

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

Int.

1. Aim: To show that many times parents cause the problems with their children and show the solution to the problem with the triangle of training.
2. Gen. 1:28
 - a. Created us male and female / Be fruitful and multiply
 - b. With this duty comes responsibility - parents have a responsibility - I II. "Kids-R-Us"
3. Pro. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
 - a. Children must be taught to go in the right way
 - b. God could have given us pre-trained children -- Instinct is what animals have -- but not so with humans -
 - c. Pro. 22:15 Foolishness "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
4. "AS THE TWIG IS BENT, SO THE TREE'S INCLINED" - Alexander Pope
 - a. Picture of tree with crook / Not natural for a tree to grow this way
 - b. Second picture of Hackleberry tree with crook in it. C.C. Gill of Shelbyville, Ky. worked for 2 years keeping this little tree tied -- bend it just as far as it would go, then tie it there -- then after a few weeks bend it a little more -- finally got the complete circle -- this had to be done while the tree was very small and tender
5. Child is the same way
 - a. Not natural for them to grow up and go right -- we have to train them
 - b. It takes time and patience and work and patience and training!!!
 - c. Unless the training is done while they are young it will be very difficult to do it later.
 - d. Can't put a crook in a big tree, neither can you take this one out of the tree
6. Many times children go astray

J.D. = juvenile delinquent / Not new to our 20th century

Discussion**I. PROBLEM CHILDREN IN THE BIBLE**A. Ham - Gen. 9:18-27

1. Acted in an unbecoming manner toward Noah, his father
2. A curse was placed upon him

B. Lot's two daughters - Gen. 19:30-38

1. Made their father drunk
2. Committed adultery [incest] with their own father - had children

C. Jacob's sons - Gen. 37

1. Hated their brother Joseph
2. Planned to kill him -- put him in a pit
3. Sold him to Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver
4. Lied to their father and led him to believe that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast

D. Absalom - 2 Sam. 15

1. Stole the hearts of the people with promises
2. Conspired against his own father
3. Battle took place -- 20,000 people killed
4. He was killed by being hung in an oak tree, Joab cast 3 darts into his heart!!

II. PROBLEM PARENTS ARE OFTEN THE CAUSE FOR PROBLEM CHILDRENA. Ham

1. His father was Noah
2. At the time Noah was drunk

B. Lot's Daughters

1. Lot had pitched his tent toward Sodom and lived there
2. He knew it was a wicked city

C. Jacob's sons

1. Jacob had 12 sons
2. He had shown partiality to Joseph

D. Absalom

1. His father was David
2. David had taken Bathsheba and had her husband killed
3. Absalom knew all about it

III. **PROBLEM CHILDREN TODAY ARE OFTEN THE RESULT OF PROBLEM PARENTS**

A. Pro. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

B. "Train up a child in the way he should **NOT** go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Contradictory statement of Pro. 22:6

1. Children often become problem children because they follow the example their parents have set before them.
2. The parents footsteps often lead the child astray
3. Children learn from their parents.
4. Old Indian proverb "An arrow warped in its making will never be straight in its flight."

C. **JUVENILE DELINQUENTS / PARENTAL DELINQUENTS**

1. Instead of children being blamed for it all we ought to start at the source.
2. Parental delinquency is the major cause of Juvenile Delinquency
3. Parents too often fail to train their own children
4. Poem "Don't blame the children"
5. Does not excuse the children, but could be a cause for the problem

IV. **THE SOLUTION**

A. Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

1. Bring them up in the Lord
2. Parents obligated to train the children in the way of God.

B. **TRIANGLE OF TRAINING**

1. **DISCIPLINE**

- a. Pro. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."
- b. Primary purpose of discipline is to build respect for parents
 - (1) It is not for the purpose of the parents ego
 - (2) The child's view of parental authority determines their view toward all authority
 - (3) A child that has not learned discipline will never really be successful or able to handle life's problems
- c. Pro. 23:13-14 "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Not abuse but correction
- d. Rules of Discipline
 - (1) Start early
 - (2) Agree as to the type and amount
 - (3) Be consistent - punish for rebellion and disobedience, not for mistakes or accidents

