



GODLY PARENTING Lesson 1 God's Original Intent For Children

Children come from God (**Genesis 4:1**). They are a heritage from Him (**Psalms 127:3 NIV**). He breathes into every man the breath of life (**Genesis 2:7**), and **He is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world (John 1:9)**. He has a plan for every child before they are ever born (**Jeremiah 29:11**), for He knows them before they were conceived (**Jeremiah 1:5**). We are to raise our children up for God and then commend them back to Him. We need to view our children as on loan from God Almighty. They are His children, a reward from Him (**Psalms 127:3**). In essence, having children is ultimately not about us, but about God, **for all things are created by Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16)**.

We will look at the many elements of life and learning involved with parenting in the lessons to come, but in this lesson, we want to look at the overall big picture of God's original intent for children. There is certainly a huge element of joy, sorrow, trials, errors, growth, rejoicing, pride, embarrassment, and elation that belongs to parents, but we must not forget that parenting begins with God and it is intended to end with His glory.

Any study on the family must begin in the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis grants us insight into God's purpose and vision for the institution of family, including children.

- **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And 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. **Genesis 1:27-28****

God made mankind in His image and He made mankind to be male and female. His first commandment to mankind was, "**Be fruitful (*branch off*) and multiply (*become great*).**" Have children. Why? "**Replenish the earth, and subdue it.**" Here we see that the original purpose of children was to accomplish the will of God—to replenish and subdue the earth.

Children are given to us for God's will, not merely for our enjoyment. Our enjoyment is part of it, but God gives us children for His purpose. Why? Man is made in God's image. Man has been given authority over the earth. By having children, mankind is supposed to be training up future generations that will walk closer with God and accomplish more for God than the preceding generation did. God wants us to replenish the earth with children after His likeness who will grow up and accomplish His will in the earth. To that end we must ask ourselves, "Is my parenting fulfilling God's original intent for children?"

****God gives us children so that He may have a generation that subdues the earth.****

A CHILD'S LIFE IS MORE THAN JUST SOCCER AND VIDEO GAMES

When God revealed Himself to Israel through the Law of Moses, He took the opportunity to remind mankind of His original intent for children. All parenting begins with the parent.

- Only **take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;** ¹⁰**Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.** Deuteronomy 4:9-10

On the mountain of God, just days after Israel's deliverance from Egypt, God wastes no time commanding Israel how they will serve Him. God does not deliver people for them to live to themselves. One of God's first dealings with Israel is concerning their soul and their parenting. God said, "Keep your heart right before me and teach your children to do the same." Even grandparents are commanded to teach their "sons' sons."

Forty years later, right before a new generation of Israelites was about to possess the Promised Land, Moses reiterates God's twofold commandment for parenting, "Keep your heart right before me and teach your children to do the same."

- **And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:** ⁷**And thou shalt teach them diligently (to sharpen) unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.** Deut. 6:6-7; 11:19
- **That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.** Deuteronomy 11:21

These verses give us six good steps for successfully training our children to fulfill the will of God their entire lives.

1. The commandments of God must be in the parent's heart to begin with.
2. Parents are to sharpen (as with a whetstone) their child with the Word of God.
3. Parents are to talk about the Word with their child when they are in the home.
4. Parents are to talk about the Word with their child when they go about their day.
5. Parents are to talk about the Word with their child as they lay them down to sleep.
6. Parents are to talk about the Word with their child first thing in the morning.
7. **Bonus:** Parents get to enjoy a long life and ensure that their children enjoy a long life too.



From **Deuteronomy 6** we learn that parenting is more than just being a video game buyer and sports practice chauffeur.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God's concern for children is reflected in the Ten Commandments.

- **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**

Once again, long life is tied to a child's training. A child can only honor if they have been taught to honor. Children will honor whatever and whomever they are taught to honor. Part of parenting is instilling in your child what God does and does not want them to honor. The length of one's life is dependent upon what they honor.

The following activities are neutral, but do not add to the Kingdom of God. Also note, these are almost all entirely Western activities:

- Video Games
- Television
- Sports
- Ballet/Dance
- Gymnastics
- Beauty Pageants
- Drama
- 4-H
- Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
- Outdoors/Sportsmen Activities

These activities should never consume a child's life. God has given us all things richly to enjoy, but God should always take preeminence over all of these.

Godly parenting begins with putting God Almighty and His will first in your home!

GODLY PARENTING Lesson 2 Your Best Disciple

- **Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter. **Ezekiel 16:44****

In the biblical context, a disciple is someone who is trained and mentored by a master, also called a rabbi. The master-disciple relationship was developed by the Jews upon returning from Babylon as a way to promote the study of the Torah and the preservation of their faith. The first century master-disciple relationship required the following qualities:

- The disciple was not just interested in learning from their master; they wanted to be just like their master.
- The disciple lived with their master 24/7.
- The master prepared their disciples for every aspect of life.
- The master taught their disciples how to interact in all facets of life.

