

“Too Little” Children

Author Unknown

Said a precious little laddie,
To his father one bright day,
“May I give myself to Jesus,
Let Him wash my sins away?”

“Oh, my son, but you’re too little,
Wait until you older grow,
Bigger fold, ‘tis true, do need
Him,
But little folk are safe, you know.”

Said the father to his laddie
As a storm was coming on,
“Are the sheep safely sheltered,
Safe within the fold, my son?”

“All the big ones are, my father,
But the lambs, I let them go,
For I didn’t think it mattered,
Little ones are safe, you know.”

Oh, my brother! Oh my sister!
Have you too made that mistake?
Little hearts that now are yielding
May be hardened then — too late.

E’er the evil days come nigh them,
“Let the children come to me
And forbid them not,” said Jesus,
“For such shall my Kingdom be.”

“Teach your child to hold his tongue; he’ll learn fast enough to speak!” — Benjamin Franklin

“Allowing a child to call a parent by his or her first name, is not teaching him to honor his parent!”

Cost of a Child

Cameron, 1871

“How much does that little girl cost!” said a mother, as she and I passed a little child leaning against an iron railing.

“Cost?” I said. “You mean with her shoes and socks, her plaid dress, and ribbons in her hair?”

“That is her least cost,” replied the mother, “nor was I thinking of them, but what pain and suffering she costs; what fatigue and watching; how much of a mother’s anxiety; how much of a father’s toil; how many prayers; how many fears; how many yearnings; how much patience; how much responsibility; how much instruction; how much correction; how much love; how much sorrow; how many teachers; how many sermons; how many Sunday school classes. Those things will cost her parents the most.”



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The banner features the title 'The Bible View' in a large, bold, serif font. To the left is an illustration of an open Bible with the words 'SAINT LUKE' visible on the page. To the right is an illustration of a church with a steeple and a group of people standing in front of the entrance. Below the banner, the website URL and volume number are provided.

How to Ruin a Child

Bill Brinkworth

Parents, psychologists, and many people have all kinds of ideas about how to raise a child. Some of the advice may be good,

but some of it is not sound. Few seek the advice from Someone who has raised billions and billions of children.

His counsel, if heeded, will result in well-adjusted, wise, and successful children. This most-experienced “parent” is God, and his advice has been recorded and is available to all in the King James Bible. This “expert” has never had to apologize for giving parental advice that resulted in ruining generations, as did the pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, when he realized his advice about not disciplining children caused tremendous problems. God’s advice is always right.

Still many ignore God’s advice and “do it their own way”. Unfortunately many techniques, practic-

es, and behaviors result in keeping a child from being what God intended. Here are some child-rearing practices that may ruin a child, according to God’s Word:

Continued on Page 2

Training Children

F. Quarles, 1871

Be very vigilant over thy child in the April of his understanding, lest the frost of May nip his blossoms. While he is a tender twig, straighten him; whilst he is a new vessel, season him. Let his first lesson be obedience, and his second shall be what thou wilt. Give him education from good, clean books. Season his youth with the love of his God the beginning of his knowledge. If he has an active spirit, rectify it and curb it; but reckon idleness among his chiefest faults. Show him both the spade and the plow; and prepare him as well for the danger of a skirmish and the honor of receiving a prize.

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How to Ruin a Child

Continued from Page 1

- ⊖ Giving them everything they want reinforces covetousness. Also a parent or authority in their life, that is consumed with getting things, is inadvertently teaching a child that possessions can somehow bring happiness in one's life.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15

Also: Ex. 20:17

- ⊖ Never teach a child that "no" means they cannot have certain things. This is also accomplished when a child learns, that if he keeps asking for something, a parent's "no" can be changed to "yes". When they are told "no" by someone in their life that will not back down, they will become angry and will act improperly to the person saying "no" to them.

"As coals are to burning coals,

When a lady once told Pastor Sharpe that she would not give her children religious instruction until they had attained the years of discretion, the preacher replied, "If you do not teach them, the devil will!"

— J. Whitecross

and wood to fire; so is a contentious [quarrelsome, given to angry debate] man to kindle strife." Prov. 26:21

- ⊖ By not correcting their child. An undisciplined child will be unruly in many situations, including school and public situations. His lack of training will be a constant challenge for the parents and teachers, and will make it harder for the child to get along with others, especially people in authority (teachers, police, bosses ...).
"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverb 29:17 Also: Prov. 19:18, Prov. 29:15.

- ⊖ Never teach them how to live biblically. By not teaching them God's way, they will quickly learn to follow the way everyone around them is going.

This can also be done by a parent's "teaching" them by not living biblically themselves. A child will quickly realize, "Why should I live a way that my parents don't. If it were a better way, they would live that way!" Hypocritical advice rarely teaches proper behavior.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:56

- ⊖ Criticizing the authority over them in front of them! By letting the child know that you

disagree with a decision another parent has made, a teacher has made, what a pastor has said, what a policeman has done, or a babysitter's decision, you have shown the child that that authority is in error and can be questioned. That kind of inadvertent parental reaction often reinforces rebellion and usually stops the authority from ever having a positive impact on the child.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: ... for that is unprofitable for you." Heb. 13:17

Also: I Timothy 5:17.

- ⊖ That biblical teaching is not important. This is often done verbally, but it is more often "taught" by a parent's always having excuses for not going to church, not praying, reading his Bible, not speaking to them about salvation, or doing anything spiritual. This is making it clear to an ever-learning child that spiritual things are not important. When a child does have problems in his life, because of the damage done by a parental example, the child will not think to turn to the Lord for help and guidance.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22

- ⊖ That biblical teaching does not have to be obeyed. When a child hears a parent lie, hears of their cheating on income taxes, hears them blaspheme God, hears them lie about the child's age to get a cheaper ticket rate

at a sporting event, sees what they watch on television, or sees them live a life that is contrary to the way the Bible commands, that parent is "teaching" a child that God's Word does not have to be obeyed! See: James 1:22

- ⊖ Allowing the child to be exposed to the world's philosophy taught through the media, government education, video games, internet, etc. A child is a "ball of clay" that can easily be molded. They will be molded by whom they associate with, what they are taught, and to what they are exposed.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:16

Children are a wonderful part of one's life, but they are also a parent's biggest responsibility. Although others may have some impact on their lives, ultimately it is the parents who have been given the responsibility by God to raise them up His way (Ephesians 6:4). The world's way is always changing because they have not found a way that is successful all the time; also it is not the world's responsibility. God, however, has a way that always works for rearing all children the right way. It is up to the parents to learn His way, and train their children in His way; if they do not want their children's lives ruined.