

Biblical Parenting – Father’s Day 2010
Ephesians 6:1-4

1. Recognize God’s Authority Structure (1-3)

Children Are To Obey Their Parents

The authority structure of the home is designed by God, Colossians 3:20. Obedience over time will lead to honor.

- **God’s will is that we respect authority**

Without an authority structure there is chaos. Authority provides security and produces order.

Obedience to Parents Prepares Children for Submission to God

2. Realize Children Will Challenge Your Authority (4a)

Biblical Parenting Is a Constant Challenge

Children are a blessing from the Lord, Psalm 127:3. Parenting is stressful. To provoke means not to irritate or exasperate them through leniency or brutality. Biblical parenting is both fair and consistent.

- **Children come with the curse within them**

Children arrive as selfish, sinful individuals, Psalm 51:5. Every child’s soul is bent toward sin. You never have to teach a child to disobey.

- **Children come into this culture around them**

The culture cultivates its non biblical ethical system through a massive media blitz. Children, in their depravity, are quickly over exposed.

Every Challenge to Authority Is a Test

3. Realize the Responsibility for Children’s Obedience Begins with the Parents (4b)

Fathers In Particular

The phrase “bring them up” is the same word translated “nourish” in 5:29. It means to care for, to nurture. Christian fathers are commanded by God to raise their children in “the training and admonition of the Lord.” This is the systematic training of children. The word “admonition” also has the idea of correction.

Parents You Need a Daily Dose of the Book of Proverbs

- **Biblical parenting is a discipleship relationship**

The Bible is the only infallible guide to parenting, 2 Timothy 3:15. The purpose is to raise up children who will fear, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, Proverbs 22:6. This is a general truth not an ironclad guarantee. It is the responsibility of Christian parents to pass on the truth of God’s Word to the next generation. We literally stand in the gap between them and God. The child who will not live under the authority of their parents will not live under the authority of the Word of God.

Parenting Is Bridge Building

4. Recognize that God the Father Is the Perfect Parenting Model

In Both the Old and New Testaments

- **God establishes a foundation of fear**

Deuteronomy 6:2, “that you may fear the Lord your God...” This is so crucial that God wants this taught to each generation. This principle is repeated throughout scripture, both in precept and example, Psalm 111:10 & 1 Peter 1:17. The fear of the Lord begins with the fear of mom and dad.

Children Need to Learn that Broken Rules Bring Painful Consequences

- **God disciplines His children**

Children need consistently applied age appropriate discipline. It provides them the security of your love, Hebrews 12:5-6.

The Rod - Ages 2 to 6 Proverbs 13:24, 18:18

Spanking for rebellion is biblical. Parents must differentiate between childhood irresponsibility and willful rebellion. Never discipline in anger. Never cause physical injury. Children are controlled by action, not emotion.

When Compassion Overcomes Conviction, You Are Damaging Your Children

Reproof – Ages 6 to 12 Proverbs 29:15

This is strong, intense, in your face verbal chastisement. Never use belittling or degrading language.

The Younger the Child the Greater Emphasis upon the Power of Authority

Removal of Freedom – Age 10 plus

We are allowing them more freedom to make their own choices. But we must teach them that bad choices bring bad consequences.

Proverbs 5:22. God's laws of sowing and reaping are universal. When

God says no He means don't hurt yourself. Children need to learn that obedience leads to blessing.

Teach them early that when you choose

to sin you choose to suffer.

Allow Your Children to Experience the Consequences of their Own Choices

Responsibility

Give children tasks to accomplish. Give them jobs to do. Focus on

the Family has a great page of age appropriate chores for children.

The Older the Child, the More Parents Transition from Less Authority to More

Influence

Younger children need rule centered parenting. As children get older it becomes more principle centered.

- **God clearly and consistently communicates unconditional love to His children**

Romans 8:38-39

No matter what you do we will always be your mom and dad and we will always love you. That will never ever change.

Fear with Discipline Is the Program of the Home but Love Is the Atmosphere of the Home