

Notes on Parenting

The first verse we are going to pull some points from will be Proverbs 3:1-7.

“My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;

Vs.2: For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

Vs.3: Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Vs.4: So, you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

Vs.5: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Vs.6: In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Vs.7: Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Speaking Bible Doctrine to your children is the knowledge that must be gained by them. You must teach your children Bible Doctrine.

2. Living it (Bible Doctrine) is the means to reinforce for children. We learn by what we observe. Principle: You can witness more with your life than with your mouth.

- a. **“teaching”** (“towrah”) – “normally teaching the old testament law” – here it refers to “divine law”.
- b. In Proverbs 3:1 **“teaching”** (“towrah”) is qualified by the injunction **“do not forget”**.
- c. Hence it does not refer to general law as in testament law. It specifically refers to home teaching of Bible Doctrine. Instruction to be implanted in the soul of the child never to be forgotten. **“it is to be written on the tablets of their hearts.”** As Verse-3 tells us.
- f. Remember God wrote the 10 commandments on the tablets of stone just so it must be written forever in the soul of a child by teaching and by example.
- g. Home teaching includes simple subjects...like manners. There are no manners in the world any more
- h. You have to teach them respect for others in the home. That’s where you start.
- i. Respect for the property of others.
- j. Reinforcing good decisions based not only on common sense but on spiritual sense from the Word of God and Bible Doctrine stored in your soul.
- k. Most importantly Bible Doctrine taught and applied by the parents.
- l. Remember how a parent lives his life constitutes experience for the children. It’s consequential instruction for the children.

m. It's never a matter of do what I say not what I do. They will do as you do not as you say! Count on it. They won't do it if you don't do it.

n. As a parent don't make issues of inconsequential things when larger issues are ignored and uncorrected.

o. Without parental demonstrations of Bible Doctrine and it's application, it's likely the child won't do what you ask them to do because you don't exhibit the action and the decisions with Bible Doctrine in your own life which is your responsibility – taking in Bible Doctrine – to apply the Word of God in your life.

p. If they (Children) don't see the advantages of Bible Doctrine and they only see what the cosmic system offers because they're bombarded with it then you have in many cases lost them to the cosmic system.

q. Teaching is one way of protecting them from it.

r. You must learn it and apply it in the home. Make sure it becomes “spiritual muscle memory**”.**

s. Children are a lot more likely to follow your lead especially as they get on with their own life when they have had good training and they know that it works to their advantage. They know the benefits and they know the results of having the Word of God in their soul and applying the Word of God to life and circumstances.

When it's not taught expect negative results.

A few principles:

1. You set the pattern for keeping or forgetting Bible Doctrine in their souls.

2. If they are in rebellion as teenagers, they will still be cognizant of the message they hear and see from you the parent.

3. It will be implanted in the recesses of their souls.

4. When confronted by various circumstances if they use positive volition the child might return to it at a later time.

5. However, it may require some very hard knocks to activate positive volition but that's the result of bad decisions in life.

6. It is never, never, too late to use Bible Doctrine and get with it and to move past those bad decisions.

7. When you have taught and when you have demonstrated the children will have the foundation of the Word of God to apply later and in the end they will make good decisions and they'll overcome the bad decisions they've already made and the best decision will be to return and to get back with the program.

Proverbs 1:4 – “To give prudence to the naïve, To the youth knowledge and discretion,”

8. Kids are listening and watching very closely even though you don't think they are. Not only at the world around them but at you. How you live and how you handle things and how you apply Bible Doctrine that you keep talking about.

9. Remember when you see anti-authority in a child it always has negative repercussions and when a child rebels in the home that's anti-authority. Exodus 20:12 – “Honor your father and your mother”

10. Submitting to authority is a necessary part of life and must be learned. Authority orientation is one of the most important things we can teach our children.

11. Without authority orientation first taught in the home – because that's the first place anyone meets authority orientation – in the home.

12. Authority is not a loss of freedom. Authority is for the maintenance of freedom. You cannot have freedom without authority.

