

TRAIN UP A CHILD

PROVERBS 22:6

Text: Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 22:6

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

Introduction:

Children are a gift from the Lord.

Psalm 127:3

³Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward.

Proverbs 17:6

⁶Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

God gives us children to raise for His honor and glory.

It has been said that it would be helpful if children came with an instruction manual – They do it's called the Bible.

It is when we abandon Bible principles that we get ourselves into trouble.

He gives us guidelines in His Word for raising them.

God tells us how to design, direct, and discipline them.

Notice:

1. DIRECTIVE – TRAIN UP

This is made possible as we dedicate them to the Lord.

Illustration:

Hanna

1 Samuel 1:20-28

²⁰ Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD. ²¹ And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow. ²² But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. ²³ And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. ²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young. ²⁵ And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, *I am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: ²⁸ Therefore also I have lent him to the

LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

Notice this was a lifelong task. (vs. 28)

Understanding the seriousness of this gift that has been given to us and dedicating this gift (our children) back to God it brings into focus more clearly the importance of this directive.

Note:

- This training must not be the “border of the garment” training, which might easily be cut off.

Too many parents want to skirt the issue when it comes to design, direction and discipline of their children. Too many don’t want to go “overboard with thing.”

- It must be the priority throughout their life.

Begin as Hanna did again with the dedication of the child to God, and then train them as God’s child entrusted to your care.

- Ask for guidance from day to day.

Illustration: Samson’s parents

Judges 13:1-20

¹ And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. ² And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren, and bare not. ³ And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. ⁴ Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean *thing*: ⁵ For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. ⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance *was* like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he *was*, neither told he me his name: ⁷ But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean *thing*: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. ⁸ Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. ⁹ And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband *was* not with her. ¹⁰ And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the *other* day. ¹¹ And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, *Art* thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, *I am*. ¹² And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and *how* shall we do unto him? ¹³ And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. ¹⁴ She may not eat of any *thing* that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean *thing*: all that I commanded her let her observe. ¹⁵ And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee,

until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. ¹⁶ And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he *was* an angel of the LORD. ¹⁷ And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What *is* thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? ¹⁸ And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it *is* secret? ¹⁹ So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered *it* upon a rock unto the LORD: and *the angel* did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. ²⁰ For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on *it*, and fell on their faces to the ground.

Notice they ask how they were to order the child.

- Pray for them.
- Teach them to pray.
- Instruct them from God's Word.

2 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Note:

Unless you give your children principles you leave them utterly helpless.

Never has Scriptural training been more important than today. To defect here will result in many a young persons being tossed to and fro in every form of error; and the anxious attempt to set them right we will find ourselves trying to ‘build where there is no foundation, or rather, where there is not so much as ground to build upon.

Not only do we see a directive here we also see:

2. DIRECTIONS – “IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO”

Notice it says in the way he SHOULD go; not in the way he would go, or even wants or wishes to go.

Heaven and Hell are not more opposite than these two ways.

They are identified as the narrow and broad ways.

The broad in which every child is born walking.

A. This Training Involves Dedication

We have already consider the importance of this.

B. This Training Involves Discipleship

The more early the training, the more easy the work and the more encouraging the results.

Our character largely takes the form of that mold into which our early years were cast.

It is a proven fact that that which is learned early on is most resolutely retained.

It stands the friction of time with the least injury.

If the crooked shoots of self-will and disobedience are not cut off, their rapid growth and rapidly growing strength will greatly increase the future difficulty of bending them.

We may begin the training work too late, but we can scarcely begin too soon.

This training is indeed a work of watchful concern, attended with painful, and often long-protracted, exercise of faith and patience.

This training not only includes direction, but also:

Ephesians 6:4

⁴And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Note:

This is written to fathers – men you have a responsibility in this.

- Nurture

The idea here is

1) The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body

2) Correcting mistakes and curbing passions.

3) Instruction which aims at increasing virtue

- Admonition

1) The idea is to teach them what God says.

It begins with Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be

as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

This training begins in the home. The church is not to do it for you.

The church alone is not enough.

Illustration:

Often parents teach their children one thing at home and then expect the church to straighten them out.

Your children should know who Moses, Abraham, Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Caleb and Joshua are.

Follow up on their Sunday School lesson.

Use the website with them and help them memorize the weekly memory verse.

C. This Training Involves Discipline

Proverbs 29:15

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

Teach them that misbehavior is not acceptable.

There are two tools that we have:

- A Rod – A switch
- Reproof – Punishment by other means

Proverbs 22:15

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

Note:

- There is a proper time to spank
- There is a proper place to spank (in secret and in the spot designed for it)
- There is a proper way to spank (not out of anger)

D. This Training Involves Directing Them

Just as God has a plan for your life, He also has a plan for your children's life.

- The question is not "What do you want to do"
- The question is "What do you think God wants you to do".
- Direct them in God's will.
- Direct them in with Godly wisdom.

- Help them make right choices.

E. This Training Involves A Detachment

Mark 10:7

⁷For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

There should come a time of leaving.

Let them go.

One of the greatest causes for problems in marriages is the mother-in-law who will not let go of her son or daughter.

Move on. Now I'm not talking about abandonment, but there is a time you have to let them go and trust Lord with them.

That leads me to the final thought:

3. DIVINE PROMISE – “WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT”

Thought:

The man will be as the child is trained.

Sometime the fruit is immediate, uniform, and permanent to the end. But often “the bread cast upon the waters is not found till after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

¹ Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Yet the fruit, though late, will be certain.

The child may depart when he is young. But when he is old and smothered with conviction he will come to himself.

His conscience will disturb his pleasure and embitter the sweetness which he found or thought that he found in his sins.

The remembrance of his father’s house will ring in his heart and the prodigal then comes home with shame in his face, tears in his eyes, and godly sorrow in his heart.

Luke 15:17-20

¹⁷ And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰ And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Close:

You may say the promise is not fulfilled. It's because the duty has not been performed.

Never does God give a command, but he will give his sincere servant grace to obey it. The duty is not therefore to lie down in despondency, or even in heartless prayer, but to "go forward" in painful obedience.

Exodus 14:15

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

With such a plain promise — the promise of "him who cannot lie, or repent," and who will be true to every tittle of his word (Numbers 23:19) — need we ever be cast down? — "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" (Genesis 18:14.) Cultivate then the exercise of parental faith; trusting, not to what we see, but to what God has engaged; like our father Abraham, "against hope, believing in hope." (Romans 4:18-20 .)

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Genesis 18:14

¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Romans 4:18-20

¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Expect the fulfillment of the parental promise, as confidently as any other free promise of the gospel.

Exercise faith in the full energy of Christian diligence, and in the patience of Christian hope.

Leave God to accomplish his own gracious will.

This is the reward of faith to those, who make the salvation of the soul the primary object of education. But the mass of mankind deal with their children, as if they were born only for the world, with nothing to look to after death. Wholly leaving out the mighty question — the great end of life — 'How this or that matter affects their soul' — the only thought is — 'Must they not be like others, to make their way in the world?' Thus they fearlessly bring them into contact with the evil around them, set their feet in the "broad road of destruction," and bid them go on with the rest. In all important matters they educate them consistently for time, not for eternity. They concentrate their grand interest on matters, in which the soul has no concern;

accomplishments or scholarship, not godliness; refinement of taste and manners, not soundness of faith. Need we say, that this is an education without God, without his promise, without rest? The parents of such children, and the children of such parents, are alike objects of compassion. Eternity will bring a solemn account to both.