

Godly Child Training

Introduction:

1. Scriptural preaching is public teaching to increase the knowledge of Jesus Christ and perfect His saints in the world.
2. Our duty and our goal is to leave a godly seed in the earth for the glory of God (Genesis 4:26 cp Malachi 2:15; Ps 144:12).
3. Consider the importance (II Timothy 2:2; Psalm 78:1-8; Joel 1:3). Teach four generations godliness for a seed in the earth.
4. There is an outline available of 21 pages of single-spaced material pulling together every applicable Scripture (1987-88).
5. The key to this abbreviated study is twofold: a reminder to keep child training a **priority** and instruction as to God's **content**.

I. CHILD TRAINING COMMANDED

- A. Paul taught fathers to bring children up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD (Eph 6:4).
 1. **Nurture.** Upbringing, training, education. Moral training or discipline. Promoting growth.
 2. **Admonish.** Put in mind of duties; counsel against wrong practices; to give authoritative or warning advice; to exhort, to warn.
 3. Children must be trained and educated in the counsel, warnings, and reproof of the Lord.
- B. Solomon taught that proper child training will result in faithful, righteous adults (Prov 22:6).
 1. **Train.** Subject to discipline and instruction to form the character and develop the powers of.
 2. We are to *train* children, not just raise them. We raise vegetables, but train children.
 3. We are to train them *up*. This describes the lengthy period from birth to majority.
 4. We train them up *in the way*. We cannot train every step, but we can train the way.
 5. We train them in the way *they should go*. It will not be the way they would go.
 6. When they are *old*, they will obey the training. They may rebell earlier (Prov 29:21).
- C. No training is negative training by default - they have depraved hearts from Adam (Pr 29:15).
- D. Where do you stand as a father or mother? With Time? Effort? Expense? Emphasis? Consistency?

II. CHILD TRAINING CONCEPTS

- A. The Holy Scriptures alone give light and understanding (Ps 119:128; Is 8:20; II Tim 3:16-17).
 1. Where did you get your philosophy of education? God or Satan? Heaven or hell?
 2. The world's education model is not godly – it was designed by the prince of this world.
 3. Can you empty your mind and let only Scripture fill it with God's wisdom (II Cor 10:5)?
 4. We want "thus saith the LORD" rather than "my father did it this way" or "everyone does it."
 5. Results prove nothing; they can result from many opposing influences. Only Scripture counts.
- B. Children are the LORD's (Ps 127:3). Hanah had a great spirit about Samuel (I Sam 1:27-28).
- C. Child training is not a matter of liberty but of commandment (Proverbs 16:25; Isaiah 55:8-9).
- D. Fathers are responsible for training children rather than mothers, pastors, or teachers.
- E. Abram was a godly father (Gen 18:19). Command – the Lord's way – justice and judgment.
- F. Joshua spoke for his house (Joshua 24:15). So did Cornelius and the jailor (Acts 10:2; 16:33).
- G. Corporal punishment is more obvious Scripturally than monogamy, the Trinity, or church attendance.
 1. Humble yourself and learn wisdom (Prov 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; 26:3; 10:13).
 2. Better begin it earlier than later to have results (Prov 13:24; 19:18; Psalm 58:3).
- H. Example teaches well – hypocrisy will train hypocrisy (Ezekiel 16:44; Philippians 3:17).
- I. Our goal is the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:52 cp I Sam 2:26)? What does the world suggest?
- J. Child training is not just "devotions" but rather a part of daily life (Duet 6:4-9; 11:19-21).
- K. Child rebellion marks perilous times and a judgment from God (Rom 1:30; II Ti 3:2; Is 3:1-5,12).
- L. Christianity has been diluted until we may not be able to visualize a godly family by the Bible.
- M. The excessive doting and exaltation of children and their whims has backfired appropriately.
- N. Child training is not raising children with three squares daily, washed hands, and clean ears.
- O. Taking your children to church and praying before meals is good, but we are talking about much more.
- P. The content of godly training we may draw from the Bible has been inverted and perverted by man.
- Q. What if the time, effort, expense, and emphasis of the world's training were spent on godly training?
- R. A people prepared for the LORD has good parent-child relationships (Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:16-17).
- S. Our goal is well-trained young men and polished young women by His blessing (Psalm 144:12).
- T. This matter will be more of conviction than it will of knowledge. How much do you truly care?
- U. If ever there has been a time when parents need to train their children, it is now in these last days.