After the discipleship process was complete, the disciples were walking, talking, thinking carbon copies of their master. To this end, we can easily see the parallels between the master-disciple and the parent-child relationship. Therefore, children should, by default, be our best disciples. What we must ask ourselves is, “Will we disciple our children in the Gospel or after the world?”

TWO TYPES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Something or someone is always going to be training your child. Whether it be television, video games, friends, church, or you; something is always training your child’s life and heart. The course of a child’s life will always be set by their trainer.

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

Passive Discipleship

Just by living with us, our children are being trained. Our day-to-day lifestyle trains our children. From what we eat to how we dress to what we like, our mere existence is training up and imparting into our children priorities, mores, values, and behavior. Be forewarned that passive discipleship always leads to the world discipling your child. The discipleship God is expecting us to do as parents is not a passive discipleship.

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

- **A servant pampered from youth will turn out to be insolent [showing a rude and arrogant lack of respect].**
Proverbs 29:21 NIV
- **A servant pampered from childhood will become a rebel.**
Proverbs 29:21 NLT
- **If someone pampers his servant from youth, he will be a weakling in the end.**
Proverbs 29:21 NET

Active Discipleship

God wants us to be proactive in our child's development—spirit, soul, and body. Active discipleship requires you as a parent to have a vision for your child's life. This vision should be based on the Bible's standard and truth. Biblical discipleship results in the disciple reflecting God's light and nature. Your child's active discipleship will result in them looking more and more like Jesus Christ.

- **The one who spares his rod hates his child, but the one who loves his child is diligent in disciplining him.**
Proverbs 13:24 NET
- **... Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.**
Proverbs 13:24 NLT

WHAT WE NEED TO BE TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

Below is a simple list of things our children should be learning from us:

- Who God is and how we relate to Him. What our relationship is to Him.
- What God declares to be right and wrong.
- What the Bible is and how we are to esteem it.
- How a child interacts and relates to their parents and all authority figures.
- How we are to act in life, e.g., friends, school, church, public.
- What our purpose in life is.
- Bodily care.
- Stewardship of possessions.
- Etc.

If we do not disciple our children and teach them the proper biblical perspective of the previous scenarios, the world will gladly disciple them and give them their version of the truth. Someone or something is always going to be disciplining your child. Make sure it is you or someone you approve of.

HOW TO ACTIVELY DISCIPLE YOUR CHILD

To understand discipleship, we need not look any further than the ultimate disciple-maker, Jesus Christ. The Lord's method of discipleship is second to none and should be our model.



1. Spend lots of time with your child—“**And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him**” (Mark 3:14a).
2. Include them in what you are doing—“**Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men**” (Mark 1:17).
3. Pray with your children on a regular basis, teaching them to pray—“**Lord, teach us to pray**” (Luke 11:1).
4. Patiently instruct them—“**And he began again to teach by the sea side**” (Mark 4:1).
5. Correct them—“**But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of**” (Luke 9:55).
6. Allow them to do what you’ve taught them—“**And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two**” (Mark 6:7).
7. Encourage them—“**but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world**” (John 16:33).

Never forget that only an expert disciple can, in turn, produce expert disciples. May the Lord help us to disciple our children for His glory.

GODLY PARENTING Lesson 3 Learning To Honor And Submit To Authority

Parenting is a proactive, 24/7, 18-year commitment. There is absolutely no room for laziness or quit if you are going to succeed in raising your child to be a God-fearing, world changing, Christ-honoring, adult human being. Thankfully the Bible teaches parents how to parent. Keep in mind, just because you successfully reproduced does not mean you are successfully parenting. Successful parenting *must* incorporate discipline.

Discipline: *the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience.*

****The heart and purpose for discipline is to teach children to honor authority by submitting their will to it.****

LEARNING TO SUBMIT

The Kingdom to which you and your child are called to serve in is a Kingdom of submission. One of the greatest things a child *must* be taught is submission to the will of higher authority. The success of a child's future is directly related to their ability and/or desire to submit to authority. Our life's success has been determined by our ability to submit to higher power.

- **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (authority). For there is no power (authority) but of God: the powers (authority) that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power (authority), resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation (condemnation).**
Romans 13:1-2

Submission prospers and promotes man in every area of life:

- Submission to the Gospel is required to be saved.
 - **But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?**
Romans 10:16
- Submission to God brings reward (**Hebrews 11:6, 8**).
- Submission to the boss brings favor (**Colossians 3:22-24**).
- Submission to the police brings protection (**Romans 13:3**).

