

3. Proper discipline and instruction go together: ^{NAS} **Ephesians 6:4** *And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “Parents will... avoid all things which are apt to embitter [or] irritate their children, [such as] unreasonable severity... teasing, and the like, all of which is likely to make the children indisposed to render the honor and obedience which is their duty.” [However] “Parents should nurture their children, take care of their entire physical, mental, moral, and religious training... The entire manner of educating is one calculated to win people for [Christ], so that they willingly follow His leadership...” (NT II:289-290)

Children: Honor Your Parents!

As children honor their parents – and also others in authority, such as police officers, teachers, and pastors, people through whom God is working to bless them – they are ultimately honoring the LORD☺! Therefore, to dishonor those in authority over us is to dishonor the LORD☺! Consider these passages:

1. ^{ESV} **Exodus 20:12** Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. // A commandment or instruction that includes *encouragement* to obey.
2. ^{NIV} **Colossians 3:20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. // Since ♦God is our Father,

♦Jesus is our Savior, and ♦eternal life is God’s gift to us through Jesus, *the result is a God-given desire to please the Lord in everything!*

3. ^{ESV} **1 Timothy 5:3** Honor widows who are truly widows [by helping them]. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.... // As God works through parents to bless children, *so He desires to work through children to bless parents!*

Conclusion

Proper discipline is tough *to give and to receive* – both ♦God to parents and ♦parents to their children: ^{ESV} **Proverbs 12:1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. // Those who love discipline *desire to learn what is best!* So parents, *forgiven in Christ and guided by the Word*, discipline / love and teach your children! And children, *forgiven in Christ and guided by the Word*, honor / obey your parents!

May the Almighty God ever-bless and strengthen the important parent–child relationship!

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The Parent – Child Relationship

What does the Bible say?



Introduction

Dear friends in Christ, God made the world, the animals, and two people; then He immediately established marriage – *as He brought the woman to the man*; then He established the family – *when He told the man and the woman: “Be fruitful and multiply...”* (Gen. 1:28 ESV) Initially things were great, but the fall into sin brought suffering and death! *So God promised restoration through Jesus!*

- **Now**, *by grace through faith in Jesus*, God has restored our relationship with Him!
- **Now**, *when both husband and wife are in Christ*, they can have a ♦Christ-centered,

- ◆Word-guided, ◆Spirit-powered, and
- ◆forgiveness-filled relationship!

- **Now**, Christian parents, united as one, can use God's Holy Word to richly bless their children!

So what does the Bible say about the parent–child relationship?

Parents: *Teach Your Children!*

That is the Biblical model and mandate! Martin Luther urged *that same practice* when he wrote these words of instruction in connection with each chief part of his Small Catechism: **“As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.”** Unfortunately, *many parents have delegated their God-given responsibility to their pastor or congregation* with this sad result: Among the children who grew up as active church members, *only 20-25% are still in Christ by the time they are 25 years old* (FFPN). Therefore, it seems *essential* for parents to diligently learn God's Word for themselves; then return to the Biblical model of parents being the *primary faith-shapers* of their children:

1. ^{ESV} **Proverbs 22:6** Train up [teach] a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. // Does that include only Sunday School attendance and mealtime prayers; it *actually means so much more!* See the next passage.
2. ^{NIV} **Deuteronomy 6:6** These commandments [instructions] that I give you [parents] today are to be upon your hearts [so thoroughly know them and live them; then:]. ⁷ **Impress them on your**

children [by using them to teach and shape your children; this is *WHEN* and *HOW*:]. **Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up** [taking advantage of every opportunity]. ⁸ **Tie them** as symbols on your hands and **bind them** on your foreheads. ⁹ **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. // It is essential for parents to faithfully **learn, live, and teach God's Word** for the eternal benefit of their children!

Parents: *Discipline Your Children!*

The Old Testament includes the account of Eli the priest and his wicked sons (1 Sam. 2:12-17, 22-25); Eli's lack of proper discipline resulted in terrible consequences coming upon all of Eli's family (1 Sam. 4:12-22). So, then and today, it is essential for parents to discipline their children:

1. **Proper discipline** is an expression of love:
 - a. ^{NAS} **Revelation 3:19** [Jesus said:] “Those whom I love, I **reprove** [express disapproval] and **discipline** [encourage in a beneficial direction]; be zealous therefore, and repent.”
 - b. ^{ESV} **Proverbs 13:24** Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. // Since Christian parents want their children to ◆know the truth, ◆stay in the Word, ◆abide in Jesus, and ◆honor the LORD in their lives, they urge them in a beneficial direction; when words

and time-outs are ineffective, a stronger attention-getter becomes necessary – *never to harm, but always to love!*

2. **Proper discipline** is hard yet rewarding: ^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful [not happy], but sorrowful [sad]; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness [thus children who honor their parents and grow up to live for Christ].
 - a. ^{ESV} **Proverbs 22:15** Folly [foolishness, stupidity] is bound up in the heart of a child [everyone has a sinful nature], but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. // Following through is hard, yet eventually the results will be wonderful!
 - b. ^{ESV} **Proverbs 29:17** Discipline your son [also your daughter], and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart. // Even though discipline is not easy, it is truly best for both children and their parents!

[Continue on the other side!]