

Godly Child Training (Part 1)
Selected Scriptures
February 14, 2016

Introduction

Many young people believe (or once believed) that once we have children, our instincts and internal hardwire will kick in, and we will be able to raise them. Sometimes we think that we are born with that knowledge. We have to be taught in how to raise children, and even then, we learn on our own how to raise each child. It is hard because there are so many conflicting information about raising children. Each people have their own ideas about raising children. However, God has given us His word that provides us with information on how to train and raise godly children.

First, what does the Bible say about children?

Psalms 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. **5** Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

This is a familiar verse for many Christians. However, what many do not know is that Solomon wrote this psalm. He says that children are a heritage and a reward, and they are a blessing from God. Solomon is focusing on godly children because he says that these godly sons will not cause shame to their fathers when addressing enemies at the gate. In other words, the godly sons will stand by their father in adverse situations. Solomon then tells us that godly children are like arrows, which is a very clear and striking picture. What do arrows do? Kill enemies and animals for protection and for food. Arrows are aimed at a target for a purpose. Like arrows, godly parents aim their children to the fear of God and train them before releasing them to the world. For godly parents, this is a joyful blessing.

For the next two weeks, we will be focusing on the Biblical principles of raising godly children. Today we will be focusing on the goals and realities of raising godly children.

I. Goals of Godly Training

- God's design
 - Rule and subdue the planet

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." **27** So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Family basic building block of society
- Man is to rule and subdue the earth under God
- Woman is to help her husband rule and subdue the earth under God
- Parents' role is to train children on how to rule and subdue the earth under God
- What does rule and subdue mean?
 - Original design (before Fall) is that Man and Woman serve God by taking care of the world that God has given them
 - They are serving God and teaching the children how to serve God

- After the Fall—the human race became separated from God
 - He is no longer their master
 - We refuse to serve Him
- The only way we can have the relationship with God is through faith, only faith
- We are to serve God by knowing Him and obey His commands
- When we do that, then we have a responsibility to train our children how to know Him and how to obey His commands
- Teaching our children

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

- First part of teaching children—knowing God (v 4)
- Second part of training—teaching them the Word
- Who is responsible for teaching?
 - Parents
 - How often? 24/7
- Teaching children the supreme importance of following Christ Jesus

Matthew 10:34-37 *Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37 Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

- Family is not the top priority—Jesus is
- As godly parents, we have to teach our children about our Lord Jesus Christ all the time
- Arrows in the hands of a warrior
 - As parents you have the best opportunity to train your children now
 - We are to train our children the Word of God by living, talking, and being an example
 - When we do that, we are training them to go out to do God's work
- Fear of God
 - The goal of any godly parents is that their children will fear God
 - Fearing God is a heart attitude—not a behavior modification
 - We do not want children to be good and moral
 - We want children to be God-fearing
 - We want our children to love and serve God
 - We need to be faithful as Solomon when he pleaded, called, reminded, and taught
 - We need to teach our children not to forget, neglect, or leave our teaching
 - We have to constantly do this from a young age

II. Reality of Godly Training

- It is very hard!
 - It requires tremendous time and energy
 - We are to spend much of our time with our children, reminding them what God says in His word (**Deut 6:7**)
 - We have to work hard to kill the desires and works of our flesh (**Rom 8:13**)
 - We have to put on the Lord Jesus Christ daily so we can be an example (**Rom 13:14**)
 - Self-sacrifice 24/7
- There are no guarantees that the child will be godly
 - Biblical reality
 - Children can become godly in spite of bad parents
 - Children can become foolish in spite of godly parents
 - God the Perfect Father had a rebellious son (Adam)
 - Jesus the Perfect Son had flawed human parents
 - Just because you did exactly what God wants us to do does not mean that our children will be godly every time
 - We have to trust God in the results
 - We have to remember: as human beings we have no control over another human being's soul

1 Corinthians 3:6 *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.*

- Just because there is no guarantee does not mean that we can disobey God and not do what He tells us in raising godly children
- Solomon's observations

Proverbs 10:1 *A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.*

Proverbs 15:20 *A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.*

- For parents with godly children
 - Sources of blessing, joy and happiness
 - Future is secure because the children has trusted Christ Jesus through faith
- For parents with rebellious children
 - Sources of grief, humiliation and ruin
 - The child will be ruined when he rebels against God's word

Proverbs 30:17 *The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.*

- Bad parenting can be devastating
 - Through
 - Neglect
 - Abuse
 - Lack of discipline
 - Raising children to be good moral people without the Gospel
- Parents are not ultimately responsible for their children's sins
 - Too often people will blame the parents for their sins

- The Bible never, ever agrees to that

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 *If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, **19** then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. **20** And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' **21** Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.*

Coram Deo

1 Corinthians 3:7-8 *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8** The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.*

Whenever the Bible tells us how to be parents, we are reminded that we cannot even on our best days ever fulfill what God wants us to do. We fall way short of what God expects of us. There is good news. If we are struggling as parents to raise godly children, we can find help in Christ Jesus, the Wisdom of God. He is able to help us. He sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. Today is the day to repent of our actions and live in obedience, and it will take time and dedication. Our God is faithful, and He understands our struggles and gives what we need to overcome our selfish tendencies. Only in and through Christ Jesus our Lord can we even do this.