



Parenting

IN THE BIBLICAL

FAMILY

Pastor Jesse Curney III
New Mercies Christian Church | August 21, 2024

BIBLICAL PARENTING

The concept of biblical parenting emphasizes that it is a divine calling with a responsibility to nurture children in faith.

The significance of raising children in the faith and parenting is not merely a societal obligation but a spiritual mission entrusted by God.



1. Training Up a Child

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

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

Understanding 'Training':

- In Hebrew, the word for "train" (chanak) can also mean to dedicate or initiate.
- The Proverb implies not just teaching but dedicating a child to God's way from the earliest days.



In the Way He Should Go:

The phrase suggests that each child has a path designed by God, and it is the parent's role to guide them according to their unique design and calling.

Long-term Vision:

Emphasizes that the promise of not departing from the way is about long-term faithfulness shaped by early, consistent training.



Proper training of children will endure throughout their lives.

“Start a child on the right road” (i.e., “in the way he should go”). There is a standard of life to which children should follow. Of course, they would have to be young enough when change for the better is still possible. The consequence is that when they are old, they will not depart from it.

In Proverbs, there are only two “ways” a child can go: the way of the wise and the righteous or the way of the fool and the wicked.

Barker, Kenneth L., and John R. Kohlenberger III. 1994. [Expositor's Bible Commentary \(Abridged Edition: Old Testament\)](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.



TRAINING IS NECESSARY

The necessity of training children is to “train up a child according to his way [and] when he is old he will not turn aside from it.”

The verb translated “train” (chanakh) means “to give something into the mouth, to give to be tasted” like a mother putting baby food into the mouth of her child.

2 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.



TRAINING IS NECESSARY

The verb came to mean “to instill” or “train.” “His way” does not speak primarily of the moral and spiritual path of life but of one’s calling in life.

Whatever occupation he is later to follow, he must be prepared for it in his early years.

Then habits are formed which will influence his conduct in manhood. This maxim is an injunction to parents to consider the child’s nature, faculties, and temperament in the education which is given him.



“Old” here does not mean after he is “elderly”; however, the point is that he will build on the fundamental principles as he grows up and persevere in the right way.



2. Teaching and Instruction

Deuteronomy 6:6 – 7 (NKJV)

⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.



HEART OF THE PARENT

The command starts with the parent; the Word must first be in the heart of the parent before it can be taught to the child.

When we hear the Word of God and receive it into our hearts:

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV) For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.



HEART OF THE PARENT

Then the Holy Spirit can use the truth to transform us from within:

2 Corinthians 3:1 – 3 (NKJV)

¹ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? ² You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.



HEART OF THE PARENT

Then the Holy Spirit can use the truth to transform us from within:

John 17:17 (NKJV)

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

God “writes” the Word upon our hearts, and we become “living epistles” that others may read; then our lives can influence them to trust Christ.



HEART OF THE PARENT

How we live is important because it backs up what we say. Moses admonished parents to discuss God's Word in the home, among the children, and to allow the Word to guide their minds and hands as they work throughout the day.

Everyday Life:

Our faith should be woven into the fabric of daily life. The teaching is not confined to formal settings but is an ongoing conversation—when sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up.



3. Discipline and Nurture

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Do Not Provoke to Wrath:

There must be a balance between discipline and love. Avoid harshness or unreasonable expectations that lead to frustration or resentment in children.



If left to themselves, children will be rebels, so it is necessary for the parents to train their children. Years ago, the then Duke of Windsor said, “Everything in the American home is controlled by switches—except the children!”

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV)

He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

The Bible records the sad results of parents neglecting their children, either by being bad examples to them or failing to discipline them properly.



Proverbs 19:18 – 19 (NKJV)

18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

19 A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; For if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.



These verses deal with those who have fallen into trouble, be it a son or someone else.

In both cases the transgressor should suffer the consequences of his actions.

This not only does the wrongdoer some good, but it also makes life easier for the parent or friend.

[Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs. Vol. 14. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.](#)



David pampered **Absalom** and set him a bad example, and the results were tragic.

Eli failed to discipline **his sons**, and they brought disgrace to his name and defeat to the nation of Israel.

In his latter years, even **Isaac** pampered **Esau**, while his **wife** showed favoritism to **Jacob**, resulting in a divided home.

Jacob was showing favoritism to **Joseph** when God providentially rescued the lad and made a man out of him in Egypt.

Paul tells us that the father has several responsibilities toward his children.



He Must Not Provoke Them.

In Paul's day, the father had supreme authority over the family.

- When a baby was born into a Roman family, for example, it was brought out and laid before the father. If he picked it up, it meant he was accepting it into the home.
- But if he did not pick it up, it meant the child was rejected. It could be sold, given away, or even killed by exposure.
- No doubt a father's love would overcome such monstrous acts, but these practices were legal in that day.



Paul told the parents, “Don’t use your authority to abuse the child, but to encourage and build the child.” The opposite of “provoke” is “encourage”.

To the Colossians, Paul wrote:

Colossians 3:21 (NKJV)

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.



Fathers provoke their children and discourage them

- by saying one thing and doing another,
- by always blaming and never praising,
- by being inconsistent and unfair in discipline,
- by showing favoritism in the home,
- by making promises and not keeping them,
- and by making light of problems that, to the children, are very important.

Christian parents need the fullness of the Spirit so they can be sensitive to the needs and problems of their children.



He Must Nurture Them.

The text reads, “But nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.” The verb translated “bring them up” is the same word that is translated “nourish” in Ephesians 5:29.

The Christian husband is to nourish his wife and his children by sharing love and encouragement in the Lord.

Nurturing the children physically by providing food, shelter, and clothing is not enough. He must also nurture them emotionally and spiritually.



He Must Nurture Them.

The development of the Boy Jesus is our example: **“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).**

Here is balanced growth: intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social.

Nowhere in the Bible is the training of children assigned to agencies outside the home, no matter how they might assist. God looks to the parents for the kind of training that the children need.



Training and Admonition:

“Training” (paideia) involves instruction, correction, and guidance, while “admonition” (anesthesia) refers to nurturing counsel.

Role of Fathers:

Fathers (and, by extension, parents) are specifically called to be spiritual leaders in the home, modeling and teaching godliness.

Application:

- Develop positive discipline strategies that reflect biblical principles. Positive discipline corrects and teaches.
- Fathers are to remind their children of natural consequences, consistency, and boundaries through empathetic communication.

