to what our children are saying or doing.

Discipline: This area of a child's behavior has separated many a good friend. We are often willing to hear others admonish us personally as adults. But we ***don't*** want them talking about our children.

We encourage you not to have that attitude. In fact, in order to try and make this very practical, if any of you hear or see anything in our children that concerns you, we welcome you to come and tell us.

In the area of discipline, here are passages to consider:

- **Proverbs 3:12b** - because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
- **Proverbs 13:24** - Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.
- **Proverbs 19:18** - Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.
- **Proverbs 22:15** - Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.
- **Proverbs 23:13** - Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.
- **Proverbs 29:15** - A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother.
- **Proverbs 29:17** - Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.

- **Hebrews 12:7-11** - 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

In this area, it is good to have older parents you can go to and ask about particulars in parenting. But be cautioned to make sure that whatever counsel you receive it has the Scriptures as its foundation.

Say 'No' once and then spank.

But what is discipline? Part of it is to restore a broken relationship between the child and the offended party and child. But the goal is to ***"produce a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."***

Expectations: One way we can help train our younger children is to express our expectations to them routinely. For example, when we take our child somewhere, like a trip to the grocery store, we tell them up front the expectations we have about the things we plan to buy and what they may or may not ask for. Reward them after the trip if appropriate.

How do we discipline? We should never do so in anger. We discipline our children when they are disobedient or defiant but also when they are unkind and/or hurtful. And this process can go hand in hand with the greater purposes of our child rearing. **For example**, as we want to train our children to participate with us in the larger church service, they have to first be trained at home in a family devotional time. That way, when they are in the corporate setting they can learn to *sit still, be quite* and *listen*. (We said that for those who doubt that a young child can sit still for very long only has to put that same child in front of a video and see that they can sit for hours. It shows they have the capacity to sit still and focus. The issue at hand is do that have the *will* to do so.) Thus, as we have family devotions, we are helping to prepare our children to participate in corporate worship with others. And if they don't obey at home when we are working through this, then we can discipline them in the process.

Households Chores

A few points on this area:

- Children can be taught to help with household responsibilities from the earliest ages. And, they can be given age appropriate tasks when they are very young. As they grow they can take on more and more adult responsibilities. In our household, for example, our children have had kitchen chores from their early years. At the bottom of the totem pole is helping to set the table and/or sweeping. At the top is cooking the meals and washing and putting away the dishes.

- Childhood is a preparation for adulthood. Our children will live $\frac{3}{4}$ of their lives as adults. We need to prepare them for that and household responsibilities are part of it. So this can include indoor chores like kitchen, laundry or cleaning duties. But it can also include other items like learning to use tools for house and auto repair, etc.