- (4) Be sure to discipline in love not anger
 - (a) Do not discipline when angry
 - (b) If the punishment is just to blow off some steam it is not profitable - more likely to be too severe
 - (c) Wait until you have control of yourself
 - (5) Three good rules of discipline
 - (a) Be fair
 - (b) Be firm
 - (c) Be Friendly
 - (6) Use variety in discipline
 - (a) Whipping doesn't help some times, especially as they grow older
 - (b) Deny a privilege - use your imagination
 - (c) III. - Boy playing with matches. Bought 12 dozen boxes and put him in yard in safe place and had him to strike all of them. By the time he was finished he never wanted to strike another match.
- e. The overall goal of discipline is to help the child learn self-discipline or self-control which leads to maturity.
- (1) Pro. 29:17 "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."
 - (2) Definition "Discipline is a method of instruction in education whereby we seek to make the doing of right a pleasant task and the doing of wrong an unpleasant task.!!!
 - (3) Son, reality is where the paddle meets the polyester.

2. **EXAMPLE**

- a. Children are imitators and want to do what their parents do
 - (1) We must live the Christian life
 - (2) Parents who wish to train up their children in the way they should go, must go in the way which they would have their children go.
 - (3) Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 - (4) We can get ourselves into our children but we can't get ourselves out!!!
- b. Children are like clay - they are easily molded by our example
 - (1) They'll follow a good example
 - (2) They will also follow a bad example
 - (3) The best time to begin their training is with their grandparents!!! But it's never too late to begin. Timothy, Lois, Eunice
- c. Our children turn out to be a chip off the same old block
- d. In training our children we must set the proper path for them to follow.
- e. If we desire our children to be blessings, not brats, we must live, teach, and BE what we want them to be.
- f. Little children read their parents more than they read the Bible.
- g. Poem "A little fellow follows me"

3. **TEACHING**

- a. Teach them about God and His word
 - (1) It tells us:
 - (a) Where we came from
 - (b) Why we are Here
 - (c) And where we are going
 - (2) Ecl. 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

- (3) Read your Bible to your children.
- (4) Bring them to the services
- (5) See to it that they get their Bible class lessons
- (6) III. "Influencing Children"
- (7) III. "Too Young to Learn"

b. Teach them about marriage

- (1) Show them a happy marriage
- (2) Answer questions about sex
- (3) Make rules about dating
 - (a) Never too young - or too early - not mature
 - (b) Age 16 is plenty early - not hard to enforce if they have been disciplined
 - (c) Early dating leads to heartaches
 - (d) Date only those fit for a mate - they will marry someone they date
- (4) Teach them the truth about marriage/divorce and remarriage

c. Also/ Working - Money - Friends - Habits - attitudes

C. Begin this training when they are born. You can never start too young. If you don't do it it will never be done. It's the only time you can do it!!

D. The Triangle of Training

- 1. Discipline - teaching them self control
- 2. Example - showing by your life how you want them to live
- 3. Teaching - about God and His word so they will have proper instruction

Conclusion

1. As the Twig is Bent So the Tree's Inclined - Children are very valuable!
 2. What they turn out to be is largely up to their parents.
 3. Tree with crook in it.
 4. Second Picture . Brother C.C. Gill of Shelbyville, Ky. worked for 2 years keeping this little tree tied -- bend it just as far as it would go, then tie it there -- then after a few weeks bend it a little more -- finally got the complete circle -- this had to be done while the tree was very small and tender. Picture made in 1971. If tree is still standing it has that crook in it.
 5. Our children must be trained and taught while young.
 6. 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."
 7. As the twig is bent so the tree is inclined.
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