Rebellion demotes and destroys man in every area of life:

- Rebellion to the Gospel brings eternal damnation.

- **But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile:**
Romans 2:8-9

- Rebellion to God brings resistance and frustration (**1 Peter 5:5**).
- Rebellion to the boss brings a demotion or firing.
- Rebellion to the police and the rule of law brings incarceration (**Romans 13:4**).

The “**every soul**” in **Romans 13:1-2** would include children. A child’s soul must be taught to submit to higher authority. This must begin at home with mom and dad.

****Children must be taught to submit their will to the will of authority.****

SUBMISSION IS LEARNED AT HOME

- **Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**
Ephesians 6:1

The first order of authority children experience is their parents. Therefore, the home must be where children learn to submit to authority. If you don’t teach your children to submit to authority and the rule of law, who will?

- **My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:**
Proverbs 3:1
- **My son, keep thy father’s commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:**
Proverbs 6:20

Twenty-three Proverbs begin by addressing “my son.” The book of Proverbs is the wisdom that Solomon learned by submitting to his father David and his mother Bathsheba. He learned to submit at home. The submission and honor he learned from his parents set him up to become one of Israel’s greatest kings.

HONOR IS LEARNED AT HOME

- **Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)** ³**That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.**
Ephesians 6:2-3

The first order of authority children experience is their parents. Therefore, the home must be where children learn to honor that which is honorable. Your children will honor whatever you honor, and they will despise whatever they see or hear you despising.

- **Render therefore to all their dues: tribute (*tax*) to whom tribute is due; custom (*toll, revenue*) to whom custom; fear (*respect*) to whom fear; honour to whom honour.** **Romans 13:7**

We as parents are commanded by God to give respect where it is proper and to give honor where honor is due. We then must learn to live a life of respect and honor. God is expecting us to teach our children about honoring those who are deserving of honor.

Things we must teach our children to honor (this assumes you honor it first):

- Honor God.
- Honor the Bible.
- Honor your father and mother.
- Honor spiritual leaders and elders.
- Honor teachers.
- Honor the House, the Presence, and the altar of God.
- Honor the tithe.
- Honor their commitments and their word.
- Honor the king.
- Etc.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Some thoughts concerning teaching your children honor and submission:

- Rebellion is contagious.
- Do you know how to submit to authority?
- Do you submit to the authorities in your life?
- Do you understand honor?
- Do you honor someone more than yourself?
- Is there anyone higher than you in your life that you trust more than yourself?

May God strengthen every parent to raise glorious, God-filled children!

GODLY PARENTING Lesson 4 Proverbs Concerning Child Discipline

REVIEW POINTS

- God gives us children in order for us to train up a generation for Him that will subdue the earth and have dominion.
- Our children are to be our best disciples.
- The heart and purpose behind all discipline is to instill honor and submission into a child.

The Bible is very clear on the subject of correction: Expect it! However, there is an evident escalating progression in terms of the severity of the discipline. The severity of the correction is directly related to the heart of the one being corrected. Correction follows an escalating trend. The escalation is as follows:

Instruction—Correction—Admonition—Rebuke—Discipline

- *Instruction:* You receive instruction or teaching in a new matter.
- *Correction:* Your attempt to act on your instruction is tweaked.
- *Admonition:* The correction you received was not effective; you are admonished to do better. Admonishment is correction with a hint of warning. “Get it right or . . .”
- *Rebuke:* The admonition was not fruitful. A rebuke was meted out to answer the stubborn heart. The more stubborn the heart, the harsher the rebuke.
- *Discipline:* Discipline is the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience. When a rebuke fails to correct behavior, punishment is enacted. This can include corporal or physical punishment, e.g., spanking.

You cannot be a disciple without discipline. The Bible uses several terms in relation to parental discipline: chastisement, correction, rebuke, train, discipline, reproof, and rod of correction. Not all discipline needs to be spanking, but not all correction can be done verbally. We must allow God Almighty, through His Word and by His Holy Spirit to help us as parents to know when and how to discipline our children.

****Toddlers aren’t diplomats.****

Though the world is increasingly pro-psychology, the condition of modern society is a testimony to the vanity of these techniques. As Christians, it is our mandate to stick with the Bible. The Bible very clearly advocates corporal punishment. Proverbs addresses child discipline, and even corporal punishment, seven times.

THE SEVEN PROVERBS OF DISCIPLINE

Proverb No. 1

- **He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth (*corrected, disciplined*) him betimes (*early, diligently*).**

Proverbs 13:24

Sparing the rod does not spoil the child; it indicates hatred. Love disciplines, but hate withholds discipline. Hate will ensure long-term corruption for the sake of short-term peace and ease.

