



More About You and Your Child

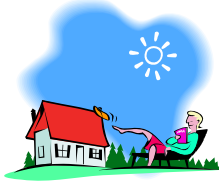


The use of the word “he” includes both boys and girls. Yesterday we talked about obedience becoming the basis of a parent’s relationship with a child, instead of love. If a child does just what he’s told, exactly when he’s told he’s considered a good child, - if he doesn’t, he’s considered a bad child. With no thought given to what is going on inside the child.

He may use disobedience as the only way he has to express his feelings if he’s upset and hurt because his parent will not listen or try to understand. Refusing to obey does not mean he’s a bad boy, it means he needs his parent to prove their love by listening to him.

And, don’t we, as parents do the same thing? If we’re upset with our child, we don’t do what they ask us to – because we don’t feel they are being loving to us – that if they loved us they would do what we ask (or more often tell) them to. But, if we took a moment to listen to him – to find out why he doesn’t want to do it now, and if he could see you really cared what he was feeling – you would have cooperation instead of frustration. Taking three minutes to stop what you are doing and look at your child when he is talking will reward you with hours of love and companionship.

Too often mothers feel they are being judged as good or bad by the obedient behavior of their children. That if our kids behave – we’re O.K. but if they don’t mind us then we will be blamed for their behavior.



In Matthew 22:37 Jesus says “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself.*” We need to see our children more as neighbors than extensions of our self that prove our success or failure by their success or failure in life.

We try to be so careful in our relationships with adults. We try not to offend, we listen with open, sympathetic ears to their problems. We give them forgiveness, understanding, counsel, and quality time together. These are the very things we should be giving our children – they are more important than any friends or relationships.

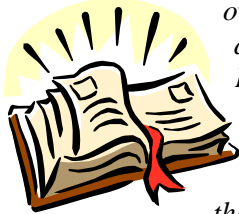
In our Memory Verse yesterday (Proverbs 22:6) it said, “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*” The word “train” means:

1. Mold and shape the character of the child.
2. Teach him by your example what is right to do.
3. Help him to learn obedience with love.
4. Prepare him for the competitive part of life.
5. Point him in the exact direction his life should take.



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To sum all that up – teach him the Scriptures when he is young and they will guide him through life. Teach him Proverbs 3:5-7, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don’t lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways know and include Him, and He will direct your path of life. Don’t be wise in your own eyes, but be in awe of the Lord and worship Him and turn entirely away from evil.”* That is the greatest training you can give your child – and help him to walk in it.



Children have to be trained. Proverbs 22:15 says, *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child.”* They are like a free spirit when they are born. They don’t know if they touch fire it will burn them, they don’t know when you love someone you help them. They don’t know you’re tired – they don’t even know what tired is. They’re never tired – they’re just either asleep or awake.

So don’t blame them, and get angry if they slam the door when you’re resting. They have no way of understanding why you are mad at them, and then they feel hurt and unloved. To you it seems simple. You say, *“I’m tired and I have a headache!”* Save your breath. To them you’re just “mom.” They think that you feel the same way they do – alive, and full of pep & energy!

So, you have to train them by giving them “momma’s tired” lessons and what that means. Tell them when you are going to lie down – how long you are going to be lying down – what they are expected to do while you are lying down – and when they do it, praise them – when they don’t, discipline them – but, whatever you do, don’t just lay there and yell at them when you want to rest.

Children don’t rebel against parents – they rebel against rules and orders that are made without consideration or love. Children want to love and be loved by their parents. All of this is not to say that discipline is not necessary while raising a child. Because they are born without natural self-discipline, they have to be trained with discipline as part of their training.



You can’t ignore deliberate rebellious behavior. You can’t ignore it and hope it will go away by itself. Society has changed so much since the Bible was written. Child abuse was never mentioned because children were corrected with love and wisdom. But now it’s different – so different that parents are confused about correcting a child by spanking. But if you are a Christian mom, the Lord will give you wisdom about correcting your child because if you love your child, you must correct deliberately rebellious behaviors.

The following Scriptures regarding discipline use the word “rod.” That word means a thin switch that will sting but not bruise. A slender stem of any woody plant when cut off and stripped of leaves or things. It’s purpose is for correction, not for inflicting a painful beating.

Proverbs 29:15 *“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left undisciplined brings his mother to shame.”*



Proverbs 29:17 *“Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your heart.”*

Proverbs 22:15 (all of it) *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”*

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The Bible makes it clear that you are not to withhold loving discipline from a child. If you have to spank your child be sure you love him afterwards. But be very sure before you spank your child; that you have listened to his side of the story; that you have been willing to believe him; that you have given him a chance to repent; that you are not punishing him the first time something rebellious was done; and most important of all – be very sure that you take him in your arms (he will let you if you have been fair) and tell him that you love him enough to spank him so he will learn right from wrong.



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Again this is an area for discussion and self-questioning rather than written ones.

Discuss the area of disciplining your children. Spanking should not be the first discipline for a misbehavior – discuss others that could happen first, such as time out, but not restricted to that.

Talk about disciplines that were effective in you when you were growing up.

Talk about disciplines done to you that made you more rebellious that you don't want to repeat on your children.

Talk about eliminating yelling from your child raising habits. Recognizing yelling is destructive and ineffective. It's just a way of letting off steam and in a public place it's an attempt to show people that you're trying to be a good mother but your children are out of control.

Discipline has to come from your heart and be done in love for the sake of your child. Don't ever discipline your child because somebody else says you should! And don't ever let someone else physically discipline your young child!

MEMORY VERSE (Proverbs 3:5) *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding."*