

TRAIN UP A CHILD

Proverbs 22:6

Dear dad, in order to lead your children successfully, you must be committed to the absolute necessity of training your children.

I. THE RESPONSIBILITY: Train a child

A. THE RIGHT PUPIL: A Child

1. A toddler or boy > Not an infant or an adolescent
2. One who is capable of learning and very impressionable

B. THE RIGHT PROCEDURE: Training

1. Introduce them to things
 - Create a taste for things that are good for them
2. This is individual and personal
 - The parent must be adept and knowing and relating to the child
3. Teach them submission through experience
 - a. The word “train” was also used to indicate “hooking the jaw” > by doing so the person could be controlled
 - b. When a child “pulls away” from the parent’s will they should find that it hurts and will eventually learn not to pull away.
4. Patience and perspective are required - See Isaiah 28:10

C. THE RIGHT PERSON: Parents as trainers

1. The parents will have the greatest influence over the longest time
2. Training your child is not the primary responsibility of your child’s babysitter, school teacher, coach, grandparent or pastor.

II. THE DIRECTION: The way he should go

A. IMPLICATION: There is a way they should go.

1. This is not subjective: There are not many ways or options ... just one!
2. God’s ways are grounded in God’s Word. - Note I Kings 2:3

B. OBLIGATIONS

1. Dads must know what God requires and lead their children in that direction
 - a. Part of this training involves “bending the bow”
 - b. By constant bending a putting pressure on the bow you break it in and prepare it for use.
2. Dads must apply consistent pressure on their children in order to break their willful stubbornness and prepare them for usefulness to God
 - Consider Deuteronomy 6:6-7

C. DETERMINATION

1. Stay with it – A patient persistence is required
 - Do not yield to her squeals! - Note 23:13
2. Aim high - You get what you aim for!
 - a. Children will, by nature, resist the right way - Consider 22:15
 - b. Left to themselves, they will become a shame to their parents - See 29:15
 - c. Options are not an option
 - If you let them decide what to do ... you will regret it.

D. CONSIDERATIONS

- What are some “right ways” to encourage?
1. Provide ample opportunities for Bible instruction, memory and application
 - a. Lead your child to Christ and disciple them
 - b. Aid them in learning worship, reverence and praise
 - c. Prepare them with a biblical views about love, trials and service
 2. Help them learn to be self-disciplined
 3. Teach morals and assist them in character development
 - a. Honesty and integrity
 - b. Decency: Appropriate words, clothes and actions
 - c. Respect and honor
 - d. Humility and selflessness
 - e. Thankfulness
 - f. Forgiveness
 - g. Patience
 - h. Contentment

III. THE EXPECTATIONS: No defections

A. NO TURNING: He will not depart from it

1. He or she will not turn away or turn their back on the truths that you taught them.
2. She has learned and become stable with lifelong convictions and guidelines
3. Your children are likely to continue in the direction you have charted for him

B. THE TIMING: When he is old

1. Literally: Even when he begins to show age
2. The reference is to adolescence
3. There is no indication that you should expect or permit rebellion during their teen years
4. The success or failure of your training will become apparent before they leave the home! > This can be quite sobering

C. A CAUTION

1. Be Realistic

- a. Remember this is a principle and not a promise
- b. The proverbs are guidelines and not guarantees
 - Note other principles that are not promises in Proverbs 22:4, 11, 29
- c. Every family that follows these guidelines will not turn out godly children
- d. A child can be willfully stubborn and resist the training being given.

2. Be Humble

- a. If you child has “turned out,” thank God for his guidelines and grace.
- b. If another’s child is wayward ...
 - Do not look down at them, rather lift them up in prayer and loving support

CONCLUSION:

Will your child be an undisciplined, unruly and unrighteous wanderer?

- Or will you show them the way to go?

What have you been teaching your children?

- You must be committed to teaching your children principles and precepts from God’s Word

How are you doing at training your children?