

I. Introduction and review.

II. Parenting is a big job.

- A. Children are a blessing from God. Ps. 127:3-5 128:3 115:9
1. Christians typically choose to have lots of kids. Gen. 1:28
 2. Many in our culture see children as a bother.
- B. Both mother and father take on a great responsibility. Eph. 6:4a
1. Why are fathers addressed?
 2. Motherhood is a full time job. Titus 2:3-5 I Tim. 5:14
 3. Parenting involves sacrifice.
 4. Many parents are neglecting their responsibilities.
 5. Others reject God's deign for parenting.
- C. Parenting can bring both joy and heartache. Prov. 10:1 29:3 31:28 28:7 III Jo. 4

III. Discipline your children. Eph. 6:4b

- A. Why is discipline necessary? Gen. 8:21 Pr. 22:15
1. Your children are sinners from conception. Eph. 2:1-3 Pr. 29:15 Ro. 8:7-8 Ps. 51:5
 2. The function of discipline is to mold character. He. 12:10-11 Pr. 4:23 Mk. 7:20-23
 3. God models fatherly discipline in His care for you. Heb. 12:6f Rev. 3:19 Pr. 3:11f
 4. Parents act as God's agents with His authority.
- B. How should discipline be carried out?
1. First, you must be self-disciplined.
 2. Set clear standards for behavior based upon the Bible.
 3. Require immediate and respectful obedience.
 4. When rules are broken, take disciplinary action. Pr. 22:15 29:15 13:24 19:18 6:23
The rod and reproof give wisdom.
 5. Lovingly forgive and restore the relationship (as God forgives us). I Jo. 1:9
- C. Other guidelines for discipline.
1. Chastisement must be in the context of love and security. Ps. 103:10-14 Ga. 6:1
 2. Never discipline when you are angry! Mt. 5:21-23 Ro. 12:17f Pr. 12:16 Gal. 6
 3. Distinguish between rebellion and childishness. I Co. 13:11
 4. Allow respectful appeals. Prov. 18:13,17 Daniel 1 Esther
 5. Why not use *time outs* and other methods favored by modern psychologists?
Pr. 3:5-6 19:18 22:15 23:13-14 Col. 2:8-9
 6. How would you answer someone who claims to love her child too much to spank him? Pr. 13:24 3:12 19:18 23:13-14 Heb. 12:8
 7. There are times when other forms of discipline may be appropriate (restitution).

IV. Instruct your children. Eph. 6:4c

- A. Parents are responsible before God for the education of their children.
Prov. 6:20-23 1:8,10,15 2:1 3:1,21 4:1,10,20 5:1 23:15,19,26 31:2
1. You cannot delegate the training of your children to anyone else.
 2. Every parent is responsible for what outside help they utilize.
 3. All education is religious in one way or the other.

- B. Prepare your children for adult life.
 - 1. Guard them from temptation. Pr. 7:7f 14
 - 2. Prepare them to responsibly take care of themselves. Pr. 6:1-11 12:24 22:7

- C. Train your children in the things of God. Deut. 6:4f Isa. 38:19
 - 1. First the Word must be in your heart. Dt. 6:4-6
 - 2. Teach your children in formal situations: Family devotions. Dt. 6:7 II Ti. 3:15 1:5
 - 3. Teach them informally in the context of daily life. Deut. 6:7-9,20-25
 - 4. Evangelize your children. Deut. 6:20-25 Mt. 18:1-4 Is. 55:11

V. Don't provoke your children to anger. Eph. 6:4a Col. 3:21

- A. Don't neglect them. I Sam. 2:12-17,22-25 3:13 4:11 I Kings 1:5-6 II Sam. 14:24
 - 1. Lack of discipline. Pr. 19:18 I Sam. 3:13
 - 2. Lack of love. Ps. 103:13-14
 - 3. Lack of understanding: Not all children are the same. Mt. 21:28-31

- B. Twenty-five ways parents provoke their children to anger (from Priolo).
 - 1. Lack of marital harmony. Genesis 2:24 Heb. 12:15
 - 2. Maintaining a child-centered home. Pr. 29:15 II Ti. 3:1-2
 - 3. Modeling sinful anger. Prov. 22:24-25 Js. 1:19-20 Mt. 5:21-23 Ro. 12:1f Ps. 38:1
 - 4. Habitually disciplining while angry. Ps. 38:1 Gal. 6:1 Heb. 12:5-10 I Th. 2:3f
 - 5. Scolding. Eph. 4:29
 - 6. Being inconsistent with discipline. II Co. 1:17-18 Ecc. 8:11
 - 7. Having double standards. Phil. 4:9
 - 8. Being legalistic. Mt. 15:8-9
 - 9. Not admitting you are wrong and not asking for forgiveness. Mt. 5:23-24 Js. 5:16
 - 10. Constantly finding fault. Job 32:2-3 Pr. 19:11
 - 11. Parents reversing God-given roles. Eph. 5:22-30
 - 12. Not listening to your child's opinion or taking his/her side of the story seriously. Prov. 18:3,17 20:5 Eph. 4:25 Js. 1:19
 - 13. Comparing them to others. II Co. 10:12 .
 - 14. Not making time just to talk. Js. 1:19 Pr. 20:5
 - 15. Not praising or encouraging your child. Rev. 2-4 I Co. 1:1f Col. 3:21
 - 16. Failing to keep your promises. Mt. 5:37 Ps. 15:4 Col. 3:9
 - 17. Chastening them in front of others. Mt. 18:15
 - 18. Not allowing enough freedom. Lu. 12:48 I Co. 13:11
 - 19. Allowing too much freedom. Pr. 29:15 Gal. 4:1-2 .
 - 20. Mocking your child. Job 17:1-2
 - 21. Abusing them physically. I Ti. 3:3 Num. 22:27-29
 - 22. Ridicule or name calling. Eph. 4:29
 - 23. Unrealistic expectations. I Co. 13:11 I Th. 2:11
 - 24. Practicing favoritism. Luke 15:25-30
 - 25. Child training with worldly methods instead of God's Word. Eph. 6:4 Pr. 3:5-6

VI. Who determines success in parenting?

- A. Your faithfulness to the Word of God is crucial.
 - 1. God uses faithful parenting to draw children to Himself. Pr. 22:6 29:17
 - 2. Does good parenting guarantee good kids? Gen. 4:1-9 Prov. 10:4
 - 3. None of us is a good enough parent to save our children by our works.

