

Practical Parenting Tips-A Biblical Perspective

In this article, we will continue our monthly series with a focus on multiple topics from a biblical perspective. The latest, we focused on the role of husband, wife and children in the God designed family structure. From the beginning, the family has taken a serious role in God's plan, purpose and to provide the basis to cultivate and train succeeding generations.

We believe the Bible to be the ultimate authority and it only makes sense to know and understand what it says as it relates to aspects of life, including parenting.

In the New Century Version (NCV), 2 Timothy 3:16 states that: *All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right.* It continues in verse 17, *“Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work.”* The bible gives us an objective or tangible means in how we should live and in turn, how we should raise our children. It teaches a way of life, creates a plan and order for everyone, which involves participation and practice.

Biblical parenting involves living a life that is compatible with the Word of God. It states in Psalms 127:3 (NCV) that our *“children are a gift of the LORD”*. With this gift we have a responsibility as stated in *Ephesians 6:4 NCV “Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord.”* For the short time our children are in our care, it is imperative that we equip them as they mature. Parents must prepare them for the independence they will need, less reliant on the parents and more on God

There are many Biblical verses that provide tips or methods on raising children. One in particular from the (New American Standard Version) Proverbs 13:24 states, *“He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”* This verse is similar to the non-biblical phrase most everyone has heard, *“spare the rod, spoil the child”*. It is true that spoiling can result if children are not disciplined, but the bible takes this thought further, let's examine.

“He who withholds his rod ...”

It is without doubt that a child will require some form of discipline as they grow. Whether this means a literal spanking is debatable, but it is important for our children to understand that there are and will continue to be penalties for misbehavior throughout life. God has made it perfectly clear that we are responsible for our own actions, and we must prepare our children from the day they are born for this reality.

“...hates his son,”

This sounds severe, but have you considered that by not disciplining your child for their misbehavior could be considered a form of abuse. Exposing our children to unforgiving realities of the world without the proper training and discipline, could be described as hatred.

“But he who loves him ...”

Discipline should not be given in anger, but in love. Parents discipline their children because of love and care for their well-being. We must also consider patience, a Godly virtue, and must be practiced in all aspects of our life, especially when raising children. To love the child is to care for the whole. When discipline is administered in love and affection, there is no question as to why the child is facing unpleasant circumstances.

“...disciplines him diligently.”

Care and consistency must be observed when disciplining a child. Discipline must not be misused and must be **administered with patience and love as needed**, when needed. By doing so, the child is less apt to be confused and will gain the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong.

From the New American Standard Version, there are several verses that are simple to understand and hopefully bring more understanding on God’s view of parenting.

Hebrews 12:11 *“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness...”* or “peace from living the right way”.

Proverbs 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Proverbs 29:17 *“Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.”*

As parents, we must recognize our direct responsibility to God when raising children and we should adopt HIS standards as our means of doing so. We are responsible to provide the physical necessities like food, shelter, and protection, but it also includes shaping our children's mindset, actions, and relationships.

From infant to adulthood, we have an awesome and rewarding responsibility in shaping a child for the future. If we lead by example and from the heart, we will prepare our children for the day they will be thrust into a very cruel and complicated world.

We hope this short article encourages you to study and allow God’s plan or tips concerning parenting become a part of your life.

On March 27th we had corresponding lessons on the topic of a parenting. Check our website for sermons titled “Before anything else (1 Samuel 1:10, 11)” from the AM service and “How do I fulfill my vow (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)” from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.