Proverb No. 2

- **Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.**
Proverbs 19:18
- **Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.**
Proverbs 19:18b NIV
- **... Otherwise you will ruin their lives.**
Proverbs 19:18b NLT
- **... but do not [indulge your angry resentments by undue chastisements and] set yourself to his ruin.**
Proverbs 19:18b AMP

This verse teaches us that correction and discipline is how a parent provides hope for their child. You can have a holy expectation (hope) for your child's future when you faithfully and consistently discipline them, or, you can ruin their life by not disciplining them. To neglect discipline in any of its forms is to be a willing party to your child's death.

Proverb No. 3

- **Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.**
Proverbs 22:15
- **A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away.**
Proverbs 22:15 NLT

The Bible teaches us that a child's heart is filled with foolishness. If a child is permitted to act and live according to foolishness, it will destroy their life. Therefore, a parent must discipline and instruct a child to resist foolishness and obey the law of God.

Proverb No. 4

- **Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.**
Proverbs 23:13
- **Don't fail to discipline your children. They won't die if you spank them.**
Proverbs 23:13 NLT

It is a sin to withhold correction from your child. Correction is part of life. We must all be acclimated to receiving it and even be taught to appreciate it. Only pride detests correction. Some correction must be physical. The New Living Translation reveals that your child won't die if you spank them.

Proverb No. 5

- **Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.**
Proverbs 23:14
- **If you strike him with the rod, you will deliver him from death.**
Proverbs 23:14 NET

The fifth proverb about child discipline follows right after verse 13. Spanking will not kill your child; instead, it saves their soul from hell. As the NET says, spanking saves lives. Remember, the heart behind correction and discipline is to teach children to submit their will to someone greater than them. You cannot be born again without submitting your life and will to Jesus Christ.

Proverb No. 6

- **The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.**
Proverbs 29:15
- **A rod and reproof impart wisdom, but a child who is unrestrained brings shame to his mother.**
Proverbs 29:15 NET
- **To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.**
Proverbs 29:15 NLT

Somehow, supernaturally, a spanking and a rebuking impart wisdom. Not all wisdom is learned through books. Some wisdom must be learned through discipline. Unrestrained children are a shame and a disgrace to their mother.



Proverb No. 7

- **Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul (*bring happiness*).**
Proverbs 29:17

One of the great payoffs the Bible promises concerning child discipline is **rest** and **delight**. These seven verses paint a very clear picture: discipline brings rest, quietness, and delight to your soul as a parent, but neglecting discipline brings shame, disgrace, and even death.

- **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth (*spank, whip*) every son whom he receiveth.**
Hebrews 12:6

The nature and love of God compels him to rebuke and spank His children. Let us be like our Father in Heaven. Amen!!

GODLY PARENTING Lesson 5 Wisdom And Regrets From Spirit-Filled Parents

These are nuggets of wisdom, regret, and mistakes as shared by ministers and parents of grown children:

FRIENDSHIPS

- Check, check, and double check who your children spend the night with.
- Don't trust your kids. Parents are naïve.
- You must control your child's friendships.
- Don't be afraid to be in your child's face about their business.

MARRIAGES

- Marriages must be united. Children are good at finding weak links and cracks to get what they want.
- Rebellion is born when children see a hole and a window in parenting.
- Being away from home hurts your family (travel, work, etc.).
- Don't get so busy providing for your child physically that you neglect them spiritually.
- If you are divorced, do not let your personal feelings or frustration affect your choices for your children. Base everything on the Word.

SPIRITUALITY

- Teach your children to turn everything over to God.
- Pray with your kids, not just for them.
- Teach your children to stand on their own faith.
- Pray for your child's future spouse from the moment they are conceived.
- Your children **must** catch your vision.
- Don't assume that just because you take your child to church that they will be okay.
- Do not allow your child to choose where they go to church. You are the parent; God speaks to you to lead the family.
- Do not make excuses. Repent and get back at it when you miss it with your kids.
- Your children **will** catch your vision.

TRAINING

- Parenting is the only season you get to equip your child for life. If you don't equip them, someone or something else will.



- Don't forget you are to control your children's eating habits. Teach them to care for their bodies.
- Be a role model for your child in everything.
- Do not hold your children to standards on things that are not important.
- Don't shortchange your children; invest in them.
- Don't forget you are raising up your children to leave you, not stay.

MISC.

- Reject any parenting counsel that doesn't come from the Bible, regardless of who it may be coming from.
- If you have a grown child in rebellion, cut them off completely as well as anyone who is supporting them, regardless of the cost. Your walk with God is more important and the example you set may just be what they need to see.
- Your child should feel safe around you, not threatened.

May God Almighty help every parent to raise up God-fearing children for His glory!!!