

Proverbs: Parenting

Community Group Questions

1. What has been your biggest challenge as a parent?
2. What are some tips for guiding your children that you could share with others?
3. What are some tips for disciplining your children that you could share with others?

Last week our last point on what brings happiness was leaving a legacy and I told you that this week we were going to learn what the Proverbs say about parenting.

Let me start by saying...not only parents parent. Meaning even if you do not have children of your own you can have a hand in passing down wisdom from God's word to the next generation. Maybe you teach Sunday school, serve in the youth ministry, serve in a children's ministry or are an aunt, uncle or grandparent.

If you know that someday you will be parent...pay extra close attention because you will need this in the future for your own children. And if you are still a child in your parents home...pay attention because you will learn the reasons why your parents are doing what they are doing.

The world has much to say about parenting...Maine types of parenting.

Authoritarian-Makes the rules and says "because I said so" Punish

Authoritative-Makes the rules, but teaches the child why rules are important...rather than punish there are consequences

Permissive- laid back, more of a friend type, not much discipline

Uninvolved- neglect, not sure what kids are doing etc.

Today we will learn about a Biblical Parent and their two main roles are to provide guidance and institute discipline. We will also learn the reasons these two roles are extremely important to your children.

A Biblical Parent...

Provide Guidance The Proverbs are about being guided into wisdom and we read in...*Proverbs 1:8 "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,*

Right out of the gate the Proverbs remind us that this is a Biblical Parent talking to his son. Solomon to his son.

Why is providing guidance so important?

Beneficial to the child

Proverbs 1:9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck"

The wisdom that is passed down will be a benefit to the child

Matthew Henry "The instructions and laws of parents, carefully observed and lived up to, shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, such an ornament as is, in the sight of God, of great price, and will make the child look as great as those that wear gold chains about their necks." The things learned will be badges of first-rate honors; we should value them, and be ambitious of them.

We need to realize as parents and especially as Christian parents our first role is to make sure we are providing Godly guidance for our children because this will be valuable for them and bring honor to them as well as us, but our priority is them.

How are you doing that? Sure maybe you are guiding your children in schoolwork, in life skills, in sports or in hobbies but what are you doing to guide them spiritually?

Here are some steps you can take?

-Bring them to Sunday School, youth group and Kids Club

- If they are very young start doing daily devotions before bed
- If they are older encourage them to do personal devotions
- Pray with them before bed or school and about issues they are having and for other people and issues.

As a parent the church is here to assist you but we cant do the job that only you can do.

The second reason why providing guidance is important is it...

Gives a foundation to return to...*Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Here again we see this is where the Proverbs show that they are trueisms. Because we know that a person's relationship with the Lord has to do with their heart. We cannot force our faith on our children but bringing them up in the faith is not forcing it on them it is being responsible Godly parents. What happens when we bring our children up to know the Lord we are establishing a foundation for them and giving them the foundation to make a their own choices.

It would be ridicules for a parent to say "I don't want to bring my child up in the faith because I don't want them to feel like I am pressuring or forcing them to believe what I believe". If we believe the GOSPEL is truth we would be in error not to teach it to our children and guess what...it is their personal choice trust Jesus.

This verse is also an encouragement to say the Biblical training of your children is a seed for their faith and will not go to waste and they will always have the foundation you taught them.

You might be asking this question...I trained up my children but now that they are older they are not walking with the Lord? Well first off we don't know how old "old" is, and second you still did the right

thing, it does not make God's promises invalid. God calls us to faithfully parent our children the way he has mapped out.

The second role of a **Biblical Parent** is to...

Institute discipline - A child will never say, "you know what I need...a little discipline"

Discipline becomes difficult for parents because we all want peace in our homes and children do not like to be disciplined. But the truth is as parents we have responsibility to discipline our children whether they or we like it.

Why is discipline so important?

Before we find out why discipline is so important we are going to see this term "rod" come up when we study it in the Proverbs. In Biblical times the rod was used as a form of physical discipline for people. We also see that a shepherd would use his staff/rod to guide the sheep and beat off the wolves.

So what are we to do with this concept of discipline being physical...or as most in our culture would ask...should spank my child or not at appropriate ages? Here is my counsel on this...each child is different and respond to different kinds discipline and if what you are doing is not working you need to be a student of your child and find out what works. The bottom line is that discipline is your job and it needs to be happening and it needs to happening at every age.

Discipline... is important because...

Shows love Do you want to communicate love to your child? One of the best ways to do that is discipline them. *Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*

Don't fall into the trap of thinking I want my kids to think I am cool so

I will not discipline them, I want my kids to like me so I won't discipline them...it does not work.

If you do not discipline your child when they are doing wrong the Scriptures are saying it is like you hate them.

Notice also in this passage it says "*careful to discipline*", that means when we discipline we have to carefully consider, what discipline works the best for each child, their feelings, reasonable consequences and how this will show them love. The last thing you want to do is discipline out of anger, hate or bitterness.

We want to communicate to our children that we love them and we also want to protect them...discipline also..

Provides safety *Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.*

This verse reminds us that there is hope for a child that has parents that protect them by disciplining. Think about this...what do you do if your toddler runs into the street? Grab them, if they continue to try you discipline for their safety.

Everyone agrees on a situation like that but what about when they are older and disobey your wishes of not hanging out with certain peers that you know are not good for them. As a parent you need to discipline their disobedience to your wishes to protect them from harm or going down the wrong path.

Some parents fear that they will hurt their relationship with their children if they discipline but listen to...

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

This verse reminds us that the discipline will not hurt them or your

relationship, but lack of discipline will can have great consequences and in some cases physical death.

Not only does discipline show love and protect it also...

Corrects folly *Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*

In life we know that disciplined study in any area increases your knowledge in that area. If you want to pursue a career in a certain field you have to learn the field and that takes disciplining yourself so that you learn things that you did not know.

Truth be told...children learn about life from their parents and when they make bad decisions, wrong decisions or dumb decisions it is the parents job to set their path straight or in other words correct them.

Listen to...*Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.*

When you discipline there should always be a conversation because you want to impart wisdom. Remember we are not making them pay for the decisions we are disciplining so they don't repeat it.

When you impart that wisdom the next thing discipline does is it...

Restores Peace...We can all agree that we want peaceful homes and even though you may think you will have peace by not disciplining your children, you are wrong. Discipline actually brings peace.

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Eventually your child grows to see that the boundaries that you are setting for them are set for them to thrive in their relationship with the Lord, other people and to be successful in life.

The Proverbs remind us that a Biblical parent provides guidance and institutes discipline.