

Child Rearing - Part 1

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I. It is possible to be successful in ministry but a failure in parenting.

A. Eli failed to train up his sons in the way they should go. (1 Samuel 3:12-13)

1. God chastised him for neglect with his sons.
2. This is a sobering thought.

B. Many parents are frustrated in child rearing. (2 Timothy 1:7)

1. For the first 12 years parents can do nothing wrong.
2. For the next 12 year parents can do almost nothing right.
3. But God gives provision.
 - a. He gives power, which is enablement to do what God has called you to do.
 - b. He gives love.
 - c. He gives a sound, or disciplined mind.
 1. Disciplining self is necessary in order to discipline children.
 2. If you have a rebellious child pray that God will help you keep your cool.
 3. If he sees you stay cool it may convince him of the reality of your faith.

II. I want to examine discipline.

A. Satan tries to push us to move in the area of the extreme. (Ephesians 6:4)

1. Our society has emerged from ultra permissiveness.
2. Authorial punishment is passé.
3. But living in a home with no discipline is a curse.
4. But over discipline is also wrong.
5. Today evidence shows that both of these extremes produce the same result of insecurity.
 - a. A juvenile facility in Dallas has kids from both extremes.

- b. There are no exceptions.
6. Ephesians protects parents from these extremes.
- a. The disciplined must be administered within a reasonable time of the offense.
 - b. Fathers are addressed because they are primarily the one disciplining.
 - 1. Fathers are not to provoke children to wrath by either stopping it or by not beginning.
 - 2. Provoking a child to wrath is done by over or under-disciplining.
 - i. If you explode at your kid when he approaches you he becomes uninterested in you.
 - ii. By the time he turns 12 you have lost him.
 - iii. Some people have no self-discipline due to poor child rearing.
 - 3. Fathers are to encourage children in chastening and admonition in the Lord.
 - i. Doctors practice corrective and preventative medicine.
 - ii. Parents practice corrective and preventative discipline.
 - a. Chastening embraces the corrective aspect.
 - b. Admonition embraces the preventative aspect.
 - iii. But parents have no right to discipline unless they play with them.
 - iv. I wrestle with my boys and the physical hurt I place on him when playing is the same as when I discipline.
 - v. The difference is in relationship, as I ask my child why he is misbehaving and listen to what he says.
 - vi. When parents scream they train the child to tune them out.
 - vii. Listening to your child is crucial.
 - viii. My parents didn't listen to me but my dog did.
 - ix. My wife taught me to listen.
 - x. Spending time with your child and listening to him or her empowers discipline because you earn the right to speak to them.

B. Requisites for Christian discipline are negative and positive.

1. Negative.

a. Never use comparison with other children.

1. All children are different and must be dealt with individually.
2. God wants us dependent on him for wisdom in child rearing.
3. God gave you children not in order for you to make them grow but in order to then to help you grow.
4. One child may not respond to you the same way another will.
5. Keeping our eyes on other people is unchristian.
6. Keep our eyes on God.
7. Teach your children that we act the way we do because of the Spirit in our lives, not because of the standard of the Christian community.

b. Don't use scorn or ridicule.

1. Most men are masters at sarcasm.
2. Most men would never say to me what they say to their wives.
3. Many of us have said things to our children that we would never say to others.
4. I had a student at seminary with an IQ of 147 and a sister with an IQ of 155. The lower IQ child stuttered and the family ridiculed him so that now he is helplessly stuck in stuttering.
5. We all do similar things to our children when we are critical to our children.
6. How often do we criticize instead of affirming our children?
7. Commending instead of criticizing will build strength.

c. Don't withdraw love and affection in order to affect behavior.

1. We need to love our children no matter what they do even if we don't like what they do.
2. We need to love unconditionally, as Jesus loves us.

d. Don't use promise of reward or bribes to affect behavior.

1. If you don't eat your potatoes you don't get desert.
2. We should develop internal discipline, not external.

e. Don't discipline when angry.

1. Anger doesn't accomplish your objectives.
2. If you're not under control just forget discipline; instead pray for the Spirit to give you composure before you discipline.
3. Anger results in abuse.

f. Never expect perfection.

1. We are suffering from a suffocating fog of mortalism by majoring on minor issues.
2. We need standards but don't frustrate everyone by standards.
3. Look for progress not perfection, which is what your child is looking for in you.

2. Positive.

a. Impart the expectancy of obedience.

1. I work with juveniles and see parents berate their children.
2. We need to believe in our children.

b. Help your child evaluate their disobedience.

1. This takes time.
2. This takes creativity.

c. Allow the child to express his own viewpoint.

1. We need to give children freedom to think for themselves.
2. We need to apologize when necessary.
3. This communicates to children because they see you're real.

d. The goal of obedience is not outward conformity by inward conviction and control.

1. It's easy to force young kids to obey.

2. I want kids to go to church, for example, because he wants to.
 3. Kids need to make decisions on the basis of what's right and what's wrong.
 4. The object in child rearing is not to have a good boy but to rear
- e. Remember that discipline is a long range program.
1. Learn this by playing checkers.
 2. Good checker players lose some pieces in order to win the game.
 3. One teacher used to tie me to my chair; another loved me and I responded to her.
 - i. One saw me as a problem.
 - ii. Another saw me as a possibility.

C. Dr. Hendricks takes some questions here.

1. Rewards can be helpful but the reward of a job well done is best.
2. Restore the fellowship after disciplining a child.
3. A basic principle of teaching is the law of expected results.
 - a. It is the law of sowing and reaping.
 - b. If someone makes a mistake they need to pay their dues.
 - c. If someone succeeds they benefit.
4. Learning to trust children is a slow process of learning by making mistakes and correcting those mistakes.