



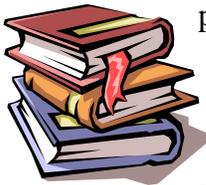
## Summing Up You and Your Children



The way you accept your children is usually the way you accept people – if you are critical of people – you will be critical of your children. To pretend to be accepting of your child, when your body language and facial expression is sending out messages of unacceptance can seriously affect your child emotionally and create anxiety in him about whether you love him.

Parents are being blamed, but not trained. Nearly every person who becomes a parent has had no training at all in raising children. So, they do it the way they were raised and make the same mistakes their parents did.

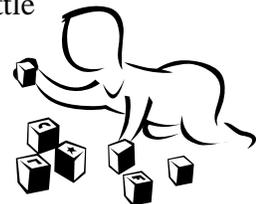
Children misbehave because they are not trained and children can't be trained until the parent (or parents) are trained. A parent may not be able to attend a lot of classes to learn parenting, but they can learn wisdom from the Bible and other related books. There are lots of them – good Christian books on being a parent.



Children do not rebel against their parent – they rebel against destructive methods of discipline that are given without love or understanding. Learning new ways to resolve conflicts can bring peace and harmony into your family.

Being able to see yourself and each of your children, and for that matter, every other person, as separate from the other – a separate individual – strong within yourself, expressing your own values, but never forcing them on another, each being your own unique person, walking in the gifts and calling God has given each of you, being a good example yourself of the things you say, will help you to see your children as individuals who each have God-given gifts and talents.

Most parents and children begin a battle of wills when the child is about one year old and begins to investigate everything. Parents feel the need to keep the power or this thing could get out of hand. Their own fears about being able to raise this little obstinate creature with 4 hands and 6 feet and a pair of lungs like an opera singer come to the surface and bring out strong reactions.



One of the most powerful, and seldom used tools that a parent has to bring peace and harmony into your relationship with your child is to read the Bible to him from the time he is born. Your voice, softly reading passages from the Word of God in a quiet, dimly lit room beside your child's bassinet, to crib, to a bed as he grows, will remain in his heart because that is where the Word of God is planted, and it will remain there all the days of his life because it has taken root before all the forces of evil have had a chance to steal it away.

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If you will read the Scriptures to your children, when they are awake and when they are asleep, and if you will have a prayer time with them every day where you share what you know about Jesus and God the Father, your children will be peaceful, well-behaved and have an anchor for their souls when they go out into a world that will try to pull them toward evil and rebellion.



When a child is still too young, and does not have enough judgement or maturity to know how to stop a foolish or harmful act, he is not capable of understanding a long verbal explanation for correction, but if he understands that if he does that certain foolish or harmful act again he is going to get spanked for it, he will stop doing it.

Proverbs 19:18 says, *“Discipline your son while there is hope, and don’t let your emotions stop you because he is crying.”*

Parents usually fall into one of three categories: Winners, losers or oscillators:

- Winners believe in restricting, setting limits, giving commands and expecting absolute obedience. They use threats of punishment to get their child to obey them and punish him when he does not. They always resolve a conflict so that they win, and the conflict is not resolved until they do.
- Losers don’t set limits and they make the statement that they don’t believe in authoritarian (absolute control) motives. In a conflict between a loser-parent and the child, the child wins and the parent loses because they believe it’s harmful to frustrate the child by correcting him.
- Oscillators (indecisive in purpose or opinion/back and forth) are the largest group. Especially for single parents. These find it impossible to follow a “winner” or “loser” approach. In trying to arrive at a mixture of both, they oscillate back and forth between being strict and lenient, tough and easy, restrictive and permissive, winning and losing.

They try to be permissive with their children until they get so bad they can’t stand them. Then they try to change and use authority until they’re so strict they can’t stand themselves. These parents are confused and uncertain. They see only two approaches to parenting, “I win and you lose,” or “you win and I lose.”

There is a teaching that is popular now, that you can accept a child and not his behavior. But that is almost impossible for a parent and for the child. When we tell a child their hair is a mess, or their face is dirty, they believe that they are a mess, and they are dirty. They can’t separate their appearance from who they are. In the same way a parent can’t separate a behavior from who they are.

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To say to a child, “I love you but not the way you act” is the same as saying “I don’t love you.” He can’t separate himself from his actions, he needs help to see what actions are not acceptable.

It is better to be honest and say he’s being unacceptable when he behaves a certain way. Your face will show it anyway, no matter what your mouth is saying. Kids read our faces. Being honest about acceptance and acceptable behaviors is the first major step in a “no-lose” relationship with your child.

Acceptance means you listen to your child so they will talk to you. Acceptance means love and communication, just as it is with God. Your acceptance will produce a sound, healthy, confident child. Yet most parents teach only by unacceptance instead – thinking that if they tell the child what’s wrong with him, he will be able to correct it – but he doesn’t have the capacity to correct himself without help, and he will only feel unaccepted and unloved.



If your child feels accepted by you, just the way he is, you will have a wonderful, loving relationship for acceptance is love.



## *Summing Up You and Your Children*

1. If I am critical of other people, how does that affect my children?

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2. Since I have had very little training, how will I raise my kids?

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3. If I can't go to classes, how can I learn parenting?

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4. What will help me to see my children as separate individuals?

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5. Why do I begin to have a battle of the wills with my child?

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6. What is the most powerful tool to raise a peaceful child?

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7. How can the Word of God protect my child when he is older?

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8. What is another tool I can use to protect my child?

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9. When is a physical discipline necessary for my child?

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10. What are the three general categories of parents?

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11. Which one of those do you feel you are? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is the "no-lose" way of raising my children?

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13. What does Proverbs 19:18 say about raising my child?

(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

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## *Summing Up You and Your Children*

1. If I am critical of other people, how does that affect my children?  
I will be critical of my children.
2. Since I have had very little training, how will I raise my kids?  
The same way I was raised.
3. If I can't go to classes, how can I learn parenting?  
By studying the Bible and other Christian books on parenting.
4. What will help me to see my children as separate individuals?  
By first seeing myself as a separate individual with gifts and talents.
5. Why do I begin to have a battle of the wills with my child?  
Because your afraid he will get out of hand.
6. What is the most powerful tool to raise a peaceful child?  
Reading the Bible to him from the day he is born.
7. How can the Word of God protect my child when he is older?  
Because it takes root in his heart before evil can steal it away.
8. What is another tool I can use to protect my child?  
Have a prayer time every day and share Jesus with him.
9. When is a physical discipline necessary for my child?  
When he is too young to have judgement and maturity to protect himself.
10. What are the three general categories of parents?  
Winners      Losers      Oscillators
11. Which one of those do you feel you are?  
(Multiple Choice)
12. What is the "no-lose" way of raising my children?  
By acceptance and love, which are both the same.
13. What does Proverbs 19:18 say about raising my child?

MEMORY VERSE "Correct your son while there is hope, and don't let your

*emotions stop you because he is crying.”*