III. CHILD TRAINING CONTENT

- A. Spiritual: for maintaining a holy personal life in the fear of God and fellowship with Christ.
 - 1. This is far more than baptism, church attendance, obedience, diligence, and faith.
 - 2. Consider the training and influence that Paul saw in Timothy (II Tim 1:3-5; 3:14-15).
 - 3. See the emphasis on teaching the law (Deut 4:9-10; 6:2,7,20; 11:19-21; 31:13; 32:46).
 - 4. The fear of the LORD can be taught (Ps 34:11). David taught Solomon (Pr 4:4; 6:20).
 - 5. Teach four generations specific content both positively and negatively (Ps 78:1-8).
 - 6. Children must be taught to remember their Creator while young (Eccl 12:1; Pr 22:6).
 - 7. The wise man tried it all and summarized the conclusion and our duty (Eccl 12:13).
 - 8. A truly spiritual father will confess even the probable sins of his children (Job 1:5).
 - 9. The purpose for life according to Hezekiah was to convey truth to children (Is 38:19).
 - 10. The ultimate purpose for man is the glory and pleasure of God (Prov 16:4; Rev 4:11).
 - 11. This category is often left to the pulpit, but the true life of holiness is lived at home.
 - 12. If we consider the ideal matter for this category, we create a very spiritual environment.
 - 13. Review the "Spiritual Life" section in the outline entitled "Godly Training for Girls."
- B. Character: for developing those traits that please God and men in all circumstances of life.
 - 1. We reject self-love, pride, foolish talking, covetousness, lasciviousness, anger, and selfishness.
 - 2. We promote graciousness, virtue, diligence, sobriety, faithfulness, charity, kindness, and joy.
 - 3. As Dr. Alan Keyes so eloquently states, our nation is morally and character bankrupt.
 - 4. The roles from God for our boy and girl children should be emphasized to them daily.
 - 5. There are odious and gracious women. Daughters must know and make the difference.
 - 6. Are your daughters ready to be submissive, obedient, reverent, meek, and quiet wives?
 - 7. Reading a chapter of Proverbs a day is one of the simplest and wisest things to do.
 - 8. Every event in life (current events or family situations) should be resolved from the Bible.
 - 9. Children should be trained to apply the word of God to every real or imagined situation.
 - 10. While much of the Bible deals with this category, the book of Proverbs deals with it totally.
 - 11. Review the "Character Life" section in the outline entitled "Godly Training for Girls."
- C. Functional: for a woman to be a great mother and wife and a man a great husband and father.
 - 1. Girls need domestic knowledge and skills, feminine knowledge and skills, sexual knowledge and confidence, reproductive knowledge, artistic ability, romantic ability, infant care, etc.
 - 2. Boys need communication, etiquette, entertaining, romance, instructional, sexual, leading, etc.
 - 3. While other Bible passages deal with this category, the Song of Solomon deals with it totally.
 - 4. Review the "Functional Life" section in the outline entitled "Godly Training for Girls."
- D. Professional: for acquiring those general and specific skills for transferable expertise in a profession.
 - 1. You may choose academic credentials for a profession; vocational training for a trade; or capital and business expertise and networking for your own business.
 - 2. Given ability from God and time and chance influence economic ability more than any degree.
 - 3. After ability given by God and opportunity, then godly character will take on great value.
 - 4. The Bible is almost silent on this matter other than ability, opportunity, and character.
 - 5. Men should be content in the vocation they were called without complaint (I Cor 7:20-24).
- E. Practical: for using this world wisely in all matters necessary to a peaceful and efficient life.
 - 1. Finance, computers, real estate, insurance, legal / government, shopping, culture, etc.
 - 2. The virtuous woman could think and execute matters not taught in school.
 - 3. Enterprising, entrepreneurial, and creative abilities are on the decline.
 - 4. While details are not give in the Bible, it is the sharp axe principle (Eccl 10:10).
- F. Typical: school for hobbies or academic play in fine arts, history, languages, phys-ed, etc.
 - 1. Required 6.5 hours per day for 180 days per year for 16+ years from 6 to 22.
 - 2. Not only is much of it without value, it also flatters young people into self-delusion about life.
 - 3. If this category were ignored and its usual emphasis applied above, what would we have?