

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

## Prov. 22:6

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Life has few moments so sublime as the moment when you see for the first time your own child.
2. Before the child is born the parents have had countless questions to arise.
  - (1) Will it be a boy or girl?
  - (2) Will the child live?
  - (3) Will the child be normal?
  - (4) Will we be equal to the task of rearing the child?
  - (5) What will we name the child?
3. When the child is born there is JOY.

### I. PARENTHOOD IS A COOPERATIVE VENTURE WITH GOD.

1. The bringing of a new baby into the world is a wonderful venture in which a man and a woman who are married have cooperated with God in bringing into being a NEW LIFE -- a new soul -- Heb. 12:9
2. This human being which they have brought into being never existed before -- but now that it does exist, it will exist FOREVER.
3. This new baby will spend a few years upon this earth, then an eternity in the great beyond -- Heaven or Hell.
  - (1) Job 16: 22 *"When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return.*
4. Nothing else that a man or woman does upon this earth, with the exception of the spiritual work of God can be compared in importance to their cooperation with God to produce life.
5. REALIZING THE IMPORTANCE of this venture with God, parents should solemnly consider their responsibilities before bringing a child into the world.

### II. THE FIRST FIVE YEARS ARE MOST CRUCIAL IN A CHILD'S LIFE

1. The baby is born good, with nothing undesirable in him.
2. Parents make the helpless child essentially what he becomes.
3. Nature has given him some directions.
  - (1) He will let you know when he needs:
    1. Sleep
    2. A full stomach
    3. Comfortable clothing.

4. But, nature does not tell him his mental, emotional and spiritual needs.
  - (1) These must be supplied by his parents -- Eph. 6:4
5. The child needs to be loved -- Tit. 2: 4
  - (1) The child's need for love and affection and his need for security are very closely related.
  - (2) Because a child finds his sense of security in the affection and love of his parents.
  - (3) Where affection is lacking the child is likely to feel out of place and unwanted.
  - (4) The result of this lack of affection and insecurity expresses itself in maladjustment in adulthood.
  - (5) We must demonstrate our love for our children
    1. A tiny baby enjoys being cuddled
    2. Young children understand our love by demonstration
6. The child must be taught respect for property rights
  - (1) One of the most important lessons learned in the first five years is the difference between "MY THINGS" and "YOUR THINGS".
  - (2) He learns by EXAMPLE
    1. The respect his parents have for the property of others
  - (3) When he is taught to respect the property of others he finds it easy to refrain from:
    1. Stealing
    2. Killing
    3. Taking someone else's companion
7. The child must be taught wholesome response toward authority
  - (1) To obey his parents -- Eph. 6:1
  - (2) To obey the laws of the land -- Rom. 13: 1 - 7
  - (3) To obey the laws of God
  - (4) Parents teach this by their own obedience
    1. The wife obeys her husband -- Eph. 5:24; Tit. 2:5; I Pet. 3:6
    2. The Father obeys his employer and the laws of the land
    3. The husband and wife obey Christ
    4. They obey the elders -- Heb. 13:17
8. Parents are to direct the growth of their child spiritually, mentally, physically, socially and morally.

(1) Eph. 6: 4 "NURTURE" --- "Whole training and education of children" *Thayer*,  
"Training and correction" *The International S. B. Ency.*

1. Parents are to direct the spiritual growth -- they are to teach their children about the ways of God -- Eph. 6:4

2. Direct Physical growth

1. Psa. 139: 14

2. Teach physical health

3. Sex education

3. Direct Mental growth

1. Phil. 4:8

4. Direct Social growth

1. Jesus -- Luke 2:52

5. Direct Moral growth

1. Morals deal with the right and wrong of a given situation

9. Parents are to discipline their children

(1) Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4

(2) What is Discipline?

1. Many people think only of punishment when they hear the word "discipline".

2. Punishment is an essential element of discipline, but there is much more involved in discipline than punishment.

3. "Discipline implies instruction and correction, the training which improves, molds, strengthens and perfects character." *Bakers Dictionary of Theology*

4. Discipline is two-fold:

1. Instructive

2. Corrective

5. When parents teach their children right and wrong, this is discipline

6. It is easy for the very young to accept the fact that God approves right conduct and disapproves wrong conduct in terms of God's standard of good and evil.

7. They must learn their accountability to God -- II Cor. 5:10

10. Some ELEMENTS of proper discipline:

(1) The teaching of a sense of RESPONSIBILITY is a factor in discipline

1. Lam. 3:27 "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth"...

(2) EXAMPLE is a meaningful element in discipline

(3) INSTRUCTIONS, COMMANDS, and ADMONITIONS constitute an element of discipline called TEACHING -- (ex. Abraham -- Gen. 18:19)

(4) CORRECTION is a vital element of proper discipline

1. Prov. 3:12 -- *"For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."*

2. Prov. 22: 15 -- *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."*

3. Prov. 23:13 -- *"Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die."*

4. Prov. 23: 14

5. Prov. 29: 15 -- *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."*

(1) What Solomon is telling us here is that a child does not know the right way by instinct.

6. Parents who truly love their children correct them -- Heb. 12:9 - 11

11. Some WARNING to parents:

(1) *"Provoke not your children to wrath"* -- Eph. 6:4

(2) *"Provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged"* -- Col. 3:21

1. Col. 3:21 -- Provoke -- to rouse to strife

2. Eph. 6:4 -- Provoke -- to irritate beyond measure

3. To provoke to discouragement is to break a child's spirit

4. To provoke to wrath is to develop a general spirit of rebellion

### III. HOW PARENTS CAN BUILD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR CHILDREN

1. Begin to build a solid relationship early

(1) What parents do with their children in the early years has a telling mark on the building of a stable teen-age relationship.

(2) The simple act of listening to your children's daily needs will cause a bond of love to be forged.

(3) Human beings need LOVE and UNDERSTANDING --and this is an urgent need in childhood and during teen-age years.

2. Learn to spot your child's need for understanding

(1) He or she may be moping

(2) Find out what is wrong

3. Don't treat teen-agers like little children

- (1) Teen-age children have great insecurity
- (2) They know before long they will have to fend for themselves
- (3) If parents turn off their teen-agers in this troubled time of life, they will be forcing them into a reliance on their peers.

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