

Series: Standing on the Promises

**WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT
DEPART FROM IT
PROVERBS 22:6**

Text: Proverbs 22:6

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

Introduction:

Last week we began looking at the Conditional Promises from God's Word regarding the family.

Wisdom is promised as we fear or reverence the Lord.

Psalm 25:14

¹⁴ *The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.*

We consider this week another conditional promise for the family.

Read Text:

Proverbs 22:6

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

The promise is found in the second half of this verse – “when he is old, he will not depart from it.

The prerequisite or condition is that we “train up a child in the way that he should go.”

Let’s understand that the devil doesn’t want you to listen to this message. It is Satan’s plan to fracture families, because the devil knows that if he can ruin us at home, he can ruin us.

As I look around, I see that the homes of America are really a spiritual disaster.

There is approximately 100,000 children in prison today.

Four out of ten children live in a broken home, a home that has been broken by divorce.

Also, 65 out of every 1,000 children between 7 and 11 have received psychiatric help.

Approximately one million girls in America this year will conceive out of wedlock and bear a child. Little girls between the ages of 12 and 17, 1,000,000 of them

between 12 and 17, and that does not count those that will be aborted.

One in five children uses drugs at least twice a week. I'm not talking about medicine. I'm talking about illicit drugs.

Ten million minors have venereal disease in America, and suicide is becoming a problem among children. It's alarming. One statistic says that between 10 and 15 percent of all children have seriously considered suicide or attempted it.

Some of them as young as 7 and 8 years of age.

Juvenile delinquency is increasing seven times faster than our population.

No doubt we all want our children to grow up and be productive citizen. Have families that are respectable.

The Bible promises us that when they are old they will not depart from it.

Let's consider this prerequisite and promise this morning.

Note:

1. COMMENCES WITH CHILDHOOD

This training commences in childhood.

Notice again what the Scripture says:

“Train up a child.”

The word train has the idea of dedicating.

As a matter of fact, it has been used in Hebrew literature, the same word, to mean, "dedicating."

Dedicate a child in the way that he should go.

Have you dedicated your child to the Lord?

Why does the Bible say train up a child? Why doesn't it say train up a teenager?

I'll tell you why. There are several factors:

Note:

A. The Correction Factor

It is much easier to correct your children when they are young.

It is much easier to steer them when they are young.

You can steer water through a ditch easier than a river.

You can take a little twig, and you can make it grow however you wish; but it's hard to bend an oak tree.

You can correct a child when he is a child; but, once he gets to be a man, it's going to be very hard to change him.

Note Proverbs 19:18:

Proverbs 19:18

¹⁸ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Note the expression: “while there is hope.”

Someone will come to a pastor for counseling, and they say, Pastor, I just don't know what to do with my son.

- He's on drugs.
- He's a drunk.
- He's lazy.
- He's dishonest.
- He's rebellious.

He's into this; he's into that, I can't do anything with him.

What do you think I ought to do Pastor?

The problem is that they are starting 16 years and 200 pounds too late.

The Bible says, "Chasten your son while there is hope.

Note also Proverbs 13:24:

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Note the words, "Chasteneth him betimes."

The word betimes latterly means "early."

That is when he is young.

When they are young is the easiest time to correct them.

Some say, "they don't need correcting; they're little angels."

They may be, but as their legs get longer their wings get shorter.

They are not the little angels that you really think that they are. And, the time for correction, the time that you begin, is with a child. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way that he should go." ([Proverbs 22:6](#))

It is the best time for correction.

Note not only the Correction Factor but also:

B. The Communication Factor

This is the best time for communication.

Little children have a great ability to learn.

Why?

Children have a great curiosity factor.

They ask questions like: "Why Daddy?" "Why Mommy?"

"What is this or that?"

In God's instruction to the children of Israel He told them when their children ask what these stones mean they were to tell them.

This is the way God has set it up.

That is the way you are to teach.

We need to start early, because it is the time—early is the time for correction and communication.

Note also:

C. The Conversion Factor

We should teach our children to pray at a young age.

It's much easier for them to trust the Lord in salvation if they have learned early to talk with the Lord in prayer.

It troubles me to hear people play down childhood conversions.

It's not wrong to lead a child to Christ.

We are not to manipulate them but we can lead them to the Lord.

We are reminded by the Lord that we are to become like a little child when it comes to salvation.

Luke 8:15-17

¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. ¹⁶ No man, when

he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Several great preachers were convicted of their sin and came to the Lord at a young age.

Matthew Henry was saved at the age of 11.

Jonathan Edwards was saved at the age of 8.

Charles Spurgeon was saved at the age of 12.

