

How Does God Want Me to Train My Child?

I. General Principles

- **Each of these Biblical Parenting Stages can be done the wrong way.**
 - This type of parenting happens every single day all across the world. It's not good enough for us to tell our kids things that they will actually remember. It's not good enough that we tell them they're wrong, and they accept our opinion. It's not good enough that they submit to our correction and training. We must do it God's way.
 - That means we have to use God's Word when we teach, reprove, correct, and train.
- **Though *all* parents train their children, not all of them get to enjoy the biblical training stage to which He's called Christian parents.**
 - Most parents never get to enjoy this glorious stage of biblical training. In fact, their training is actually a nightmare because as the kids learn from their parent's selfishness and idolatry, the children become less and less influenceable by their parents.
 - But training our kids in the ways of God from His Word is the single most enjoyable parenting stage ever!
- **In order to truly train your child, he or she must *participate* in the training.**
 - If I'm giving my child truth, but they're not learning it and growing in it, they're not being trained . . . they're being taught.
 - Learning is the acquisition of knowledge. But — though we definitely want our kids to learn what we're teaching them — merely acquiring knowledge results in little more than arrogance. The real key is not just to learn the information, but to start putting it into practice in our lives.
 - That's the difference between teaching and training.
 - Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 43; James 1:23-25

II. Biblical Training

- **Train**
 - I Timothy 4:7-9; Hebrews 5:11-14, 12:11
 - As our kids approach the weight bench of spiritual growth in godliness, we need to help them know which weights to use and how to lift them correctly. This is us teaching them the principles and helping them interpret them correctly so that they can put it to use in their lives and grow thereby.
 - It's not good enough for me to do the bench presses for them. But it's wonderful when I'm there to help them be successful, spot them, and help them really benefit from the spiritual workout.
 - Spiritual training always results in maturity. And maturity is wise enough to be able to discern between what is godly and what is wicked.
 - Spiritual training and growth will result in us and our kids being accustomed to the Word of righteousness.
 - And this training is not for the faint of heart. It's not a Sunday school experience. It's a daily, arduous, and often painstaking experience whereby we study God's Word, resist temptation, stop leaning on our own understanding, and obey regardless of how hard it may be.

- **Equip**

- Luke 6:40; I Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 13:20-21; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 4:11-12
- This word refers to getting ready and completing. That's why it's translated complete, equip, fully trained, made complete, mending, perfect, prepared, and restore.
- We can't train our kids to be what we're not. You need to get serious about your training in righteousness if you hope to be a good trainer for your kids.
- Whether it's the teaching stage or the reproof stage or the correction stage, if our children engage with the truth and are changed by it, they're participating in the training.
- The process of training our children is identical to the process of a preacher equipping his congregation. Both — the pastor's congregation and our kids — will result in being equipped to do the work of the ministry.

- **Discipline**

- II Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:1-16; Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:11-12
- This Greek word is use six times in the Scripture and is translated "discipline" five times and "training" once.
- It's not good enough to talk about discipline and training, we have to actually do it. We need to strengthen our limbs, make our path straight, and pursue the fruit of righteousness that characterizes a disciple of Christ — peace, sanctification, grace, righteousness, blamelessness, morality, and godliness.
- This discipline can be sorrowful for a couple reasons.
 - First, sometimes we receive discipline because we've done wrong. We've sinned, we're being reprovved, and we're receiving the consequences of our sin. This is Corrective Discipline.
 - Second, even Instructive Discipline is hard work. We've already seen this, and every single one of you who have really prepared very hard for a music recital or stage performance or hockey game or marathon know what I mean. No, you're not in trouble and receiving the consequences of your sin, but you're still working really hard.
 - And yes, this can produce a kind of sorrow — a word here which can simply mean painful
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- **Mature**

- Matthew 5:48; Matthew 19:20-22; I Corinthians 14:20; Colossians 1:28
- The Greek word translated mature has the idea of being completed and perfected. It's translated complete, mature, more perfect, perfect.
- Does God expect us and our kids to be perfect — like perfect, perfect? Yes, He does. He's the standard, His perfection is the goal toward which we're moving in this life and the ultimate goal the Lord will help us achieve when we're finally glorified in eternity.
- This concept also refers to legitimate stages of maturity and completion to which we can attain.
- The goal of our training is that we grow up and that our thinking be changed. If our kids' thinking isn't maturing, they're not participating in the training.

- James 1:25