

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Scripture about Parenting

Bill Brinkworth

Too many parents get their advice and counsel on rearing children from psychologists, authors, and teachers. Many of those giving the advice have not even reared their own children successfully. God, however, has reared billions upon billions with much success. Here is some of His advice on child rearing from the Word of God:

- **Train children in the way they should go.** Guidance and training are hard work, but they are the only ways they will learn the direction in which you want them to go. Hopefully, for a Christian parent, it will be the way God also wants them to go. Do not trust strangers to do that work for you.

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

Proverbs 22:6

- **Correction is part of training.**
"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 19:18
- **Taking the time to discipline children is showing love.** Not disciplining children is not showing love.

“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

Proverbs 13:24

- **Letting a child do his “own thing” is not training, but will lead to behavior the parents will regret.**

Not disciplining a child will most likely be regrettable.

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” Proverbs 29:15

“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.” Proverbs 17:25

- **Discipline is hard work, but it has its rewards!**

“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”

Proverbs 29:17

“The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.” Proverbs 10:1

“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.” Proverbs 15:20

- **Do not make them angry unnecessarily!**

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.” Colossians 3:21

“O fathers and mothers, the ruin of your children or their salvation, will, under God, very much depend on you.” — Spurgeon

Bring Them Up

Pastor J. B. Hall, "Ray of Hope"

*"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
Ephesians 6:4*

Here, fathers are told to "bring their children up". This means that training your children is the primary responsibility of the parent; not the "professionals". It also means that developing your children into healthy, well-adjusted adults is a process that encompasses their entire childhood; not just a quick tell-them-once-and-forget-it shot of instruction. We also learn that spiritual development is the primary goal of their educational process. Training children involves instruction; but it also involves modeling the virtues taught before them.

Are you consistently building the truth of God's Word into your children?

The Barrier

Author Unknown

A young girl who was self-willed and committed many foolish and indiscreet acts, often complained bitterly that her mother was always a barrier in her way of enjoyment.

"If I want to go to an all-night dance with Will," she said, "or on a moonlight excursion with Earl, or an auto-ride with that young man I struck up an acquaintance with the other day, you always stand in my way. You always find some

excuse for not letting me go. You are always putting up the bars. You are a barrier. That's what you are, Mother, a barrier!"

The patient mother quietly turned to the dictionary and, after finding the place, called her daughter to look at the book.

"This is what Webster says. Listen: 'Barrier — A fence or other obstacle, made in a passage or way, to stop an enemy.'" Then turning to the girl, the mother said, "I hope, my dear, I shall always be that kind of barrier — 'an obstacle to stop an enemy'."

Years later, the girl was thankful that she had had such a barrier as a mother of the type to keep her and the enemy apart. Most likely, when she will be a mother, she will also strive to be a similar "barrier" for her children.

"A mother's love is like God's love; He loves us not because we are lovable, but because it is His nature to love, and because we are His children." — Riney

Parents Should ...

Author Unknown

When a child is born into the world, the parents should:

1. Regard the child as having entered upon an immortal existence, and prepare the child for that time by teaching them the ways of the Lord.
2. Heartily dedicate him to God, as Hannah did Samuel.

3. Pray for him, and teach him to pray.
4. Store his mind with the truth of God's Word.
5. Be a Christian example for him.
6. Train him to habits of obedience, order, generosity, industry, and economy.
7. Stop the first buddings of evil, and cherish the first indications of righteous living.
8. Rest not until his heart is given to Christ.

“When fathers are tongue-tied religiously, need they wonder if their children’s hearts remain sin-tied?”

— C. H. Spurgeon

Not Today

The Bible Friend

A little girl, with shining eyes and little face aglow, said, “Daddy, it is almost time for Sunday school. Let’s go! They teach us there of Jesus’ love, and how He died that we might all have everlasting life by trusting in Him!”

“Oh, no,” said Daddy, “not today. I have worked so hard all week. I am going to go into the woods and to the creek. There I can relax and rest. I must have one day of rest and fishing. So run along. Don’t bother me. We’ll go to church some other day!”

Months and years have passed, but Daddy hears that plea no more, “Let’s go to Sunday school!” Those childish years are over and now that Daddy is growing older. When life is almost through, he finds time to go to church,

but where is the daughter? She says, “Oh, Daddy, not today. I stayed up almost all last night, and I’ve got to get some sleep!” Our young people often learn what we teach them.

“Daddy, I’m Following You”

Walter Knight

In the city of Chicago, it was the custom of a father, enroute to his work in the morning, to go by the bar for a drink. One morning, as he was tracking his way over the newly-fallen snow, he heard the piping voice of his little boy exclaiming, “Daddy, I’m a comin’ in your steps. I’m a-comin’ in your steps!”

Looking around, he saw his little boy striding in his footsteps, which he had just made and which led in the direction of the saloon. The father cried out, “Oh Lord, if my boy is following in my steps, by Thy help, I’ll track them in another direction!”

“Children have more need of models than of critics.”

— *Joseph Joubert*

Patrick Henry’s Will

Christian Index

Patrick Henry wrote in his will, “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give, and that is the Christian religion. If they have that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would be

rich; and if they have not this, and I had given them all this world, they would be poor.”