

A Biblical View of Child Training



Parents have delegated authority given by God

“Children are a heritage of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a (his) reward.” – Psalm 127:3

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right... do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” – Ephesians 6:1,4

- **God owns our Children** and has given parents delegated authority within clearly limited guidelines
- **The parent has a right to rule, and the child the right to obey** (parental accountability to church and state)

Parents are responsible to *Train* their children; not just *teach* them

Internal Discipleship

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

Proverbs 22:6

We train them to *do*
what God requires
(we win their heart)

External Instruction

*...which we have heard and known, and our fathers have **told** us.”*

Psalms 78:3

We teach them *about*
what God requires
(we inform their head)

Proper Training forms Good Habits

“Much of the character, usefulness and happiness of home depend upon home habits... It is easy to form such habits in children. Evil habits are more easily established, because we are naturally inclined to all evil... Hence the importance of an early training up to good. If parents but leave their children to their own ways, they will run into evil habits; for sin is an epidemic.”

The Christian Home, by Rev. S. Phillips, 1860

A Biblical View of Children

Conceived in sin

“I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”

Psalm 51:5

Allowing children to grow up “with no fences” can imprison them to their sin nature – greater and greater behavior problems

Called to divine destiny

“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... Eph. 1:4

Calling forth their divine destiny, balancing criticism and praise, depicts the Kingdom

The Balance of Child Training

- Understanding the sin nature of children
 - We can be easily deceived by our children
 - Pointing out faults in reality is necessary
 - Constantly criticizing and emphasizing faults leads to a crushed spirit and a loss of desire
- Understanding the divine calling of children
 - Parental blessing – in prayer – morning/night
 - Parental praise – at the right moment
 - Continual praise out of context builds self-righteous self-esteem and pride

Obedience

- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* – Ephesians 6:1
 - Obey means “under hearing”
 - Obeying parents prepares one to obey the Lord
 - *The stages of Obedience in the Scriptures*
 - Under Order – Lk. 2:51 – pre-arranged process
 - Under hearing – Eph. 6:1 – voice obedience
 - Under reason – Heb. 13:17 – thinking logically
- Teens need reasoning and confirmation of parents*
- Adults are always to obey under reason, not blindly*

Parents are co-equal in Authority

- *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* – Ephesians 6:1
 - Functions vary, but harmony of parents critical
 - Mixed families work for mutual respect (majors)
 - Single parent families are still families
- Proverbs 1:8-9 – functional roles...
 - Father (after consultation) instructs - legislative
 - Mother enforces decisions – executive
 - Both review – judicial – possibly revisions

Honor and Obedience

*“Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **Honor** thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)” – Ephesians 6:1-2*

HONOR – an attitude

Respect for authority

Submissive spirit

Reverent fear

*Yields great influence
and a long life*

OBEDIENCE – an act

Obedient to authority

Finish the task completely

Receives correction

*Yields a reputation for
reliability and worth*

Training Attitudes forms Manners

*“A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward **mouth**. He winketh with his **eyes**, he speaketh with his **feet**, he teacheth with his **fingers**” – Proverbs 6:12-13*

- Tone of voice as well as vocabulary
- Eye contact to discern the state of the soul
 - Posture (sitting, standing or walking)
 - Hand motions (submissive or defiant)

Law and Government at Home

“Home is a little commonwealth jointly governed by the parents. It involves law. The mutual relation of parents and child implies authority on the one hand, and obedience on the other... Home is the first form of society... It is similar in its fundamentals to the government of the state and church. It involves the legislative, judicial and executive functions; its elements are law, authority, obedience and penalties. The basis of its laws is the Word of God.”

The Christian Home, by Rev. S. Phillips, 1860

Restitution and Chastisement

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

1. **Provoke** – “close-beside; become angry” - the punishment does not fit the crime; wrong attitude
2. **Nurture** – “instruction” – shepherding the attitudes of the heart for a soft conscience
3. **Admonition** – “warning” – to punish by restitution or chastisement – attitudes and actions

Restitution

“The act of returning or restoring to a person some thing or right of which he has been unjustly deprived... the act of making good, or of giving an equivalent for any loss, damage or injury; indemnification (insurance)... the act of recovering the former state or posture.”

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

- For deeds that precede rebellion to authority
- Property damage, mismanagement of time, misuse of money, slander, gossip, etc.

Administering Restitution

1. **Property damage** – restore with own money, damages plus time
2. **Mismanagement of time** – loss of own time, plus time given to others
3. **Misuse of money** – lose ability to steward, under the control of parents
4. **Slander, gossip, lying** – repent, confess before offended parties, restore reputation

Chastisement

“Correction, punishment; pain inflicted for punishment and correction, either by stripes or otherwise... to correct by punishing; to punish; to inflict pain... for the purpose of punishing an offender and recalling him to his duty.. To reduce to order or obedience; to restrain; to awe; to repress” - Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

- **Controlled force to restore a submissive will**
- **Corporeal Punishment (the flexible rod) is reserved for passive and active rebellion**

Administering Chastisement

1. For **passive rebellion** – delayed obedience, obeying in action, but not in attitude
2. For **active rebellion** – saying no, defiance, hitting, throwing a temper, deliberate disobedience
3. **Giving chastisement (corporeal punishment)**
 - a. Goal is not to crush will or inflict pain
 - b. Choose a rod (flexible stick), restrained force
 - c. Proper attitude in parent and child

Commonwealth v. Dorvil, 2015

(a) parent or guardian may not be subjected to criminal liability for the use of force against a minor child under the care and supervision of the parent or guardian, provided that (1) the force is reasonable; (2) the force reasonably related to the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the minor, including the prevention or punishment of the minor's misconduct; and (3) the force used neither causes, nor creates a substantial risk of causing, physical harm (beyond the fleeting pain or minor, transient marks), gross degradation, or severe mental distress.

Steps for Administering Restitution or Chastisement

1. Instruction on standards, rules & consequences
2. Confront attitude, improper behavior; remind of standard broken
3. Confession of sin; repentance
4. Restitution or Chastisement administered
(no vengeance, submissive acceptance)
5. Prayer, acceptance, love and restoration
(bond between parent and child is strengthened)