Now, I'm not saying that any child ought to be led to Christ before he has the comprehension, and the knowledge, and the conviction of sin.

But, we ought to train up a child in the way that he should go.

We should commence this training in childhood.

Note also:

2. CORRECT WITH CONSISTENCY

As parents we need to be consistent in our correction.

The word train is a bigger word than teach. So many people think it means, "teach," but it literally means, "train."

It also carries the idea of correction or discipline.

Why are we to discipline or correct our children?

A. Because You Love Them

Most of the reasons are found in this book.

Note:

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

He that spares the rod hates his child.

Some parents feel as if they can't discipline their children because they love them too much.

The truth is you don't love them at all but rather you hate them.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 12:6:

If you love your child, you're going to correct your child.

Another reason we are to discipline or correct our children is:

B. Because of the Nature of Human Nature

What is the nature of human nature?

Note again in Proverbs 22:

Proverbs 22:15

¹⁵ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

The word foolishness does not mean, "silliness," that they like to play little games—that's not what it means at all. It means "wickedness,"

What does it mean, when it says, "The rod of reproof will drive it far from him?" (Proverbs 22:15)

Another reason we are to discipline or correct our children is:

C. Because You Might Want to Save Yourself Disgrace

Note again Proverbs 29:15

Proverbs 29:15

¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Note the words – “a child left to himself”

This expression latterly means a child “put away.”

And a child left to himself bringeth his mother shame.

Note also verse 17 of Proverbs 29:

Proverbs 29:17

¹⁷ Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

The choice is simple – shame or delight.

A child corrected consistently brings joy and delight.

Let me challenge each parent here today; stop trying to win a popularity contest with your children, and begin to plan for the future. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward"—the Bible says—"it yieldeth

the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Hebrews 12:11

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Another reason and most importantly we are to discipline or correct our children is:

D. You May Save Their Soul From Hell

Note:

Proverbs 23:13-14

¹³ Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. ¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

When the Bible says, "beat him with a rod"—that sounds awful cruel. And, if you think I'm talking about child abuse, you're dead wrong.

The word rod here is not the idea of a club.

As a matter of fact the word literally means a branch or a switch or stick.

God built every child with a spanking place.

I feel that it's not good to strike a child with your bare hand.

Use some neutral instrument, so that your hand can be thought of as a hand of caressing and loving and so forth.

A child that doesn't learn to respect authority in the home is not going to respect authority in the school; he's not going to respect authority in the church; he's not going to respect governmental authority. The great major problem in America today is we have an unruly, unwashed generation that has no respect for authority—God's or anybody else's.

It begins with the lessons that we learn at home.

Now let's consider some rules for discipline.

1. Start Early

When should you begin to chastise a child, correct a child?

When they're old enough to knowingly and willingly disobey, then that's the time for you to knowingly and willingly to start.

2. Spanking Should Not Be the First Thing

A spanking is not the first thing—it's the last resort. You ought to talk first. You ought to reason first. You ought to warn first. You ought to instruct first. For example, in the Bible, the Lord Jesus said:

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

He rebukes, and then, He chastens.

Speaking ought to come before spanking.

3. Keep Your Word

There are all kinds of training, not just simply taking a rod after a child. But, on the other hand, if you've told a child, "if you do this, or if you do that, you're going to get a spanking," then keep your word.

We must be consistent and keep your word.

4. Administer the Punishment Promptly

Present punishment promptly but not angrily.

5. Training Correctly also Involves Being the Proper Example Yourself

6. Always Discipline in Love

Note again how our Heavenly Father disciplines us.

Hebrews 12:6

⁶ For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Never withhold your love as a form of punishment.

Never say, "You did wrong and I'm not going to have anything to do with you." "You did wrong—Daddy doesn't love you." "You did wrong—Mama doesn't love you."

Chasten the child, and then, sit down and cry with them, and hug them, and love them.

7. Always Work for Repentance

When you chastise a child, always work for repentance.

You're not getting even with the child.

You're trying to correct the child more than just outwardly; you're trying to correct the child inwardly.

Let me consider briefly one final thought:

4. CONTINUE WITH CONFIDENCE

If we do these things we can have confidence that
“When He Is Old, He Will Not Depart From It.”

It doesn't say he's going to come back. It says, that you can train him up, and there will be consistency, and the child will not go away in order that he might come back.

I know of no promise that the child is going to come back. He may, in the mercy of God; but that's not what this verse is talking about. God's Word says, if you do what God says to do, if you train them in the way that they should go—when they are old they'll not depart from it.

Close:

If we live our lives successful in the eyes of the world and fail to train our children we have not been a success but a failure.

But if you children love the Lord, no matter what happens we can say, Thank you Lord, it's been a life worth living.