

## “Too Little” Children

Author Unknown

Said a precious little laddie,  
To his father, one bright day,  
“May I give myself to Jesus,  
Let Him wash my sins away?”

“Oh, my son, but you’re too  
little,

Wait until you older grow,  
Bigger folks, ‘tis true, do need  
Him,

But little folk are safe, you know.”

Said the father to his laddie  
As a storm was coming on,  
“Are the sheep safely sheltered,  
Safe within the fold, my son?”

“All the big ones are, my father,  
But the lambs, I let them go,  
For I didn’t think it mattered,  
Little ones are safe, you know.”

Oh, my brother! Oh, my sister!  
Have you too, made that  
mistake?

Little hearts that now are  
yielding  
May be hardened then — too late.

E’er the evil days come nigh them,

“Let the children come to me  
And forbid them not,” said  
Jesus,

“For such shall my  
Kingdom be.”

**“Allowing a child to  
call a parent by his or  
her first name, is not  
teaching him to honor  
his parent!”**

## Cost of a Child

Cameron, 1871

“How much does  
that little girl cost!” said  
a mother as she and I  
passed a little child  
leaning against an  
iron railing.

“Cost?” I said.  
“You mean with  
her shoes and  
socks, plaid dress,  
and ribbons in her  
hair?”

“That is her least  
cost,” replied the mother, “nor was  
I thinking of them, but what pain  
and suffering she costs; what fa-  
tigue and watching; how much of  
a mother’s anxiety; how much of a  
father’s toil; how many prayers;  
how many fears; how many yearn-  
ings; how much patience; how  
much responsibility; how much  
instruction; how much correction;  
how much love; how much sor-  
row; how many teachers; how  
many sermons; how many Sunday  
school classes. Those things will  
cost her parents the most.”



## How to Ruin a Child

Bill Brinkworth

Parents, psychologists, and  
many people have all kinds of  
ideas about how to raise a child.  
Some of the advice may be good,  
but some is not sound.

Few seek advice  
from Someone who  
has raised bil-  
lions and bil-  
lions of chil-  
dren. His  
counsel, if  
heeded, will re-  
sult in well-adjusted, wise, and  
successful children. This most  
experienced “parent” is God,  
whose advice has been recorded  
and is available to all in the King  
James Bible for English-speaking  
people.

This “expert” has never had to  
apologize for giving parental ad-  
vice that resulted in ruining gener-  
ations, as did the pediatrician Dr.  
Benjamin Spock when he realized  
his advice about not disciplining  
children caused tremendous prob-  
lems. God’s advice is always  
right.

Still, many ignore God’s ad-  
vice and “do it their way”. Un-  
fortunately, many techniques,  
practices, and behaviors prevent  
a child from being what God in-  
tended. Here are some child-  
rearing practices that may ruin a  
child, according to God’s Word:

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## Training Children

F. Quarles, 1871

Be vigilant over thy child in  
the April of his understanding,  
lest the frost of May nips his  
blossoms. While he is a tender  
twig, straighten him whilst he  
can be. Season him. Let his first  
lesson be obedience.. Give him  
education from good, clean  
books. Season his youth with the  
love of his Creator, and make the  
fear of his God the beginning of  
his knowledge. If he has an ac-  
tive spirit, rectify and curb it, but  
reckon idleness is among his  
chiefest faults. Show him the  
spade and the plow and prepare  
him for the danger of a skirmish  
and the honor of receiving a  
prize.

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## How to Ruin a Child

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- ⊖ Giving them everything they want reinforces covetousness. Also, a parent or authority in their life who is consumed with getting things is inadvertently teaching a child that possessions can somehow bring happiness in one's life. *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."* Ex 20:17
- ⊖ Never teach a child that "no" can mean they can still have certain things. This is accomplished when a child learns that a parent's "no" can be changed to "yes" if he keeps asking for something. When they are told "no" by someone who will not back down, they will become angry and act improperly toward the person saying "no" to them. *"As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious [quarrelsome, given to*

**When a lady once told Pastor Sharpe that she would not give her children religious instruction until they had attained the years of discretion, the preacher replied, "If you do not teach them, the devil will!"**

*—J. Whitecross*

angry debate] *man to kindle strife.*" Prov. 26:21

- ⊖ By not correcting their child. An undisciplined child will be unruly in many situations, including school and public situations. The lack of training will be a constant challenge for the parents and teachers. It will make it harder for the child to get along with others, especially people in authority (teachers, police, bosses...). *"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."* Proverb 29:17

- ⊖ Never teach them how to live biblically. By not teaching them God's way, they will quickly learn to follow the way everyone around them is going.

This can also be done by a parent's "teaching" them by not living biblically themselves. A child will quickly realize, "Why should I live a way that my parents don't? If it were a better way, they would live that way!" Hypocritical advice rarely teaches proper behavior.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Prov. 22:56

- ⊖ Criticizing the authority over them in front of them! By letting the child know that you disagree with a decision another parent has made, a

teacher has made, what a pastor has said, what a policeman has done, or a babysitter's decision, you have shown the child that authority is in error and can be questioned. That kind of inadvertent parental reaction often reinforces rebellion. Usually, it stops an authority from ever positively impacting the child. *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."* Heb. 13:17

- ⊖ That biblical teaching is not important. This is often done verbally, but it is more often "taught" by a parent who always has excuses for not going to church, not praying, reading his Bible, not speaking to them about salvation, or doing anything spiritual. This makes it clear to an ever-learning child that spiritual things are unimportant. When a child does have problems in his life because of the damage done by a parental example, the child will not think to turn to the Lord for help and guidance. *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."* James 1:22
- ⊖ That biblical teaching does not have to be obeyed. When a child hears a parent lie, hears of their cheating on income taxes, hears them blaspheme God, hears them lie about the child's

age to get a cheaper ticket rate at a sporting event, sees what they watch on television, or sees them live a life that is contrary to the way the Bible commands, that parent is "teaching" a child that God's Word does not have to be obeyed! See: James 1:22.

- ⊖ Allowing the child to be exposed to the world's philosophy taught through the media, government education, video games, the internet, etc. A child is a "ball of clay" that can easily be molded. They will be molded by what they are taught and what they are exposed to.

*"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* 1 John 2:16

Children are a wonderful part of one's life, but they are also a parent's biggest responsibility. Although others may have some impact on their lives, ultimately it is the parents who have been given the responsibility by God to raise them up His way (Eph. 6:4).

The world's way is constantly changing because they have not found a way that is successful all the time, and it is not the world's responsibility. God, however, has a way that always works for rearing children correctly. It is up to the parents to learn His way and train their children in His way if they want their children to be successful.