

## **LI. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**

### **LESSON 51**

#### **... ABOUT GOD'S EXAMPLE AND ORDER FOR PARENTS**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Children are very special and dear to God's Father Heart. We see this is Matthew 18:2,6 where we read,

"And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, . . . . whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Psalms 127:3-5 puts it this way:

"Children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

As we understand just how special and dear to God's Father heart children are, so, we will see what a great privilege and responsibility it is to be parents. You will never have a more privileged or greater ministry than being a parent.

Because parenting is so important, God in His Word has given us ample instructions on parenting, as well as His own example and order for parents. The purpose of this lesson is to see God's established and proven order for parents that we might begin to put these principles into action in our families.

##### **GOD'S PERFECT EXAMPLE FOR PARENTS**

Before our Father God gave life to Adam, His first earthly son He prepared a place for him, light, air, solid ground, herbs, fruit tree, sun, moon, stars, birds, beasts, fish and cattle. Then he planted a special garden home for his son and filled it with all good things to eat and things pleasant to the eyes.

We can learn from this example of God, **THE PROPER PREPARATION IN THE HOME FOR OUR CHILDREN.**

A home, with God's love as its life; the light of God's Word for beauty and purity; the water of God's Word for cleansing and refreshing; Christ, the Tree of Life for food, its beauty and peace; and Christ, the Word, the solid foundation upon which to stand.

God's preparation for His son, Adam, was a 7 fold preparation. From the following Scriptures in Genesis 2 list those things God felt were necessary for His son, and therefore, a pattern of parental duties.

1. Genesis 29
2. Genesis 2:9
3. Genesis 2:15
4. Genesis 2:17
5. Genesis 2:17
6. Genesis 2:18
7. Genesis 2:19

**Conclusions:** We would note from the above scriptures in Genesis, chapter two, God provided:

1. pleasant atmosphere/surroundings;
2. food;
3. work;
4. guidelines of behavior;
5. specific punishment for disobedience;
6. companionship;
7. opportunity to express himself.

Throughout the above pattern of parental duties we see the wonderful love of God. Love that provides, love that employs both body and soul, love that gives, love that commands, love that punishes disobedience, love that wins.

## **GOD'S ESTABLISHED ORDER FOR PARENTING**

### **1. TEACHING THE WORD**

**Do first things first.** Having an understanding of the parental duties established by God in His Word, Where do you begin in parenting your children? From the following passages we see where God began with His son, Adam, and also, with His children Israel.

**Genesis 2:16-17**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-1**

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

**Psalm 119:11**

**Psalm 119:105**

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Conclusion:** We would note from the above Scriptures that before a child can be expected to behave properly he must be diligently taught proper behavior according to God's Word, with heavy, repetitious emphasis on the "Thou shalt nots." The word diligently means carefully and STEADILY. He needs to be instructed in the ways of God. Proper behavior comes through planting the Word of God in the heart of the child.

"...fathers. bring them up in the nurture and admonition (*thou shalt nots*) of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

This has to do with instructing them in righteousness, admonishing, and correcting disobedience.

How soon should we begin to instruct our children in the ways of godliness from the Word of God?

## **Isaiah 28:9**

Who has the primary responsibility for instructing the children in the ways of God?

## **Ephesians 6:4**

## **Isaiah 38:19**

These Scriptures seem to bear witness that the responsibility for the teaching of the children is laid upon the father. This is true because he is the head of the house. HOWEVER, this does not mean the mother is relieved of her responsibility as her husband's helper in the instruction of their children in the ways of God.

## **Genesis 2:18**

## **1 Timothy 5:14**

## **2 Timothy 1:5**

So while the father is responsible and must bear the burden of the teaching of his children, the mother undergirds his efforts with suitable help.

How important is the responsibility to teach your children in the Word of God?

## **Deuteronomy 11:18-21**

## **1 Samuel 3:11-14**

## **Jeremiah 35:5-19**

**Conclusions:** we would note from the above Scriptures that God will PUNISH the parents who do not obey his Word concerning the teaching, training and controlling of their children, even as He did Eli. However, He

will BLESS the parents who obey his Word and bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, even as he blessed the Rechabites.

## **2. ADMINISTRATING PUNISHMENT (correction)**

What is the proper punishment for disobedience?

Genesis 2:17

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 10:13

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 23:12-14

Ephesians 6:4a

Note: The word "beat" in Proverbs 23:12-14 means to overcome or a stroke or blow applied many times not with brutality but with persistence until the child is overcome and conquered.

**Conclusions:** We would note from the above Scriptures that proper punishment/correction for disobedience includes:

1. setting boundaries for behavior;
2. specifying that for disobedience the rod of correction will be applied to the child's rear until there is evidence of repentance;
3. immediate punishment/correction.

**What does correct punishment accomplish?**

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 23:14

Proverbs 29:15

Psalms 119:67

Proverbs 29:17

**Conclusions:** We would note from the above Scriptures that proper punishment/correction:

1. Drives the foolishness out of the child;
2. Keeps hope alive by bringing child back under control;

3. Delivers/rescues child's soul from death;
4. Gives wisdom to the child; and
5. Restores rest and delight to parents.

### **3. PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND TEACHING THE JOY OF WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Except a child be taught to work and to assume responsibility at the earliest possible age and to continue in it, he will not walk in that way when he is grown.

**Proverbs 22:6**

Consequently, children who are not taught to work and assume responsibility become rebellious and demand what they have been raised to expect: **SOMETHING FOR NOTHING**. They become bitterly unhappy and insecure, knowing in their heart that their parents are directly responsible for this dilemma. As a result they turn to rioting, rebellion, sedition, disloyalty, drugs etc and etc. They are worthless to themselves, their home, their country and to their God.

God did not intend for children to grow up in this manner for he repeatedly exhorts man to work and labor and not be idle.

**What does work accomplish?**

**Proverbs 19:25**

**1 Timothy 5:13**

**Ecclesiastes 10:181**

**Thessalonians 4:11-12**

**Psalms 128:1-2**

**Proverbs 13:11**

**Psalms 104:23-24**

**Proverbs 12:11**

**Ecclesiastes 2:24**

**Proverbs 10:4**

**Ecclesiastes 3:13**

**Proverbs 14:23**

**Ezekiel 16:49**

**Conclusions:** We would note from the above Scriptures that work:

1. provides ones food;
2. gives wealth and riches;
3. keeps one busy (idleness is the devil's workshop)
4. makes a person happy.

**RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH**

God our Father has given us His perfect example parenthood in His Word and in His acts toward us.

Therefore, "BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES."