

Overcoming Some Of Life's Problems # 5

Problems In Parenting

Introduction:

1. When a child is born, the parents face a tremendous responsibility of training that child to walk in the fear of God.
 - a. Prov. 22:6
 - b. Eph. 6:1-4
2. It doesn't take long for a new parent to realize that there are *problems in parenting*.
 - a. Because that is our goal (for our children to walk in the fear of God) and there is evil in the world, there will be problems along the way.
 - b. Some of the problems are brought on by the parents.
 - c. Some by the children.
 - d. Some by others who influence the child.
 - e. Some are mere obstacles that any parent has to overcome.
3. Must understand and address the problems to meet the goal of children who fear God.
4. Lest someone misunderstand, the joy and blessing of raising children far outweigh the problems we face.
5. Let's consider some common problems in parenting.

I. Problems Parents And Children Face

- A. *Children who are unwanted and unloved* (cf. 2 Tim. 3:3 - "without natural affection").
 1. Why have abortion.
 2. Why children are abused or neglected.
 3. Why some parents view their children as a bother or obstacle in the way of their fun.
 4. Why children are tossed from parent to parent to sitter, etc.

- B. *Children who “run” (have control of) the house (the rest of the family).*
1. Starts when bring the baby home from hospital.
 2. Soon mom and dad mold to the whims of the child.
 3. The child as an infant or toddler is in control of the parents rather than the parents in control of the child.
 4. All decisions hinge on the child and how he/she will react or respond.
- C. *Misbehavior*
1. All children will misbehave (Prov. 22:15).
 - a. “Children will be children” - that is true.
 - b. Your child is not abnormal if he misbehaves from time to time.
 - c. Yet, text does not mention that to excuse the misbehavior.
 2. Some children are allowed to misbehave without correction.
 - a. Behavior is not monitored in public.
 - b. Instructions or rules are not enforced.
 - c. Tantrums and ugly behavior not corrected and even justified.
 - d. Destroy / wreck a house and toys (own and others’ too).
 3. Behavior uncorrected grows like an ugly monster and gets worse.
- D. *Little or no time together*
1. Work or social schedules fill the day - little time left for the children.
 2. Sad to see children raised without a father or mother; equally as sad to live with both and never spend any time together.
 3. With mother at work and dad on overtime - children may be left to raise themselves.
 4. We fool ourselves into thinking it is the “quality” that counts and not the “quantity”.
 5. Story is told of son who asked his father how much he made an hour. The father brushed him away for the time. The son persisted until the father said, “Twenty-Five dollars an hours”. Later son ask to borrow ten dollars. The father again brushed him aside. Late that night father goes to the son’s room and said, “Here is the ten you asked for”. The boy said, “NOW I HAVE ENOUGH!” “Enough for what?” the father asked. As the boy reached under his pillow pulling out fifteen dollars he had saved, he said, “To buy an hour of your time.”
- E. *Peer influence*
1. As our children make friends with school mates the peer pressure begins.
 2. By middle school and high school years there are a lot of pressures.

- a. At a impressionable age.
 - b. Friends are allowed to do a lot that they cannot.
 - c. May be fed lines that parents are dumb and too strict.
 - d. Heros and “idols” (role models) are sometimes undesirable.
3. Bible warns about the influence of friends.
- a. Exo. 23:2, 33
 - b. Prov. 1:10ff
 - c. Prov. 22:25
 - d. 1 Cor. 15:33

F. *Priorities - time management*

- 1. Easy to forget our goal of having children that fear God.
- 2. So much that calls for the child’s time and attention - priorities are shifted.
 - a. School and homework.
 - b. Sports (practice and the games).
 - c. TV.
- 3. All too often the child:
 - a. Has all their homework - but not their Bible lesson.
 - b. Knows the ball players, entertainers or TV characters by names and stats, but don’t know the Bible characters.
 - c. Spends more time on the ball field than do with the family.

G. *Child gets into major trouble*

- 1. Drugs or alcohol.
- 2. Trouble with the law.
- 3. Premarital sex and possibly a child out of wedlock.
- 4. Divorce.

II. Principles That Ease The Problems

A. *Be an example to your children.*

- 1. Children follow what they see (Ezek 16:44).
- 2. Fear God yourself (Psa. 33 & 34).
- 3. Don’t be surprised when children do just like you - maybe go further.
 - a. If you are not real “gung ho” on dedication, don’t be surprised...
 - b. If you are a mother who keep a messy house, don’t be surprised...
 - c. If you are lazy...
 - d. If you are materially minded...
 - e. If you have a rebellious edge...

- B. *Love your children.*
1. Balance love and sternness.
 2. Learn to love (Titus 2:3-5).
 3. Love corrects problem (Prov. 3:12; 13:24).
- C. *Teach your children (don't leave that for others to do).*
1. Prov. 29:15
 2. Eph. 6:1-4
 3. Prov. 22:6
- D. *Discipline (Correct) your child.*
1. God says spankings works:
 - a. Prov. 13:24
 - b. Prov. 19:18 - Do it while you can mold the child.
 - c. Prov. 23:13-14 - It doesn't harm the child.
 - d. Prov. 29:15
 - e. Prov. 22:15
 - (1) Children will misbehave.
 - (2) Rod will drive it far from him.
 - (3) Rod: (h shebet) - "From an unused root...to branch off..i.e. (Lit.) a stick" (Strong's, 7626).
 2. If parents think spanking won't work:
 - a. May not be consistent.
 - b. May not be applying the rod hard enough.
 - c. May not be applying the rod often enough.
- E. *Restrain your child.*
1. Must be limitations.
 - a. Eli didn't and paid a price.
 - (1) 1 Sam. 3:13
 - (2) 1 Sam. 2:12-ff
 - b. Sad that there are parents that allow their children to do about anything they want.
 - c. Must teach our children control of self.
 - d. If not - children unrestrained and in sin (2 Tim. 3).
 2. Parents must be in control of the children.
 - a. Any passage on training of children - says that parents are to be in control (Prov. 22:6, 15; Eph. 6:4).

- b. Don't reward misbehavior.
 - c. When defiantly challenge, win decisively!
- 3. Watchful and careful for things that might influence them:
 - a. Styles - what they wear.
 - b. Music - what they listen to.
 - c. What they watch - movies/ TV.
 - d. Where they go.
 - e. Who their friends are.

Conclusion:

- 1. There will be problems in raising children.
- 2. Following these principles does not guarantee that there will be no problems.
- 3. How we address these problems will make a difference whether our children fear God or not.

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