

parenting

"To have children is to forever decide to have your heart go walking along outside your body!"

The secret to successful parenting is to treat our children just like God the Father treats us! Kids were built to withstand being raised by human beings, with all of our shortcomings and inconsistencies.

I must learn to...

- ▶ **Understand** my children - their style, temperament, and personality

"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust"
(Psalm 103:13-14)

- ▶ **Accept** my children - God chose them for me!

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God"
(Romans 15:7)

- ▶ Rear children to **love God** with all their hearts - the #1 way to evangelize the world!

SIX COMMON-SENSE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR REARING SPIRITUAL, POSITIVE, WELL-ADJUSTED CHILDREN...

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"
(Proverbs 22:6)

"Do not withhold discipline from your child; if you discipline him with the rod, he will not die. Discipline him, and save his soul from death" .
(Proverbs 23:13-14)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth"
(Ephesians 6:1-3)

- 1.** The goal of discipline is to help my child associate pain with wrong-doing, and thus help him go to heaven.
- 2.** Shape the will without breaking the spirit.

"Isn't it strange how princes and kings and clowns who caper in sawdust rings, and common people like you and me are the builders of eternity? We're all given a bag of tools, an amorphous mass and a set of rules, upon which to build before time has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone!"

3. Discern between childish irresponsibility and willful disobedience.

4. Rules without a relationship breeds rebellion

I must be consistent and express love to my children...

- ▶ Through affection
- ▶ Through affirmation
- ▶ Through attention

5. Teach my children regard for God !

Build in their soul an awesome respect for the Lord, and guide them to a personal faith in Christ at an early age.

A sobering example...

"Eli's sons (Hophni and Phinehas) were wicked men, they had no regard for the Lord. The sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt. Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. So he said to them, 'Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons, it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the Lord's people. If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him, but if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?' His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke. All of Eli's descendants died in the prime of life, and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, both died on the same day".
(1 Samuel 2:12-34)

6. Stop being an old yeller !

If we do not discipline our children, two things are true:

▶ It proves that we really do not love our children.

"If you refuse to discipline your child, it proves you don't love him".
(Proverbs 13:24)

▶ It shows that we're participating in their destruction

"Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't, you are helping them destroy themselves".
(Proverbs 19:18)

Learn the big difference between "punishment" and "discipline".

The 3 characteristics of Biblical discipline are...
calmly, quickly, and sparingly.

The secret of a disciplined child is a disciplined parent!...

- #1 Ask once, clearly, with explanation
- #2 Discipline in private
- #3 Spank to produce repentance
- #4 Cooling-off period
- #5 Hold them, pray with them, apply Scriptural principle

"I believe that my children are a gift of God - the hope of a new tomorrow. I believe that immeasurable possibilities lie slumbering in each son and daughter. I believe that God has planned a perfect plan for their future, and that His love shall always surround them. And so... I believe that they shall grow up! - first creeping, then toddling, then standing, stretching skyward for a decade and a half - until they reach full stature - a man and a woman! I believe, that they can and will be molded and shaped between infancy and adulthood - as a tree is shaped by the gardener, or the clay vessel in the potter's hand, or the shoreline of the sea under the watery hand of the mighty waves; by home and church; by school and street; through sights and sounds; and the touch of my hand on their hand and Christ's Spirit on their heart! So, I believe that they shall mature as only people can - through laughter and pain, through affection and discipline, until they stretch their wings and leave their nest to fly! Oh, God - I believe in my children. Help me to so live that they may always believe in me - and so in Thee!" -Robert Schuller