13. Without authority society degenerates to every man doing what is right in their own eyes. Everything is relative.

14. The rule of law is lost as is something very individually and very personal – self-discipline. Parents must teach norms and standards...brush your teeth; take a shower; wipe your butt; comb your hair; stop when a policeman tells you to stop, etc.

15. Submitting to Biblical authority is not the loss of freedom it enhances freedom. The mandates and the rules of scripture are for your benefit. They are to direct you into the good decisions you make in life. They don't limit your fun. They point your fun in the right direction. They keep you within the parameters of divine standards.

16. Remember this: arrogance challenges any legitimate system of authority (Authority of parents over the children.

Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20) (Divine establishment authority). (Law enforcement and government. Romans 13:1-7). Authority in the military, the teacher in the classroom, coaches over athletes, management over labor, husbands over wives in a leadership role, not in a tyrant role (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18)

17. Permissive parents need to realize that discipline and authority orientation are beneficial. It's not damaging. It's part of training.

18. But I want to make it clear love and understanding are also beneficial. There must be a balance.

Remember this principle: Devoid of boundaries self-absorbed children will reject automatically rules and authority figures and sometimes divine establishment norms and standards. They will be replaced by peer pressure. They will follow what their friends are doing rather than what their parents are telling them to do.

Everyone always quotes Proverbs 22:6. I hear it from inmates all the time and from Correctional Officers, Chaplains, etc. Let's get a couple of points on this verse as well. Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

1. This verse is not a divine guarantee or an iron clad promise that young or old he or she will return to Bible Doctrine.

2. Even though they are well trained in Bible Doctrine early in life it is not a done deal. It does not excuse you from training them nor does it excuse yourself from learning Bible Doctrine.

3. Volition positive or negative is always involved in any person's choices. You can never discount volition. God doesn't. He understands people even believers make bad decisions.

4. Volition is always a part of the equation of returning to Bible Doctrine after departing.

5. What Proverbs 22:6 assures to parents is this; that lessons learned in childhood will last for a lifetime. What you teach your children they will learn it and it will last a lifetime in their souls.

6. Lessons driven home by parents at that crucial stage of their lives will not go away. Doctrine has been implanted and will remain in their consciousness. They will understand the concepts even if they fail to use them.

7. With your children you must define Divine Viewpoint in contrast to human viewpoint and you must use Divine Viewpoint yourself.

8. Through your words of guidance, discipline, and encouragement you train or teach your children.

9. Also, show your dedication to Bible Doctrine in your own life. If you're not interested, they won't be!!

Here's a word of CAUTION: Teach it, live it, but don't ram it down their little throats. Don't be a doctrinal tyrant in how you teach doctrine, how you train your children, how you introduce them to Bible Doctrine. That teaching is more likely to exacerbate reaction and rebellion. Studying doctrine should never be a chore or a prison for a child.

10. If as a parent you accomplish the points above regardless if a child exhibits negative volition now or later, you have nothing ever to be ashamed of in the rearing of your children. You've done your job as unto the Lord and it is up to them.

11. Parental dedication to teaching is the best chance a child has for living a spiritual life of Bible Doctrine. This is the best chance, but they will still choose in the way they will go.

Remember Psalm 119:11 **“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”**

1. It means to hide or to store away or to preserve in your heart.
2. That's what happens to metabolized doctrine in the right lobe of the soul. It is stored away. It is kept in the memory bank of the right lobe.
3. Hence the teaching is kept in the soul, certainly for recall but also for application.
4. Keeping in the heart is the same process as Operation Z in the New Testament.
5. Keeping is the result of metabolized doctrine in the **“kardia”** where you can **“comply”**, and it becomes **“wheel tracks of righteousness” “trochia”**.

Psalm 119:11b **“That I might not make bad decisions”** – Would be an expanded translation.

1. Accumulating an inventory of divine principles is a defense against sin.

2. Having an inventory of divine principles in your soul is also a defense against cosmic system falsehoods and propaganda.

3. This inventory is a defense against bad decisions that lead to wrong actions that bring self-induced misery.

Remember no matter how busy you get it is your obligation to teach your children!