

Raising Children: Target, Seasons & Means

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up {ἐκτρέφω} in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Raising Children: What is the target?

What targets do you observe parents aiming for??

- Parents are _____, aiming their children like _____ at the enemies of God (Psalm 127)

- Parents disciple _____ of God and _____ of neighbors (Mt 22:34-39; Deut 6:4-8)

What are ways Scripture describes love for God?

- Aim for _____ in Christ (Eph 4:11-16; 5:1-2; 6:1-4)

What aroma do you smell in the homes of our church families?

1. Self-government

- Self-_____ (Prov 12:16, 23; 13:16; 14:16; 21:20; 22:15; 26:11; 29:11, 20)

- _____-minded (1 Tim 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2; 2 Tim 4:5; 1 Thess 5:6, 8; 1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; 1 Cor 15:34)

- Master one's _____ (Jn 8:39-47; 1 John 2:15-17; Rom 6:12; 13:14; Mark 4:18-19; Gal 5:16-17, 24; Eph 2:3; 4:20-24; Col 3:5; 1 Tim 6:6-10; 2 Tim 2:22; 3:6; 4:3; Titus 2:11-12 ; 3:3; 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11; 4:1-3; 2 Peter 1:4; 3:3; James 1:14-15; Jude 16)

In what ways do people often struggle to exercise self-control?

What are the “obvious” passions? What are “lurking” passions?

Are you familiar with the idea of “ordered passions”? How does God want us to order our passions?

2. Responsible = accepting the _____ of one's _____ (Prov 17:16; 6:6-11;24:30-34)

- Example: Moses, Aaron, and the golden calf (Exodus 32)
- Joe Rigney: Abdication of responsibility > Idolatry > Blame-shifting and making excuses

What do you avoid doing?

What makes you flinch, or react?

What excuses are well-worn pathways for you to travel?

Who or what thwarts your efforts to do the things you want to do?

3. Wisdom (Prov 3:5-8; 10:21; 18:2; James 3:13-18)

- Begins with God's _____ in a _____
- Wisdom requires _____, though it is not sufficient
- A wise person has not just knowledge, but also _____
- A wise person resolves to _____ for the greatest good

What does a lack of wisdom look like? What are biblical terms for such individuals?

What do you make of the four components of wisdom?

How do kids learn wisdom?

Raising Children: Sons vs. Daughters

- Overall goal is maturity in Christ (*Christian* character)...

What are the differences between men and women?

What do sex differences mean for raising sons vs. raising daughters?

Raising Children: Four Seasons {Rev Bradley; Ted Tripp}

- Context: God's covenant _____

1. Authority (Infancy to Childhood, 0 to 4): _____

2. Instruction (Childhood to Teenager, 4 to 12): responsibility, character, _____

3. Coaching (Teenager to Adult, 12 to 19): _____; wise _____

4. Friendship (Adulthood, 20+)

What might be missing from this approach to raising children across successive development seasons?

To what degree are there elements of authority, instruction, coaching, friendship across the seasons?

How does the idea of Christian discipleship, as a parallel for raising children, impact your relationship with God the Father?

How might you advise parents who have regrets about how they raised children in earlier stages?

Parenting: Means

1. Imitation (1 Cor 4:14-21; 10:31-11:1; Eph 5:1; 1 Thess 1:2-8; 2 Thess 3:6-12; Php 3:12-4:1; Lk 6:40; Heb 13:7; 3 John 11-12)

- More of life is _____ than _____

2. Instruct & Teach (Deut 6:6-9; Eph 6:4)

- Both _____ or _____

3. Command & Exhort (1 Th 2:9-12; e.g. Heb 10:19-25)

- Parents do exercise _____, but

4. Warn & Admonish (1 Cor 4:14-21)

- See _____ or _____

5. Correct, Rebuke, Discipline (James 5:19-20; Prov 29:1, 15, 17; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Heb 12)

- Deliver one's _____ after someone has already sinned

6. Reward (2 Cor 5:10; Mt 25:23; Mt 5:2-19)

- The _____ and the stick

What is the outcome of imbalances in these forms of biblical communication? What have you observed?

Do you lean towards one or two primary means of parenting? Which is easiest to do? Hardest?

What are the most important virtues you want to model for the kids in your life??

Parenting: Educational Options

- Five factors to consider:

	Public	Private	Homeschool
1. The _____ of education			
2. The _____ of education			
3. Social _____			
4. _____			
5. Family _____			

Biblical Discipline

- Theses on discipline from Hebrews 12 [from Andy Nasally, *Training Children for Their Good*]
 1. God _____ his children (5-7, 10)
 2. God disciplines _____ his children (6-8)
 3. God disciplines _____ his children (6, 8)
 4. Discipline is _____: God disciplines his children for their good (10-11)
 5. Discipline seems unpleasant and _____ (11)
 6. God's children should _____ God's discipline (5, 7, 9)
 7. God's disciplining _____ to human parents' disciplining (5, 7-10)

- Levels of discipline [see handout from Paul Wegner]:
 1. Teach
 2. Warn
 3. Enforce

- Types of discipline:
 - Natural consequences
 - Logical consequences
 - Restitution consequences

- Common objections to physical discipline:
 1. Does “the rod” represent discipline but exclude physical discipline (Prov 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15)?
 2. Is spanking a form of physical and psychological child abuse?
 3. Do the proverbs about using the rod refer to young men rather than children?
 4. Is spanking an obsolete part of the Mosaic law-covenant in the Old Testament?
 5. Is spanking antithetical to the gospel?

What elements should be present in the “how” of using the rod of correction?

What are frequently asked questions, concerns with discipline?

What is hard for parents when it comes to teaching, warning, corrective discipline?

What would you say to someone who said that spanking is an outmoded, abusive concept that robs children of their dignity?

How does the rod provide valuable opportunities to help children see their need for Christ?