B. Your children make choices for themselves.

1. You can exercise authority over behavior, but you cannot control their hearts.
2. Children often reject wisdom and choose folly. Pr. 15:5a 10:5 28:24 29:3 19:26 20:11 30:17 Luke 15:11-13 Isa. 1:2f Jer. 2:30 5:3 7:28

C. You are dependent upon the sovereign grace of God.

1. You fall far short of perfection as parents. Heb. 12:10
2. Your children are, by nature, spiritually dead. Rom. 8:6-8 Gen. 18:21
3. God alone can change hearts. Eph. 2:1-5
4. God works in families. Acts 2:39 16:34,15 11:14 18:8
5. If your children love the Lord, give glory to God!

VII. Concluding applications.

A. Never give up. Pr. 19:18 13:24

B. Your hope is in God, not your child, nor your parenting skills.

1. Where you have failed, confess your sin. I John 1:9 Mt. 7:1f
2. Ask God to show you and your children mercy. Job 1:5 Mt. 17:21
3. Seek godly counsel. Pr. 11:14 15:22 20:18

C. God gave His Son for sinful parents and children. John 3:16

Discussion questions for family worship

1. Why should Christians want to have lots of children?
2. Whose responsibility is it to raise children?
3. Why do children need to be disciplined?
4. Describe how discipline is to be carried out?
5. Why is it not enough to merely discipline your children?
6. In what subjects should parents train their children?
7. What kinds of things do parents do which provoke their children to anger?
8. Does good parenting guarantee godly kids?
9. What hope does God offer for troubled parents?

VIII. Other Resources.

A. Recommended Reading:

1. Tedd Tripp, Shepherding a Child's Heart.
2. Lou Priolo, The Heart of Anger.
3. Paul Tripp, Age of Opportunity (Parenting Teens)
4. John MacArthur, Successful Christian Parenting
5. Richard Fugate, What the Bible Says About Child Training
6. Bruce Ray, Withhold Not Correction

B. Verses Dealing with the Heart of Sin in Children. Mark 7:20-23 Mt. 15:17-20

1. Obedience/Talking Back. Ex. 20:12 21:15,17 Dt. 21:18-21 Eph. 6:1-2 Col. 3:20
2. Quarreling. Js. 4:1-2 Pr. 15:1 17:14
3. Lying. Eph. 4:25 Acts 5:1-11 Col. 3:9-10 Pr. 12:19
4. Name Calling. Matt. 5:22 James 3:1-10
5. Anger/Vengeance. Mt. 5:21-22 Rom. 12:17-21 Pr. 25:28 14:29 16:32 Ps. 37:8 Js. 1:19-20 Eph. 4:26-32
6. Tattling/Slander. Pr. 17:9 18:8 19:16 26:20-22
7. Evil Companions. Pr. 1:10-19 I Cor. 15:33
8. Evil Entertainment (Music, TV, Films) Eph. 5:3-7 II Co. 10:5 Ps. 101:3
9. Need to Confess. Pr. 28:13 I Jn. 1:9
10. Need to Forgive. Mt. 6:14-15 18:15-17,21-35 26:24-26 Eph. 4:32 Heb. 12:15
11. Envy. Pr. 14:30 23:17 24:1,19 Js. 3:14-16
12. Laziness. Pr. 6:6-11 12:24 II Th. 3:10
13. Stealing and Restitution. Num 5:6-7 Eph. 4:28 Ex. 21:28-36
14. Misuse of Substances. Pr. 20:1 23:20-21,29-35 I Co. 6:19
15. Pride/Humility. Pr. 6:16-18 8:13 11:2 15:33 16:19 22:4 29:23 Phil. 2:1-11
I Pet. 5:6-7 Js. 4:6

C. The folly which is bound up in the hearts of children.

1. They reject (even mock) wisdom and instruction. 1:7 15:5,14,20 1:7,22,32 10:8 18:2 30:11,17 20:20
2. They don't show proper respect to their parents. 19:26 30:17
3. They choose foolish and wicked companions. 13:20 14:7 22:24
4. They talk too much. 12:23 13:16 15:2 18:7,2 13 29:11,20
5. They are proud and boastful. 14:16 28:26 27:1-2
6. They justify their sin. 12:15 28:24
7. They are self-centered. 18:2
8. They are quick-tempered. 12:16,18 14:17,29 29:11
9. They argue and quarrel. 18:6 20:3 26:4-5 29:9
10. They enjoy mischief. 10:23
11. They mock at sin. 14:9
12. They are stubborn and unreliable. 17:10 26:6
13. They flatter and manipulate. 29:5
14. They are lazy. 10:5
15. They lie. 12:22 26:18-19
16. They steal. 28:24
17. They are foolish with money. 14:24 28:24.
18. They are attracted to immorality. 7:22 29:3
19. They are attracted to intoxicating drink (drugs) and gluttony . 28:7 23:29-35
20. They aren't teachable. 15:5 18:2 28:26