

Training Your Children to Rebel

Introduction

If I teach my kids to reject God I will be guilty before God for the part I played. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke it's recorded that Jesus said, "*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*"

Rebellion is my child's sin. Training my child to rebel is mine.

Does that mean that every person with a rebellious child is guilty of training them to rebel? Not necessarily. You and I *could* be the 5th Parent - leading our children with the only parenting style that glorifies God - and still have our kids rebel.

It's happened to God every day since Adam ate the forbidden fruit. And as our reviewer noted, God is "*the ultimate model of a **perfect** parent.*" Clearly He's not to blame for his children's rebellion. But, we're not God, and I think it'd be foolish to exonerate ourselves too flippantly. It's easy to blame our children for their rebellion because they are to blame. But it's significantly harder to see the fault in us. And that's why we're talking about it today. We need to premeditatedly examine our parenting to see if we're worthy of a millstone necklace.

I. Do Not Discipline Your Children

- Lest we read into this our own misunderstandings, the Greek word translated "discipline" includes consequences, but also reaches far beyond mere correction.
- The Enhanced Strong's Dictionary says this, Discipline is "*the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose commands and admonitions, reproof and punishment). It also includes the training and care of the body.*"
- Discipline embodies the broader concept of *discipling*. And that's what we want to be — intentional, premeditated, disciple-making parents.
- We need to educate our kids in the things of God. We need to train them to be a servant of Christ. We must cultivate their minds and morals in line with the Word of God. We must also command and admonish, reprove and correct.
- Unless, of course, you want your child to rebel. In that case, do not discipline her.

II. Do Not Instruct Them In The Lord.

- The word translated instruction at the end of Ephesians 6:3 is the Greek word *nouteteo* we studied in episode 4. It's one of the most dynamic ways we've been commanded to influence our kids and the greater body of Christ.
- But not only does Paul tell us to admonish our kids, he goes further to say, "in the Lord." Just in case we forgot.
- But if you want your child to rebel, I recommend you instruct them in the Failure Philosophies of the world instead of God's Truth.
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- We spent so much time talking about the Failure Philosophies the world crams into its movies in episode 14. In our 23rd and 24th shows we looked at the Failure Philosophies our culture preaches in its music. We talked all through the month of February about the twisted beliefs the world has about sexuality, emotions, and love. There is so much wicked curriculum out there, I recommend you let your child fill their brains with all the popular music, movies, and books.
- That will do more to encourage their rebellious heart than anything else I know.
- But that's only if you want them to rebel.

III. Don't be an example of submission.

- Tim Challies list of ways to provoke your children included
 - Be good instead of holy
 - Be hypocritical instead of authentic
 - Be doubtful instead of confident
 - Be fearful instead of bold
 - Be angry instead of patient
 - Be aloof instead of involved
 - Be proud instead of humble
- All of these are heart issues which fundamentally call God a liar. When I'm good instead of holy, I'm not submitting to God's will for my life — and I'm modeling that for my kids.
- Why should they be holy if I'm not going to be?
- Of course, there are plenty other biblical expectations we will need to ignore. Find any command and just do the opposite. Doing any of these will show your son he doesn't need God. Life works out just fine without Him.
- By the way, you can also encourage your children's rebellion by speeding, complaining about the weather, judging everyone at church, talking out of both sides of your mouth, and refusing to be joyful and content until you've had your coffee.
- So, if you want your kids to rebel, don't ever let them see what submissive obedience to Christ looks like.

IV. Don't Have Biblical Expectations.

- If you haven't heard episode entitled "The 5th Way to Parent," I would highly recommend you check it out. It's one of our most downloaded shows — for *good* reason. In that episode we look at four fleshly responses to expectations. We all have them. We all expect the ball to fall back to the ground when we throw it, and we all expect the car to start when we turn the key, and we expect our children to wash the dishes when it's their scheduled evenings.
- This idea of expectations encompasses two things: 1. Does the expectation glorify God? and 2. Does our response to unfulfilled expectations glorify God?
- If I want my kids to rebel against me and their Creator, it's best that I have unbiblical expectations that I work toward in an unbiblical way. It's also very important to respond unbiblically when my expectations aren't met.
- In this way I'll be encouraging my kids to do unbiblical things and modeling for them the unbiblical responses I want them to have.
- They will surely become the rebel I want them to be.