

PARENTING SKILLS

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some of the skills involved in being godly parents
2. Gen. 1:28 - God told men to reproduce. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."
 - a. It is a blessing to be able to have children
 - b. David describes it like this in Ps. 127:3-5 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."
3. With this blessing comes also a responsibility to care for and train these children.
4. Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
5. Being a good parent is:
 - a. A very important part of your life
 - b. A very difficult thing to do
 - c. One in which all parents can improve
 - d. Today we sometimes call it parenting skills - Here are some thoughts or suggestions from God's word about how to be good parents.

Discussion

I. LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

A. We are to love our children.

1. Tit. 2:4
2. Sacrifice for them - take care of their needs
3. God loved us so much he gave His Son. - Jn. 3:16

B. We are to do what is best for them

1. It is not always what they want but what is best.
2. This is tough love.
3. Illustration: Parents "No Discipline - It Will Hurt"
4. Parents who love their children will:
 - a. Say NO when it is needed - teach them what "No" means !
 - b. Take them to church from their youth
 - c. Teach me what I needed to know as we lived and worked together.
 - d. Teach them how to work and make a living.
 - e. Send them to school.

II. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

A. Deut. 6:6-9

1. Teach continually - do not have them very long
2. Teach as you have opportunity throughout the day
3. Look for opportunities to teach - the magic moment.
4. Teach them what they need to know.

B. Example - Television

1. You can't switch it every time there is something evil on the screen - commercials for beer, adultery, lies.
2. Use the moment to teach them, to correct what is on TV. Teach them what is right by contrasting the wrong !
3. Drinking: Pictured as something appealing and beautiful and good !
 - a. Tell the whole story about what happens.
 - b. The car wrecks, injuries, deaths
 - c. Homes that are ruined - abuse, divorce,
 - d. Damage to body - liver, brain, addiction
 - e. Impossible to serve God and be a drinker.
4. Adultery
 - a. Tell them about unwanted babies, abortions,
 - b. Warn them about STD. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 - c. Heartache that is caused by this sin
5. Homosexuality
 - a. Tell them what the Bible teaches about this life style
 - b. Explain that God's way for the family is the right way.

C. Teach your children to take personal responsibility for their actions.

1. Teach them that they are responsible for what they do, not someone else.
2. Start early in holding them responsible for their behavior.
3. Don't let them excuse themselves by blaming someone else for what they did.

4. Sometimes we have to confront our children.
 - a. This is not always pleasant but it must be done
 - b. This gets harder as they get older.
 - c. They sometimes need to be corrected, with firmness and gentleness, but still corrected.

III. DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN

A. Here are some of the words from the Bible about disciplines

1. Prov. 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
2. Prov.19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
3. Prov. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." NKJV "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."
4. Prov 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." NKJV bdisgraces his mother.

B. Anyone who believes the Bible must believe in physical discipline of children.

1. Rod - switch, belt, paddle,
2. Rod of correction -- Beatest him with the rod
3. The rod and reproof
4. Spanking a child is instruction that God gives to parents.
5. Experts today say No!!!!

C. This does not mean abuse or hurting the child

1. Child abuse is wrong
2. But correction in the proper way is what God commands

D. The Purpose of Discipline

1. The purpose is not to vent parental anger. Do not discipline when you are angry.
Will not be effective and may be too severe.
2. The **purpose** is to teach a **better way of behaving**.
3. The word discipline means a learner or disciple
4. Spanking is used by parents to instruct the child that certain forms of behavior are unacceptable.
5. If you are angry, wait until the anger has passed, then call the child and explain the reason for the discipline.

E. Notice these verses again:

1. Prov. 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
 - a. Foolishness = silliness, immaturity
 - b. Rod of correction = switch, paddle,
 - c. Will drive it far from him = will drive the foolishness far from him - he will mature - he will learn that it is not proper behavior
 - d. How do we accomplish this? By the rod of correction

2. Prov.19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
 - a. Chasten = correct, punish -- RSV has Discipline
 - b. While there is hope - there is a time in the life of a child when discipline will do much good - if we wait too long then it is not going to be as effective
 - c. Let not thy soul spare for his crying - children know how to work their parents - crying gets a lot of things for some children whose parents have not discovered their little ways

3. Prov. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."
 - a. Spare rod = hate - that means if we do not discipline our children we really do not love them
 - b. Love = discipline
 - c. Betimes - when it is needed, early is a part of the meaning of this word -

4. Prov 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."
 - a. Rod and reproof - give wisdom - wisdom in a good sense
 - b. Child left to himself - not disciplined allowed to do what he/she wants to do
 - c. Brings his mother to shame - disrespect for mother, actions which are shameful

5. Discipline is necessary I Illustration: Parents: Discipline: Remove all Breakables?

IV. SPOILING THE CHILD

- A. When parents do not discipline then the child and the parents will suffer.
- B. Example of Charles Manson:
 - 1. "If Charles wanted anything, I'd give it to him, he never had to take a fall, not 'til he was a grown man. Everything was just handed to him, I admit." --- words of the mother of Charles Manson.
 - 2. The psychology of this kind of parenting:
 - a. "Don't inhibit the child. Give the child his way; let his personality develop without restraint."
 - b. Let the children dominate the domestic scene with their tantrums, selfishness & destructiveness.
 - c. They were not taught a regard for others nor were they solemnly punished for disregard of others.
 - d. They grew up thinking they owed the world nothing, and the world owed them everything, simply because they did not ask to be born.
 - 3. Charles Manson was convicted of multiple slayings and is now in prison.
 - 4. He is a product of permissive parenthood.

Conclusion

- 1. Heb. 12:9 "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"
- 2. Heb. 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

3. Discipline or penalties do influence human behavior:
 - a. Traffic tickets do help the speed of drivers.
 - b. Homeowners pay their taxes before a certain date in order to avoid a % penalty.
 - c. We pay income taxes before April 15th. Why? There is a penalty if we do not.
 - d. Spanking is effective as a form of discipline....

4. Parenting Skills
 - a. All need them - all need to improve
 - b. Can learn from the Bible
 - c. Can learn from older Christians - Tit. 2:1-4ff

5. Parenting skills include:
 - a. Loving our children
 - b. Teaching them
 - c. Practicing discipline

6. Illustration: Parents: Give Me the Strength to Discipline

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