

Discipleship The Heart of Parenting

Teaching I: Training for Godliness

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

I. Call to Train Our Children (Teens) for Godliness

A. Training begins with Parents

We are first called to train ourselves for godliness.

B. Training Extends to Our Children (Teens).

We are called to “train them to train themselves” for godliness.

C. Responsibility to Train

1. The Bible gives us clear instruction on our responsibility to train our children.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

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

2. This takes **intentionality**.
3. The Bible tells us that there is an effect of this training on our children.

II. Some Effects of Training

A. They might Know and Fear God

Deuteronomy 6:10-15 - *“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve*

and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

B. Warn Them about Sin and Temptation.

Proverbs 5:7-8 - *And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,*

C. Prepare Them for Future Godliness

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

III. Three Areas in Which We Can Seek to Train our Children for Godliness

A. Training in the Bible

1. The Bible is for everyone and is a means of sanctification.

Acts 20:32- *And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, **which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.***

2 Tim 3:16-17- *All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.***

Hebrews 4:12- *For the word of God is **living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

Psalms 119:9-16 - *How can a young man **keep his way pure**? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that **I might not sin against you.** Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

“The Bible is the primary instrumental cause of your sanctification.” -Mike Bullmore

2. Practical Ways to Train Them in the Word:

- a. Read with them
- b. Journal
- c. Weekly 'dates'
- d. Evaluate discussion for warning signs to adjust

Take care not to go 'first' to doing more or needing to change practice, rather, help them question their motivation.

B. Training in Prayer

1. Prayer is communion with God not simply a ritual.
2. Goal of Training in Prayer:
 - a. God hears us
 - b. God interacts with us
 - c. God is near and present
3. Examples
 - a. Genesis 18:22-33: Abraham & Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - b. 2 Samuel 12:15-23: David and his son.
 - c. Psalms
 - d. James 5:13-18 - *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

C. Teach them to hold in tension God's transcendence and God's immanence.

Romans 8:31-32 - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

1. Nobody can touch God because of who He is, and yet, He interacts with us! God is eager to bless us and eager to give us grace and eager to hear us. We are His children.

Mike Bullmore's devotional example with his children. **First sentence starts with "God" and the second is "I".**

2. Not too late!

IV. Stewarding Teaching

A. Learning to listen and apply.

1. Examples:
 - a. Old Testament Prophets
 - b. Ezra in Nehemiah 8:8-9: *They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." **For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.***
 - c. Jesus
 - d. Peter at Pentecost
 - e. Paul tells Timothy to: preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:2) and to watch his life and his teaching (doctrine) because it will save both himself and his hearers (1 Tim. 4:16).
 - f. Hebrews
2. Possible Ways to Do This:
 - a. Intentional follow-up
 - b. Have them take notes
 - c. Show them your notes
 - d. Revisit the text of the sermon/teaching

B. 3 temptations:

1. Got it wired
2. Done okay
3. I've failed

Never finished parenting and training!