

Biblical examples of parenting (good and bad)

- (-) choice of environ. Lot Gen.13:12-13
- (-) deceit & favoritism R & I / J. G.25 & 37
- (-) not restraining Eli 1S.2:22-23/ 3.13
- (-) too approving Samuel 1S.8:1-5
- (-) “will not withhold” David 2Sam.13 (2S.19)
- (+) lasting influence Jonadab Jer. 35:1-19
- (+) raised in the Word L > E > T 2Tim.1:5; 3:15

early child training

PARENTS

Proverbs 22.6

**“Train up a child in the way he
should go,
Even when he is old, he will not
depart from it”**

you get what you expect

If you expect tantrums, you will get them.

If you expect dishonesty, you will get it.

If you expect bad attitudes, you will get it.

**but if you really EXPECT the opposite,
and require and TRAIN for the opposite,**

you will GET the opposite.

PARENTS

- **Proverbs 22.6**

“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old, he will not depart from it”

- *or Judith Harris - “Do Parents really matter?”*

- **time illustrations:**

- a garden

- cat, bird [**Deut. 6.7; Eph.6.4**]

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early training & “No”

- the importance of “no” [cf. **Gen.2; Ex. 20**]
- **respect & compliance for prohibitory “no”**
- **zero tolerance for defiant & rebellious “no”**
- if you don't mean it, don't say it, and if you do mean it, enforce it - **Mt.5.37**
- important foundation: *learning to submit to an earthly father prepares them for submission to a far more important Father.*

The child needs to understand:



- **GOD**
- **father**
- **mother**
- **child**

**some common
mistakes
to avoid**

parenting pitfalls

1. failing to discipline...

- He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently
Prov.13.24
- Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death
Prov. 19.18
- Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will drive it far from him
Prov. 22.15

1. failing to discipline...

- Do not hold back discipline from the child,
Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die
Prov. 23.13
- The rod and reproof bring wisdom, but a child who
gets his own way brings shame to his mother
Prov. 29.15
- Correct your son, and he will give you comfort;
he will also delight your soul
Prov. 29.17

2. Rewarding misbehavior

- Why do children throw tantrums?
- lowering the bar / accom. & facilitating misbehavior
- letting a child get “his way” is not doing him a favor, it will spoil him
- letting a child get his way will not satisfy him, it will spoil him [imp.of boundaries/ playground.ex.]
- the difference between a boy and a pig
- **“The rod and reproof bring wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother”**

Prov. 29.15

3. Expecting misbehavior

- Not talking about *wanting* misbehavior, hoping for, or preferring misbehavior...
- but expecting misbehavior
 - “Oh, we can’t take him to the restaurant”
 - “There’s no way Jr’s going to sit still for an hour”
 - “Well after that sugar, he’s going to be impossible”
 - “Oh, I’ll never get him to eat that”
 - “Sorry, my son’s not much of a sharer”
- **“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will drive it far from him”**

Pr.22.15

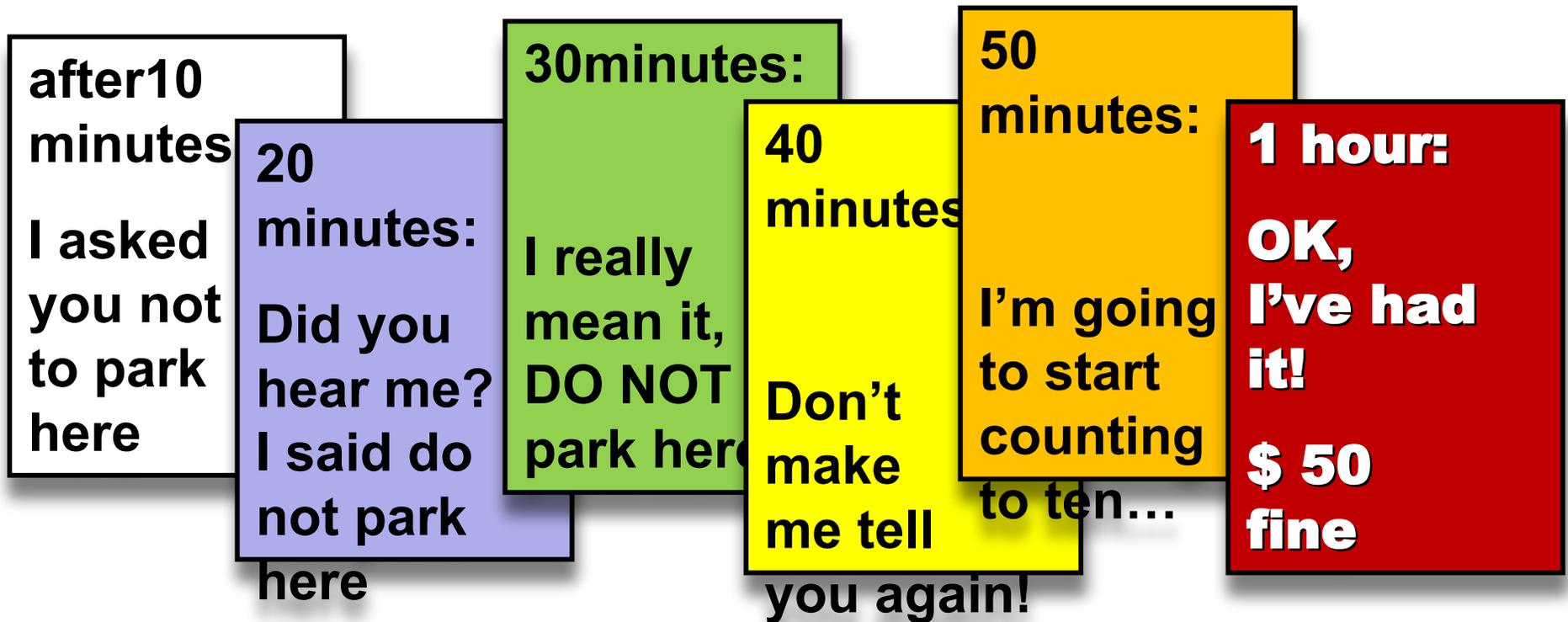
4. failing to be consistent...

- “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently”

Pr.13.24

- child psych. on playing the odds
- lottery analogy: people keep buying tickets when there's a chance of it paying off. Eliminate all lottery winnings, and people would quit buying tickets. Eliminate Jr's occasional “pay-offs,” and let him realize the lottery is shut down.
- see “No parking” illustration (next slide)

Imagine a city that treated “No Parking” violations with the following sequence of responses (and everyone knew how the system worked):



What would those no parking areas be filled with?

5. Thinking “I don’t have time...”

- Like saying “I don’t have time to get rid of lice”
- Child training time is well invested time, and saves time
- “All discipline for the moment seems not joyful, but sorrowful, yet ... afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit...”
Heb.12.11
- “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently”
Prov.13.24

6. failing to control self...

- proper motivation: Prov.13.24
“he who loves him disciplines him diligently”
- discipline vs. abuse
- discipline vs. YELLING!!
 - “expert” advice [?]
- Why won't he obey???
- *“What's wrong with you?”*
“I don't know why you won't do right!”
- the vase test (see next slide)
- **CALM & CONSISTENT & IN CONTROL**

THE VASE TEST

set up:

- a.) Jr. bounces a ball off the wall
- b.) Mom says: "Jr., don't throw that ball in the house"
- c.) Jr. looks at mom, heard her; throws the ball again anyway.

**scenario A:
nothing broken**

Reaction:

No big deal.
Mom says,
"Jr., I asked
you not to
do that."

Reaction:

Seeing her
son's willful
defiance &
disobedience,
Mom takes
this very
serious and he
is punished.
WHY?

**scenario A:
antique vase is shattered**

Reaction:

No big deal.
Mom says,
"Jr., I asked
you not to
do that" ?

Reaction:

Jr's in BIG
trouble!!
NOW he's
going to get
it! This is
VERY
serious.
WHY?

7. Training them to disrespect instructions given calmly

- **illustration: junior & bedtime**
(Jr. ignores first few instructions, only obeys once she loses her temper and yells)
- **Mom has a talk with Jr.: apologizes (for yelling) > inform Jr. of new policy (instruction given in normal voice, punishment if not obeyed) > follow through**
- **The parents' choice:**
 - they never obey
 - they obey after you scream
 - Or only after saying it over & over & over
 - **Or the 1st time, and to calm instructions (w/o yelling, nagging, badgering, etc.)**

8. failing to use rod AND reproof

- Just rod? [learns... what?]
- Just reproof? [kid at walmart]
- value in “the lecture”
 - conscience
 - anticipation
- “The **rod and reproof** bring wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother” **Prov. 29.15**

9. fathers “discouraging,” “provoking to wrath”

- “Fathers, provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged” **-Col. 3.21**
- “fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord” **-Eph.6.4**
- **criticism ... or nothing**
- **expecting talents beyond their capacity**
- **fluctuating boundaries based on your mood [Illust.: cattle fence]**

10. failing to parent with joy

- **rejoice** in the wife of your youth. **Prov. 5.18**
- The father of the righteous will greatly **rejoice**; And he ...will have **joy** of him. Let your father and your mother be **glad**, And let her **rejoice** who gave birth to you. **Prov. 23.24-25**
- A **joyful** heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken... a **cheerful** heart *has* a continual feast... Better is a dish of vegetables **where love is** Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred. **Prov. 13.15-17_{nasb}**
- the **law of kindness** is on her tongue. **Prov.31.26**
- A **joyful** heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. **Prov. 17.22_{esv}**

Ga.5.22 Love, Joy, Peace...

11. Settling for situation control instead of training the child.

- **twinkie brat** - Michael & Debbie Pearl / To Train up a Child
- **BRIANNE & THE CAR SEAT ILLUSTRATION**
- **A mom's comment on this point: "live altering experience" in 2 or 3 days: *improved behavior / happier child***
- **MERE CONTROL vs. TRAINING (& what results?)**
"They're not going to do that under my roof" **is not enough**. Train them. Teach them self-control so they will behave themselves under any roof.
- **"TRAIN up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it" Pr.22.6 (not just "control")**
- **TRAIN THEIR HEARTS**
- a little boy, made to sit down, had this to say:
"I'm still standing up on the inside!" ... then job's not

PARENTS

Take the time...

- **Teach** them to do right
- **Train** them to do right
- ***EXPECT*** them to do right

12. Mistaking “taking them to church” for “bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”

- **Eph. 6.4**
- **Deut. 6.7**

“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up”

13. thinking “if we don’t allow this, they might rebel and leave the church”

- **what good is being “in church” if they aren’t in the Lord? -Rev.3.14ff**
- **“do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?” -James 4.4**
- ***entertainment? attire? interests?***
- ***And start training EARLY***

14. assuming cultural norms : “terrible 2’s” > “rebellious teens”

- **culturally common: >rebellious teens**
- **also common: >ungodly adults**
- **Josiah -2 Chron. 34.1-3**
- **Timothy Acts 16:1-3 / cf. 1Tim.4.12**
- **Note: wise parenting & the consideration of “trajectory”
[cf: Jonadab in Jer.35 / Lot in Gn.13]**
- **Expect Train Guide Eccl.12.1**

15. Going into defense mode when our children are wrong

- Defending
- Denying
- Redirecting blame
- 1Tim.5.21 “without partiality”
- Isaiah 5.20 “woe to them that call evil good, and good evil”
- *If you start a pattern of bailing out, don't be surprised if they come to expect it.*

**The rod and reproof bring wisdom,
but a child who gets his own way
brings shame to his mother ...**

**Correct your son,
and he will give you comfort;
he will also delight your soul**

Prov. 29.15-17

16. Focusing on home income (\$) over home outcome (the children)

- “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and turmoil with it. Better is a dish of vegetables where love is than a fattened ox served with hatred” Prv. 15.17
- *the home, not the house / the family, not the stuff*
- Do our homes reflect scriptural priorities?
Or cultural priorities? older women:
“train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sober minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands” Titus 2:3-5

17. underestimating threats

- corruption from the entertainment media
- **corruption from the internet (pornography , etc.)**
- offenders / predators (old and young)
- certain educational agendas
(relativism, promotion of homosexuality, evolution)
- presuming medication solutions for behavior issues
- feminism agendas & blurring of gender roles
- declining standards of self-responsibility, conduct, dress, ethics, etc.

18. Lowering the bar from the firstborn to the baby

- **Lk. 15, note the birth order**
not always, not necessary, but also not uncommon
- **why so?** (in addition to time %):
- **pacifier illustration**
- **1st born > into world of adults**
- **youngest > world of children**
- **time 1st born: parents eager**
- **youngest: “my baby”**

Temperment & Birth Order

- **TEMPERMENT**
- *“pleaser” vs. “strong-willed”*
- **GAL.5:16ff**
- **selfish stubbornness needs to be broken, but principled independence is very valuable**
- **win...**
...& your child wins

Take the time...

- **Teach them to do right**
- **Train them to do right**
- **EXPECT them to do right**

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