

Parenting: Love and Protect – April 3, 2021

A class is not enough. Need community. You have resources: use them! Internet? God's word. It starts with you! "I am, at the same time, a **masterpiece** and a **work-in-progress**." So is your child!

Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 1:7-10, Hebrews 4:16, 2 Peter 1:5-11, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Someone asked, "How can I learn to have self-control and be compassionate with my child?" There are two parts to that question:

1. If we understand God's patience and compassion with us, that helps us with others. Rom 2:4
2. If you let your child disobey, delay, make excuses, you are teaching him that he is not really under your authority. He's in charge. That's going to drive you to frustration. Proverbs 29:17

1 Thessalonians 5:14 We're going to help you to know when to discipline/spank versus use other means to train up your child to maturity.

One of the biggest things that slows down spiritual growth (and parenting ability) is insecurity due to listening to the Accuser and forgetting that we are God's dearly loved child. 1 John 1:7

Not trusting God -> insecurity -> "Don't judge me!", fear, shame, resisting useful input/advice, worldliness, reluctance to confess sin, reluctance to help others with their sin, destroys community, results in shallow relationships, slows growth 1 John 1:10

Trusting God leads to seeking spiritual growth, looking for others in our team to keep us on track and encourage us, spending time talking with God and being convicted by his Word, open to others' input. Ephesians 4:14-16

Parenting focus and practices have some differences according to the kids' ages, maturity, and temperament, but some principles are constant throughout. We're going to focus today on the early ages. But training your teenager begins with 0 to 5 training. Hebrews 5:13-14

Emphasize two things: (1) Relationship, and (2) You teach by modeling (marriage, gentleness, self-control, vulnerability, repentance). 1 Peter 5:3, John 13:15, 1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Cor 11:1

- Three relationship keys to filling their love bank (Ross Campbell: *How to Really Love Your Child*)
 - Eye contact
 - Physical affection
 - Focused attention. Don't multitask
- Build the relationships
 - One-on-one "dates"
 - Meals together at the table, family night
 - Family vacations (much more important than earning extra money)
 - Don't let technology steal what is important Luke 10:42, Philippians 3:7-8
- Relationship practicals Hebrews 4:16, 2 Corinthians 2:3, James 1:19, Ephesians 4:19
 - You are their parent – not their buddy: be an example in showing respect, love, etc.
 - Be a safe place; control your reactions to what they tell you. "That's a great question."
 - Welcome your child's emotions; help them identify and deal with their emotions
- The focus of the training adapts with your child's age. First messages are the most powerful.
 - All ages: Model by your life what you want your child to understand and to become
 - 0 to about 15 months: love, meet needs, redirect
 - Ages 2 to 5: Your job is to teach them to obey and live under authority
 - From about age 3 to 18: Teach them about God's gift of sex Genesis 1:27, Hebrews 13:4
 - Age 5 to 10: Discussions (dialog) about values, character, empathy, God's word; have discussions about different topics: racial injustice, bullying, LGBTQ+, vaping, dating
 - Middle School to 18: Increase responsibility and privileges, continued parental authority

- Some hints that make a big difference in training and discipline
 - Stop talking so much! Proverbs 10:19
 - Don't threaten or raise your voice 2 Timothy 2:25-26
 - Do not give warnings. STOP counting!
 - Obedience must be "without challenge, without excuse, without delay" 1 Samuel 15:13-16
 - Do not offer bribes, promises, or future rewards for obedience
 - The objective is character and spiritual development, not behavior control
 - Discipline and training are forms of love and respect for the child, not punishment
 - Take advantage of teachable moments; have a dialog, not a lecture
 - Discipline is only for defiance; otherwise, you are instructing, correcting, and training
 - Use time-out, parent-hold, extra chores, loss of privileges/toys for other than defiance
- Spanking done properly is not abusive and will be received as love by your child!
 - Don't discard God's instruction about using "the rod"? Proverbs 13:24, 23:13-14, 19:18
 - Motivation is to teach that all of us must learn to live under authority
 - Property damage, embarrassment to you, etc., must not be a factor
 - Share how God disciplines you in love, to help you to grow to be more like Jesus
 - Always done in private
 - Make sure the child understands what the spanking is for: disobedience 2 Cor 10:6
 - The child must know he is totally reconciled, forgiven, loved, no residual bad moods
- We, as a church community, must help one another in this vital work of training our kids
 - A parenting class once a year is not sufficient!
 - Talk with one other about the expectations you have for your kids at gatherings, etc.
 - When see others' kids disobeying, remind them "You need to obey your mom and dad."
 - Talk with one another in a helpful, positive way, about concerns that you observe
 - Share what you are learning in your marriage, home life, values, priorities, activities, etc.
 - Have follow-up classes, devotionals, and sharing about questions, victories, challenges
 - Read books and share with others Philemon 1:6
- Our world is a dangerous place for our kids if we do not prepare them for it. First messages are most powerful! Colossians 1:13, John 16:33
 - Teen Vogue "how to" articles on "Sexting" and "Anal Sex" ("with and without a prostate")
 - The pressure to affirm an alternate sexual identity. Get the parenting book! Don't wait.
 - Peer pressure to be sexually active, to not be a virgin, a prude. Go on the offense!

Resources

Go to <https://puritygodsway.com/hiddenlinks/> and click on the following links:

- The Strong-Willed Child (James Dobson video)
- Dare to Discipline (James Dobson video)
- Stronger Talk (Mattox video "Equipping Kids to Avoid Sexual Hazards")
- Protect Your Child (several free on-line books and short videos)
Also, click on the "Teaching Your Kids about Sex" link to teach kids (starting as early as age 3) about God's wonderful gift of sex and to protect them from numerous sexual hazards in the world
- Children Interrupt BBC (video showing how kids can show the world that we aren't perfect)
- Interruption Goes Viral (our kids won't be perfect, be OK with it, makes us relatable)

Good books to read (or listen to on your Audible app):

- *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, Tedd Tripp
- *How to Really Love Your Child*, Ross Campbell
- *Raising Great Kids*, Henry Cloud & John Townsend
- *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*, Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish
- *God's Design for Sex Series* (see link "Teaching Your Kids about Sex" mentioned above)