

BIBLICAL PARENTING

Resources

Ted Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

Martha Peace & Stuart W. Scott, *The Faithful Parent*

J.C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*

Grace Community Church, *Parenting for Life* (curriculum on RBF Google Drive)

Previous RBF Parenting Studies:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10501276>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9667180>

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9188157>

What are some common motives of Christian parents?

- To have well-behaved kids
- To have believing kids

What is the proper motive of Christian parents?

(GCC *Parenting for Life*) To be a faithful instrument in God's hands for actively bringing up my child according to biblical principles.

(*The Faithful Parent* by Scott & Peace) Faithfulness to God's word by his grace and for his glory.

So ultimately the differences between Christian and non-Christian parents entail fearing the Lord, trusting in God's word and relying on the Holy Spirit's power (Eph. 5:18→6:4), instead of living by personal comfort, past experiences or worldly influences.

What are the strong temptations that parents face that cause so many well-intentioned Christians to neglect the clear teachings of Scripture?

- Partaking of high levels of distractedness
- Preferring temporary peace created by TV/Tablet
- Providing a different upbringing
- Preventing family fallout
- Prioritizing emotional wholeness

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3 Biblical Teachings Regarding Children that Parents Must Embrace in order to be Faithful:

I. The Biblical Condition of Children

Rom. 5:12—the sinful nature is passed down to every person from their parents, beginning with Adam & Eve

Alternative excuses for sinful behavior:

- He's learning to express himself and explore his new season of growth
- She's having an emotional day
- He's just really talkative; "Yes he is, and he seems to love the word 'no.'"
- She's tired.
- He or she has a disease or syndrome or disorder

Summary: The biblical condition of children is that they are lost sinners, who need instruction about God's ways, including the way of salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ's finished work alone.

II. The Biblical Needs of Children

#1 need of children is to obey their parents

Eph. 6:1—Do what is right in obedience to parents/ Col. 3:20—Be pleasing to the Lord/ Deut. 6:1-2—Cultivate a fear of the Lord

What is obedience?

Shepherding a Child's Heart—

Obedience is the willing submission of one person to the authority of another...without challenge, without excuse, without delay (134).

Some kids will disobey willfully or verbally and other kids will have a melt down—both responses are coming from the same heart.

False needs:

- to cultivate self-esteem
- to have as few restrictions/boundaries as possible to be able to grow and thrive
- to express any feelings that arise with no consequences
- to fear anything they want at any time with no correction

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Other needs:

- They need to be told how and what to eat
- They need to be told when and where to go to bed
- They need to be told how and when to implement personal hygiene

III. The Biblical Actions Towards Children

OT precedent—Deut. 6:4-9

What not to do:

Eph. 6:4—Don't provoke to anger/Col. 3:21—Don't exasperate

What to do:

Eph 6:4—nourish them with discipline and instruction

1. The Rod—Why, When and How

Why is the rod necessary?

-It's part of how a parent loves a child

Proverbs 13:24 *He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

Proverbs 3:11 *My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord Or loathe His reproof 12 For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

Hebrews 12:7 *It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

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Shepherding a Child's Heart: It is not a kindness for the parent to ignore the rebellion against God's authority that will ultimately bring God's even greater chastisement (106).

-It's a reminder of the problem within the child

Proverbs 22:15 *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

How is the fool described in the Proverbs?

Shepherding a Child's Heart—The fool's life is run by his desires and fears. This is what you commonly observe in your young children...The fool lives out of the immediacy of his lusts, cravings, expectations, hopes and fears (102).

-It's a tangible way to connect sin with consequences

Proverbs 23:13 *Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. 14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.*

-It's a tool to help the child learn what is right from what is wrong

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

Shepherding a Child's Heart—Properly administered discipline humbles the heart of a child, making him subject to parental instruction...The spanking [is designed to] render the child compliant and ready to receive life-giving words (104).

When is the rod necessary?

When a child expresses defiant (stubborn/resistant) actions, attitudes or words against parental authority, which is ultimately defiant actions, attitudes or words against God. The parent has an obligation to help that child get back in right relationship with the parent and with God. The parent is God's delegated agent of authority (*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, pp. 29, 37, 106)

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How is the rod implemented?

- Abstain from the unnecessary humiliation of spanking in the presence of others outside your immediate family (The older the child, the more privacy is preferable)
- Ask your child what he or she did wrong and why (age appropriate)
- Ask your child why that is wrong according to what God says
- Ask your child what he or she should have done instead
- Ask your child what you have said would happen if they did this wrong
- Tell your child what to expect in the spanking (this is good for them and you)
- Spank your child accordingly
- Affirm your love for your child and remind him or her that this is why we need Jesus Christ to save us from our sins.
- Pray to God for him or her for forgiveness and help to obey in the future
- Encourage him or her to seek forgiveness from who was sinned against

Why do some parents conclude the rod does not work?

- expecting definitive, immediate or short-term results
- not spanking for defiance, but for childishness
- inconsistently spanking for sin
- not adopting and communicating predetermined consequences for disobedience
- spanking in fleshly anger
- failing to inflict pain in the spanking
- using a condemning tone and/or words of shame or disgust during or after spanking

Worldly alternatives to the rod:

- Bribing
- Distraction
- Negotiation/Long, drawn out conversations with no discipline
(This assumes a child's problem is merely an information deficit—*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, p.101) *Also God does not merely give us words of instruction, but painful circumstances to teach us to obey him (Heb. 12).
- Wrath (*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, pp.29, 33-34, 154-155)

2. Training/Teaching Opportunities:

Adapted from the message by Todd Murray, “Training Toddlers: Firmness and Flexibility” (Legacy of Grace @ gibcjupiter.org)

- Waiting/Self-control (can your kids demand and obtain your attention whenever they want it?)
- Eating/Table Manners (dropping food/other items on purpose; not wandering around as much as they want)
- Naps/Bedtime (be cognizant of daily/weekly/monthly changes to your family schedule or child’s growth)
- Communication with words as appropriate (no whining or grunting or non-human noises in expressions of what they want or don’t want)
- Serving the family as appropriate (do they contribute to the proper functioning of the home or just use the home and parents for personal fulfillment?)
- Difference between inside and outside voices and behaviors
- Loving others
 - Playing with others with an attitude of sharing and giving
 - Picking up after themselves at other homes (food on (or under) the dinner table and toys in rooms)

J.C. Ryle, *The Duties of Parents*: If you do not take trouble with your children when they are young, they will certainly give you trouble when they are old. Choose which you prefer (37).

What do we do with all this?

- Start to implement something consistently and build from there
(If you’re not on the same page with your spouse, get with a couple farther down the road than you and discuss the differences with them)
- Start to pray how you could encourage others to implement the same things (go through parenting material together)
- *A healthy church is one which builds itself up in love, which is a church that not only identifies areas of needed growth, but also are those who are willing to help