

Parent-Child Relationship

Introduction-how do we know what's right when it comes to parenting?

GODISNOWHERE – Conclusions are dependent upon the assumptions we start with.

There are many voices. Which ones are right?

"Because I am a parent, I assume I'm qualified." This is the philosophy of most.

Who will decide on the way you will parent your children?

What is your philosophy of parenting?

What will your goals be as a parent?

Will most of your parenting knowledge and advice come from careful Biblical study or cultural clichés passed on to you?

If you want changes, then plan for them. A change of thinking is often needed.

What is the parent's responsibility in parenting?

Deuteronomy 6:5-9, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

Your children will become _____. They will act as _____. They will follow your _____.

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

How are you preparing for 25 years of parenting? (Actually, once a parent always a parent)

How long before you become a parent? This happens to almost everyone.

Will you parent the way your parents parented you? Why? Why not?

Read good books on parenting.

Attend parenting classes.

Work with children (to get a better understanding of children).

What is the child's job description in the parent-child relationship?

Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

What does it mean to obey?

What does it mean to honor?

What is a major issue in parenting?

The heart: *Proverbs 4:23*; "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life."

Who or what will control your child's heart?

What are some practical ways to guard the heart of your child?

Parenting styles: power-directed or freedom-oriented.

Three long range keys in parenting: (All 3 are needful)

1. How will you direct your children?

In what will you direct your children?

Who chooses what will be taught to your children?

Will both parents work outside the home? How will that affect your parenting?

Children/youth need to be taught.

Train up a child in the way he should go.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (*Proverbs 22:6*)

What does "in the way he should go" mean?

2. How will you correct your children?

How does God discipline His children"

_____ consequences.

_____ consequences.

3. How will you protect your children? (Philippians 4:8)

_____ Appetites – Discerning what controls your child's desires.

What children _____.

What children _____.

What children _____.

What children are _____.

"To sow an act, is to reap a tendency;
To sow a tendency is to reap a habit;
To sow a habit is to reap a character;
To sow a character is to reap a destiny."

"Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:17

_____ Relationships – Discerning who holds your child's heart.
Is socialization a Biblical or cultural concept?

What about:

Fools – Proverbs 13:20

Unbelievers – 2 Cor. 6:14-15

Immoral People – through the media

False Teachers – children cannot easily discern between false teaching and truth.

C.H. Spurgeon in his book "Spiritual Parenting" states: "Youth is susceptible to evil doctrine. Whether we teach young Christians truth or not, the devil will be sure to teach them error."

Spurgeon also stated, "If you teach the child wrongly, he believes you. If you teach him heresies, he will receive them. What you teach him now, he will never forget."

1 Cor. 15: 33 states, "Do not be deceived: bad company corrupts good morals."

As a parent, should I concern myself about those with whom my children spend a lot of time? Why or why not?

Can you think of a harmful influence or experience from your life that resulted from a childhood or youth friendship?

What practical steps can a family take to exercise positive and godly influences over their children and the children with whom they associate?

_____ Media – Discerning what captures your child's imagination.

What captures the child's imagination will feed their heart.

Media is the delivery system to nearly all forms of information: television, radio, the Internet, newspapers, magazines, CD's, DVD's, etc.

The tidal wave of information that washes over us is not neutral. It has an agenda behind it, and the children are standing right in its path.

What is the best offense against the overwhelming bombardment of sensuality in advertising, television, and movies?

How many TV shows, from recent history, can you name that shows a traditional family portrayed in a positive light? What dysfunctions are displayed in the popular shows and how are they treated?

What is the agenda, behind the advertising that bombards us daily?

What do you watch that you wouldn't let your children watch? Why?

If you tell your children TV is bad, but you watch "it", your word becomes questionable. Will you have to adjust what you watch on TV when you have children?

If you watch "bad things" on TV your word becomes void.

Some say a little bit of bad media can be good for children to help them learn discernment. That is like telling your kids that a "little sin" is all right now and then.

Some would say that parents who desire to protect their children from evil are "sheltering them from reality" or being overprotective. What would you say?

Questions to consider

What qualities do you want in your husband/wife in the raising your children?

Do you have those qualities?

Who will decide which church your child will attend?

What is the difference in believing that the child is born a "blank slate" or as one bearing the image of God?