

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Training Children

Bill Brinkworth

The most important responsibility a parent will ever have is not paying bills, getting a new house, or moving up the corporate ladder in a job. It is properly rearing the children God has allowed them to have. If you are a Christian, your children are your main ministry! *“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3*

God knows best how children should be reared. After all, God has reared billions of children. Our heavenly Father does know better than child psychologists, child welfare workers, day-care providers, and teachers.

The Bible has much to say about how a child should be reared. Here is some of God’s advice on rearing children:

- **Children should be trained.** Scriptures state that the responsibility of training children is given to the parents. Others can assist, but it is the parents that are *responsible for the child’s training*.
“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6
- **Children should obey their parents!** Those assisting in the education of other people’s children should remember this and never encourage a child to disobey or question their parents’ authority.
“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.” Proverbs 4:1
“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12 Also: Eph. 6:1.
- **Children should not intentionally be provoked to anger.** Although little Seymour may get mad when he is asked to do something, it should not be the parent’s intent to offend or make him angry.
“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: ...” Ephesians 6:4
“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.” Colossians 3:21
- **Children should be educated by reading and feeding on the Word of God and taught to follow its instructions.** The thinking that, “I will not force religion down my child’s throat. He can make his own decision about ‘religion’”, is not biblical. If that is how the parent feels, then how is it they do not leave it to the child to decide whether they go to school or not?
“... but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4
“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Psalm 119:9
- **Children can be saved at a young age.**

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” II Timothy 3:15

- **Children should be disciplined and corrected.**

“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.” Proverbs 19:18 The longer discipline is put off, the more bent a child will be to do his own will.
“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” Proverbs 22:15

Disciplining a child is hard work that takes much patience. For this reason, many children are not disciplined. Another reason a child is not disciplined is that he is not loved.

“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” Proverb 13:24

“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.” Proverb 29:17

- **Children that are undisciplined will bring dishonor and havoc to themselves and their parents.**

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame...” Proverbs 29:15

“Nothing drives people to prayer like parenting.”

Obey Your Step Parents

Bill Brinkworth

Most know that a child should obey their parents. It is a commandment of God.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” Eph. 6:1

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” Ex. 20:12

However, those being raised by those that are not their natural born parents often buck that authority and are not obedient to those raising them. Too often the excuse is “They are not my real parents. They are my step parents.”

In many cases, the current “parent” or “parents” stepped in through a second marriage or as a grandparent and took the responsibility of parenting when the birth parents stepped out or could not fulfill their duty for other reasons. In many cases, it was not God’s first choice who should raise you, but it may be those that God is using to meet the child’s needs amidst abnormal circumstances.

Esther, in the Bible, was in a similar situation. Her parents died (Esther 2:7), and she was raised by Mordecai, who adopted his orphaned cousin. Her relative raised her as his child.

Even though Esther was not reared by her natural parents, she was respectful and obedient to the one that stepped in and raised her. Several places in the book of Esther we are shown that she heeded his guidance (Esther 2:10, 20, 22) rather than develop a rebellious attitude against her guardian, as many young people in that position do today.

Most likely because of her obedience to the one who had authority over of her, the chapters of Esther reveal how God blessed her obedience to Mordecai. Instead of a being miserable and making those that were trying to help her suffer like she was, she had a sweet spirit and because

of it was exalted to be a queen. From that lofty position, she was able to preserve the Jewish people.

It is unfortunate that so many young people find themselves being raised by others rather than their natural parents. However, bitterness to their situation will not change one thing. The wrong disposition most often makes matters worse.

Have you have found yourself in a similar position that Esther was in and are angry or unhappy about your situation? If you are a child of God by being saved, God knows quite well about your circumstance. God may have allowed you to be raised by those that can help you rather being in another situation that would be worse for you. It may also be possible that He has allowed you to be in the position you are in so that in the future you can be used to bless and help others, as did Esther. Who knows but the Lord that you may find yourself in Esther's situation realizing that all that has happened in your life could be for the best.

"... and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14

"O fathers and mothers, the ruin of your children or their salvation, will, under God, very much depend on you." — C. H. Spurgeon

A Joy in Heaven

Spurgeon

A poor neglected little boy in ragged clothing had run about the streets for many days. Tutored in crime, he was paving his path to the gallows.

However, one morning he passed by a room where some men and women were sitting together teaching other poor ragged children. He stepped in there, a wild Bedouin of the streets. They talked to him. They told him about a soul and things about eternity he had never heard before. They spoke of Jesus, and good tidings of great joy to the poor, friendless lad.

He went there another Sunday, and another. His wild habits hung about him for he could not get rid of them. At last, it happened that his teacher said to him one day, "Jesus Christ receiveth sinners."

That little boy ran, but not home, for it was but a mockery to call it one. There a drunken father and a lascivious mother lived a hellish life. He ran, and under some dry arch or in some wild, unfrequented corner, bent his little knees, and there he cried out to the Lord, "Lord, save me, or I perish." There the little Arab was on his knees and was saved!

Even a child can recognize his sinful condition and trust Christ as his Saviour!

"A child who knowingly sins can savingly believe." — C. H. Spurgeon