

II. THE ISSUE OF USING THE BIBLE WHEN IT COMES TO TRAINING CHILDREN

A. THE THINGS WHICH ARE REQUIRED ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

1. Parents need to present a good spiritual role model for their children (Prov. 23:24-26).

This means parents need to be saved and serving the Lord faithfully in the ministry of a local church. Parents who are unsaved and unfaithful in church will certainly not be adept to teach and to train their children Biblically and rightly. It's not enough to tell them to, "Do as I tell you to do," children need a consistent example to follow. And when parents are not consistent, children pick up on it and it frustrates them and discourages them.

2. Secondly, parents need to take the time which is necessary to train their children (Prov. 1:8; 22:6).

Someone has well-said, "Love is spelled T.I.M.E." Oftentimes parents shower their children with all kinds of gifts as substitutes for not spending time with them. But nothing can make up for not spending time with them. Being with them says, "I love you and I want you to know you're a part of my life." Many parents have given their children everything except themselves and some time with them.

3. Thirdly, parents need to instruct their children with Biblical precepts and principles (Dt. 11:18-21; Prov. 1:8; 22:6).

Someone has said, "The home is the training center for children and it determines in large measure what children will become." Every day one's home life presents numerous opportunities to instruct children Biblically. In this setting children can be taught how to share, how to care for others, how to work, how to walk with God and how to handle all kinds of problems which arise. Consider all the many lessons which can be taught while a family gathers at meal times around the table.

4. Fourthly, parents need to maintain a balance between affection and authority (Eph. 6:1-4).

This means parents should exercise authority to insist that their children respect them and obey them. But then there should be times when parents should show deep affection for their children. When they're sick or have problems, when they have accomplished certain goals and etc. they need affection and/or praise from their parents.

5. Lastly, parents need to administer discipline when their children misbehave (Prov. 13:24; 23:13,14; 19:18).

Oftentimes today, parents make excuses for the misconduct of their children and look at misbehavior as a stage through which their children will eventually pass. At other times children are medicated with medicines like Ritalin to semi-sedate them and to calm them down. Recent studies have shown a direct correlation between violent acts and crimes committed by minors on such medicines. Notice while there are some children who are mentally hyperactive and do indeed need such medicating, there are many who misbehave because they have been allowed to do wrong and

get by. Shame on the parents who do this!

Someone has given certain rules to follow if parents want to raise delinquent children:

RULES FOR RAISING DELINQUENT CHILDREN

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. He will then grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. He will think he is cute. It will encourage him to think up "cuter" words and phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. When he is 21 let him decide for himself what he wants to be. (Don't be surprised if he decides to do nothing).
4. Avoid the word "wrong." It might develop a guilt complex. A few years later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, he will feel that society is against him and that he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up after him. This means wet towels, books, shoes and clothing. Do everything for him. He will then become experienced in evading responsibility and incapable of finishing any task.
6. Let him see everything, hear everything and read everything smutty he can get his hands on. Make sure the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized but let his mind feed on garbage.
7. If you have a serious conflict in opinion with your spouse, fight it out in front of the children. It's good for youngsters to view their parents as human beings who express themselves freely and openly. Later, if you get divorced, they'll know what caused it.
8. Give your children all the spending money they want. After all, one of the reasons you have worked so hard all your life is to make life easier for your children. Why should they have it as rough as you did?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that his every desire is satisfied. Denial might lead to harmful frustration.
10. Take your child's part against neighbors, teachers, and friends. This will prepare you to take part against the police.
11. When he gets into serious trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I can't understand why he turned out like this. We gave him EVERYTHING."
12. Prepare for a life of grief, You are apt to have it. (Unknown source).

B. THE THINGS WHICH ARE SUBSTITUTED OR LACKING IN MANY CASES.

1. In many cases, children are trained by parents who are unsaved and their training involves some self-styled system which disregards Biblical principles and practices. And in many cases such systems result in continual arguing which oftentimes leads to physical and mental abuse. In such cases children are often hollered at and berated by all kinds of negative remarks which destroy their self-esteem and hinders their

efforts to achieve certain accomplishments. Too often what children hear are negative and damaging expressions like: "You're stupid. You can't ever do anything right. You're not worth a thing around here. All you ever do is cause trouble. Why can't you do like your brother or sister?"

2. In most cases, children are trained in worldly philosophies which disregard the Bible altogether.

These children are indoctrinated with humanism, materialism, evolution, and relativism, all which deny the need for God and disregard the relevance of the Bible in people's lives today.

3. In many cases, children are allowed to misbehave without discipline because there's no moral standard upon which right and wrong can be established. This format follows the current thought of psychologists and sociologists who believe discipline might inhibit a child in some way and keep him from expressing himself and lead to emotional problems later in life. So children are given a "time out" or a "little talk" when they actually need to be disciplined for wrong-doing.
4. In most cases children are trained with worldly philosophies that are contrary to Biblical teachings. Homosexuality, which the Bible says is sinful, is taught as an alternate life-style. Living together out of wed-lock, which the Bible says is fornication and sinful, is presented as unwed-couples in an evolving family structure. Instead of children being taught that pre-marital sex is sinful, children are passed out contraceptives and instructed to have safe-sex.

C. THE THINGS WHICH WILL RESULT WHEN BIBLICAL GUIDELINES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

1. Without Biblical training children will grow up adopting some worldly philosophy rather than a Biblical philosophy.

What do children raised without Biblical teachings believe? For the most it's materialism, to get a good paying job so one can have material things.

2. Without Biblical training children will grow up with no trust or reliance upon God. Instead they will adopt humanism believing they can accomplish anything by themselves with no need for God, the Bible, or the church.
3. Without Biblical training children will grow up accepting all kinds of perverted conduct with no sense of sinfulness and the consequences that come as a result of sin. They will believe it's okay to have sex as long as it is safe-sex. They will believe it's alright for men to live with men and women to live with women and even to marry the same sex. And they will believe it's okay to live together out of wed-lock.
4. Without Biblical training children will grow up with little or no respect for authority.

Studies have shown when children have grown up without restraints many of them become aggressive and then turn violent when confronted with any kind of rules or restraints.

5. Without Biblical training children will grow up with a set of misplaced values. They will believe it's alright to do their own thing with no consideration of God's plan. They will think that the essence of life is found in acquiring material possessions. Notice what Jesus said about life (Lk. 12:15). Such children will see no need in caring for others and doing for others. They will not know the value of a right relationship with God and others and they will value things above people.