

## Immediate Family Relationships - Children - Part 3

- I. Review - Raising kids
  - A. Entire goal is to give them the proper valuation of God
    1. To know the truths of His character, His Word - God's Heritage
    2. We do this through
      - a) **Knowing/experiencing** God ourselves
      - b) **Disciplining** and **Training** them in way that **does not discourage or embitter**  
  
***Ephesians 6:4**, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*
  - B. Discipline - Three main element of discipline
    1. Establishing a set of rules, structure, belief system
    2. Training in that - practice, exercising, instructing
    3. Punishment for violation, infraction, transgression
  - C. Cannot separate discipline from training they go hand in hand
  - D. Discipline is the tool we use to train our children in spiritual/earthly authority
    1. Takes many forms - Shepherding a Child's heart p. 84
      - a) Discipline does not equal spanking
      - b) Spanking has it's place but it isn't the sum total of it.
      - c) Much controversy over spanking so I want to deal with it briefly
        - (1) Shepherding a Child's Heart - p.153-156
    2. Need leadership of Holy Spirit - we are not smart enough
  - E. Type of discipline changes as our children age and mature

## F. General guideline

### 1. Infancy - 4yrs

- a) Do it because I say - Trust me
- b) Disobedience always reaps a consequence
  - (1) spankings very effective
  - (2) time outs can work but often have to be backed up with spankings
  - (3) spankings don't have to be severe rather consistent - but need to be unpleasant
  - (4) Of course teach and train as you go and as led by Spirit
    - (a) But don't try to convince them you're right
    - (b) Unhealthy to believe they need to understand everything in order to obey

### 2. 4yrs to 11yrs

- a) Do it because God says it - more training and thought processes come into play
- b) Disobedience always reaps a consequence
  - (1) Consequences do not need to be as simple and cut and dried as in first stage
    - (a) Spankings still work, but many other things do too
    - (b) Relying too heavily on spanking in this stage can backfire on us in the next
- c) This stage is our most effective and greatest opportunity for training
  - (1) They have such sweet open spirits, they don't think we are stupid, they think we know everything and will listen to us
  - (2) They haven't noticed yet that we are flawed and they totally trust us
  - (3) This is such an amazing time in our parent/child relationship
  - (4) take advantage of it to lay a strong and deep foundation in the Word
    - (a) the storm is coming and we want their house to stand
  - (5) Their hearts and minds are wide open - get over yourself and get busy

### 3. 12yrs to adult

- a) What kind of adult do you want to be - Whom will you serve
- b) They know the standard - right from wrong
- c) Big question is what will they choose
- d) Focus of this stage - personal responsibility
- e) Discipline in this stage is to bring appropriate consequences to personal choice
  - (1) Spanking is unproductive in this stage of life - counter productive to goals of this stage
    - (a) God respect
    - (b) Self respect, dignity of adulthood,
  - (2) Natural consequences are super effective
- f) Super important to begin to instill "You are becoming an adult"
  - (1) privilege vs. responsibility
  - (2) Help them to understand they are now laying a foundation for the life they will have
- g) Their hearts crave respect and trust
  - (1) don't always have proper understanding that it is earned not given
  - (2) our job = enlighten them
  - (3) shame and guilt don't inspire
  - (4) Think nurture and admonition
  - (5) Most kids in this stage are becoming increasingly aware of their world around them
  - (6) They are super insecure at this point.
  - (7) We have the impossible (with man but possible with God) challenge of building them up while pointing out reality
  - (8) Tough, tough, tough - God help us!!! - He will and He covers our mistakes

- h) Many get to this stage and think - oh, they are more independent I am more free
  - i) Couldn't be more wrong
  - j) This stage is the most time consuming and emotionally draining of any stage to date
  - k) The stakes are higher and the issues more complicated
  - l) Be available!!!! Be in tune with God!!!! Pray!!!!
- G. Regardless of the stage discipline requires wisdom
- H. Let's close by looking as how to get wisdom

### **Know that wisdom is there to be had - it comes from God**

***Proverbs 2:6***, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

***1 Kings 4:29***, "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore."

***Proverbs 1:20***, "Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice..."

***Psalms 51:6***, "Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart."

***Colossians 2:2-4***, "...which is Christ,<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments."

### **Ask**

***James 1:5***, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

## **Practice the fear of the Lord**

**Psalm 111:10**, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”

## **Obey**

**Deuteronomy 4:5-7**, “See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>6</sup> Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ <sup>7</sup> For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?”

## **Number our days**

**Psalm 90:12**, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

## **Be humble**

**Proverbs 11:2**, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”

## **Take advice, listen to instruction**

**Proverbs 13:10**, “By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom.”

**Proverbs 19:20**, “Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”

### **Pursue wisdom**

***Proverbs 16:16***, “How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”

***Proverbs 17:24***, “The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.”

### **Do not simply trust in your own thinking**

***Proverbs 28:26***, “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.”

### **Understand that wisdom will cost you something**

***Proverbs 23:23***, “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”