

Training our children: Direction (-)

INTRODUCTION:

A. The lessons from this series:

1. 327_Introduction to the series about the family
2. 591_Marriage: Its purpose
3. 592_Marriage: Its permanency
4. 015_The man's role in marriage
5. 017_The woman's role in marriage
6. 498_A wife worth more than jewels
7. 244_When mommy is not home
8. 597_Loving intellectually
9. 598_The affectionate love
10. 599_Intimate love
11. 602_Communication
12. 604_Problems between husband and wife
13. 606_The responsibilities of parents and children
14. 608_Training our children: Instruction
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16. 610_Training our children: Direction
17. 612_Biblical cases of fathers and sons
18. 611_The relationship between siblings
19. 440_What every youth wants in reality
20. 618_Courtship: Preparation for marriage
21. 021_The family who is centered in Christ

B. Illustration: the train and the railroad tracks. The train, "I feel limited, to be on the tracks all the time", said Tootle the young locomotive.

1. This is what Tootle the young locomotive may find outside the tracks:
 - a. It is called a train wreck, a disaster, an accident
 - b. It cannot move, cannot go anywhere, the train is reduced and limited even more so than he thought
2. When the young locomotive is limited within the railroad tracks:
 - a. He can now see more scenes
 - b. The tracks will take you to a destiny
 - c. It will help you accomplished a good deed (makes you take the cargo to its destination to the clients)
 - d. The tracks will help you be admired
3. For the young locomotive the tracks gave him direction and liberty!

C. This is what the child is

1. Without the restrictions and discipline from the word of God:
 - a. His/her life will be a disaster, an accident, a moral wreck
 - b. Nobody wants him/her, the child's wrongful attitude and behavior will limit the child's opportunities later on when he is out in the world.

2. When the child is limited by the discipline of the father and God
 - a. He will have the trust of his parents which will allow him/her to move and see the world. The child could see beautiful sceneries. More opportunities will be presented in his life.
 - b. The child will arrive to his/her destiny to be a respectful person
 - c. The child will be a good worker he/she will achieve much in life, helps many and will have much success in life.
 - d. Therefore he/she will be admired and praised by many
3. Discipline will give to the child direction and liberty!

D. The objective of this sermon:

1. Who directs (guide) who?
2. Pampering: an enemy of discipline
3. Guiding them to rest and to liberty
4. Giving them a good example

[Let us begin with the first major point in this lesson...]

I. WHO DIRECTS (GUIDES) WHO?

A. Have you notice that we live in a society geared oriented towards the child

1. Almost everything is done for the child and the world believes that it is very noble because it gives so much care for this defenseless child.
2. And so the child becomes the “god” of the parents and everything revolves around the child, everything is sacrifice for the child.
 - a. If the child has to be sleep at certain time then most likely the parents will not attend evening worship services or a mid-week Bible class, Gospel meetings just to stay home. Or we try to change the time schedule of services to accommodate the child.
 - b. We sacrifice time and money to get the child the best, what the television commercials are telling us the child must have.
 - c. We sacrifice so much time so that the child participates in everything like sports, youth camp, to be in a club and in other things and that we rather sacrifice to be at church with the saints. It is not sufficient just participating in some activities but we push so much for the child to participate in all activities!
 - d. What the child asks we tend to give without asking why
 - e. The child then becomes the “god” of many
3. The world will be stop for the child
 - a. A game of horse shoe had to be stopped in order for a child to give it a try.
 - b. We are not against children in anyway but the point is that they need to be guided and not them guiding us!

B. Many parents are guided or directed by their children

1. A family arrives to a home where they were invited and at the time of eating the child of age 2 does not want to eat, he wants to play and so the father or mother goes out and plays with the child while everybody else is eating. Once they return his food plate is cold and there is no association with those who invited him to their home. The father or mother of this scene was controlled by the child.

C. Eli was a parent who did not rebuke his children (1 Samuel 3:13)

1. Notice what the sons of Eli did with the sacrifice to the Lord (1 Samuel 2:29; see also verse 17)

II. PAMPERING: AN ENEMY OF DISCIPLINE

A. Some definitions:

1. **Consent:** 1. A voluntary yielding to what is proposed or desired by another; acquiescence; compliance – (Standard College Dict.)
- B. Consenting, pampering and spoiling the child is the greatest enemy of discipline**
1. Consenting or pampering instead of giving direction, consenting gives any kind of direction or option for the child to follow. It is the opposite because it leaves the child to him/her self.
- C. A child who is spoiled or pampered is:**
1. **Selfish.** The child only thinks about himself. He gets desperate to get attention. The child imposes on others
 2. **Ingratitude.** The parents never taught the child to be thankful. His parents give him everything and so the child believes that the world owes him.
 - a. The Bible teaches being grateful and gratitude (**Colossians 3:15**)
 - b. Consider also (**2 Timothy 3:2**)
 3. **Discontentment.**
 - a. The Bible teach us to be content (**1 Timothy 6:6-8**)
 - b. The pampered child has a limited concentration capacity. The child who is pampered is always discontent always running from one object to another. This child is miserable and bored and does not know anything about being content.
 4. **Difficult to love.**
 - a. Who wants to love a child who loves himself only?
 - b. Who wants to love a child who imposes his will upon others and try to get attention?
 - c. Who wants to love a child ungrateful? On the other hand who does not want to love a child who says thank you and please?
- D. Seeking attention**
1. Every child wants attention
 2. There are two ways of obtaining this
 - a. Deserves attention because of a constructive action
 - 1) Because of obedience, work and being courteous
 - 2) Therefore attention will come automatic to the child, it is not necessary to search for attention because attention will always be present on the child with this attitude.
 - b. Demanding attention from others, forcing others
 - 1) The child will do the dramatic and will take drastic measures for obtaining attention from the parents; he/she will do what is prohibited, severe, strong speech, etc. The child will do this to draw attention from the parents and others as well.
 - 2) Crying for not getting what they wanted
 - 3) Seeking attention can also be seen on the type of clothes the child or adolescent is wearing
 3. Let us keep in mind the reasons for the child to be crying:
 - a. Pain, hunger, tiredness, sickness
 - b. If the child uses crying to obtain what he wants then discipline must be administer
 4. It is convenient to direct the son outside of this mode of seeking attention
- E. Consenting, spoiling the child most of the time comes from parents who were pampered as well!**
1. At least here in the USA, by the Second World War many of the house wives were working and leaving their children to the baby-sitters therefore the children were deprived from their discipline by the parents. The prosperity that resulted from the war made everything easy to spoil everybody else as well. The babies of those times grew up and also pampered their own sons as well. Today we can see the outcome of that era.

2. Parents leave their kids without any restriction or guidance, so the parents can talk without any interruption, distractions and certainly without any responsibility over the children.
 - a. The child is left to do whatever he wants to do
3. The parents leave the children to the immediate baby-sitter, the television.
4. If not they will leave them with their grandparents for them to baby-sit them. What an injustice, the grandparents already raised their own family they deserved to rest from doing that!
5. We understand that there are events of emergency which it is necessary for the parents to leave the children with their grandparents.

III. GUIDING THEM TO COMFORT AND TO DELIGHT

- A. The “secret” to the easy way of rearing a child, it is to practice discipline for it is the only way to comfort and delight.**
- B. Proverbs 29:17 NAS77 – “Correct your son, and he will give you comfort (rest – KJV); He will also delight your soul**
 1. We have seen parents literally exhausted at the end of the day. The reason: the parents run all day after their undisciplined child. Believe me these parents want the rest, comfort and delight this passage in the word of God has to offer!
 2. The child or children want this comfort (rest) as well
 - a. Literally at the end of the day they are exhausted because the parents allow them to do everything and they were not given direction by the parents.
 - b. The child becomes like the car toy that has sensors, you let go of the toy car and it will go until it bumps something bumping from place to place. The parents need to place them back into the tracks of life.
 3. Therefore as a parent we must give our children tasks, chores to do, constructive activities, etc.
- C. Proverbs 3:23 NAS77 – “Then you will walk in your way securely, and your foot will not stumble”**
 1. **Proverbs 4:12 NAS77 – “When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble”**
 2. The discipline of the parents will produce auto-discipline in the child
 3. A childhood with a constant discipline will allow the parent to let the son lose when he is an adolescent. The parent will not be worry too much for the son or daughter, because the parent knows the character of the child.
 4. An example: the child who was raised with a consistent discipline for 15-17 years old then the father let the sons go to a homecoming party after a football game. Well, the dad knew where his sons were going and who his sons were associating with. This is liberty for the sons and comfort for the father.
 5. Yes there must be rules in the house, but this is the way to true freedom or liberty.
- D. Proverbs 1:9 NAS77 – “Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, and ornaments about your neck”**
 1. Also notice, **Proverbs 4:8-9 NAS77 – “Prize her, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head a garland of grace; she will present you with a crown of beauty”**
 2. Discipline according to the Bible will bring honor to the son. The son/daughter will be happy...
 3. It is convenient for us to guide our children to honor...to be wise to guide them in the right way.

IV. GIVING THEM A GOOD EXAMPLE

- A. This is the power of being a good example to them and it is taught throughout the Scriptures**
 1. Believe me, your son or daughter is watching you how you react to different situations. It is most likely that they will act similar to you!

2. What does your example teach your children as a father? About:
 - a. Respecting social authority, civil and religiously
 - b. Honesty in all aspects of life?
 - c. As Christians what is our priority in life? The daily practice of the word of God, how we live as Christians!
 - d. Home

- B. If we are going to give direction, guidance to our children, it is not done so by speaking to them we must set the good example by showing the way they ought to go!**
 1. **Proverbs 4:11** NAS77 – “I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths”
 2. We can quote the commandments of God we can tell them about what the word of God says about sin and respect, obeying social norms. If we ourselves do not do it!! It has little value.

- C. Parents, fathers we must command the child what to do but let us put the example first!**
 1. Do you want your son or daughter to turn off the television and do the chores or homework? Well, what about me?? How can I convince my child to do that, if I myself I am not willing to do it?
 2. You can demand of your child to do be prepared for his Bible class? That is fine, but has your child ever seen you getting prepared for your Bible class?
 3. Do you want your child to keep his/her room well organized, clean? But as parents let us do the same with the kitchen, study room or garage by putting the good example!

- D. Let them help with the kitchen, washing dishes, food also with the vehicles, changing the oil, any repairs, work in the garden, etc.**
 1. Is it more work? Yes, can you do it faster without their help? Yes, most likely.
 2. When we let our children help us in our chores, working on the garden, car, etc., they are gaining valuable experience. You are putting him/her in the right track in life; you are giving them direction where they should go.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The goal of all of this:**
 1. **Proverbs 10:1** NAS77 – “The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother”
 2. **Proverbs 15:20** NAS77 – “A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother”
 3. **Proverbs 23:15-16** NAS77 – “My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart also will be glad; **16** and my inmost being will rejoice, when your lips speak what is right”

- B. Parents do we want this? Then let us sit down with our children and let us tell them from now on there are going to be some changes!**
 1. Confessing the past errors
 2. Give the new changes about the direction that it needs to take place
 3. Carry out the changes!!
 4. Honesty demands this. The children can understand this.
 5. There are going to be some challenges to the parents by the kids, but the wise parents will respect their word and will follow with the changes.

- C. Invitation: Are you ready to make some important changes in your life if you are not a Christian?**
 1. If you are not a Christian, spiritual changes must take place in order to please and to be right with God!