

## Change to become a better parent!

### Intro:

- → **rf - Gen. 1:26-28; 2:21-24; 4:1-2** creation, man and woman, family — children
  - ! family was part of God's divine plan of creation — commanded men from the beginning
  - ! "traditional family" (God ordained) is being destroyed by sin, USA
    - ! **divorce rate** of newly weds, **50 %** (sometimes can't help)
    - ! **disintegration of the family:** Citation: America's Children by Donald Hernandez. Leadership, "To Verify," Leadership
      - ! **1960, 80.6 %** of American children lived with father and mother
      - ! **1994, 34 years later, only 57.7 %**
- **This lesson:** Change to become a better parent! — [series](#)
  - ! **purpose:**
    - ! to remind us *how* to parent
    - ! challenge yourself to become a better parent
  
- **#1 What does God want us to do as parents? — bring up in discipline (training) and instruction (admonition) of the Lord**
  - compliment parents
  - **Eph. 6:4** (review husband, wife, children) not provoke to anger, bring up in discipline (training) and instruction (admonition) of the Lord
    - ! **"Nurture" (KJV), "training" (NKJV), "discipline" (NASB)** is a verb meaning to rear, feed (cf. Eph. 5:29) — includes instructive and punitive discipline
      - ! **rf - Eph. 6:4** not provoke to anger
      - ! **Col. 3:21** Fathers, do not exasperate your children
  - **"Admonition" (KJV, NKJV), "instruction" (NASB, NIV, NRSV)** is a noun literally meaning a putting in mind. It is training by word (speech) as contrasted with training by acts. It includes encouraging and rebuking with words.
- **Transition: How do we bring our children instruction and discipline of the Lord, without provoking them to anger (exasperating) them?**
  - ! **Bible**
  - ! **God-given, human intellect:** teach, learn
    - ! **Col. 1:** hear, learn, know, understand
  
- **#2 What kind of home do we need, to raise our children in the Lord? — religious home, family**
  - **Lk. 2:41-52** Jesus spiritual, raised in spiritual home, about Father's (God's) business
  - 2 ! **PP - map:** travel around Samaria, be gone 2-4 weeks?
    - ! **Jesus, parents** didn't have to take him every year to Jer. to worship, but they did - train
    - ! **how far** was the trip, **how long** would it take — time commitment
      - ! **what would be the economic impact** to a family — financial commitment: loss income, expenses to go — month's wages?
      - ! **what would it be like** to make the same investment in time and \$ today?
        - ! they also went to synagogue every week, and observed the Sabbath
- → **We must be like Jesus' parents, not like the majority of parents in the world:**
  - ! **Barna Research Group (2003)**

! **85% of parents with children under 13 believe they have the primary responsibility** for teaching their children about religious beliefs, but found that **parents have no plan for the spiritual development of their children, most are willing to let their church provide all of their youngsters' spiritual training.**

→ **suggestions for today:**

- ! **take to church:** every time the doors are open, possible
  - ! **stats:**
    - ! if both Mom and Dad attend church regularly **72 %** of their children remain faithful in attendance.
    - ! If only Dad attends regularly **55 %** remain faithful.
    - ! If only Mom attends regularly **15 %** remain faithful.
    - ! If neither attend regularly only **6 %** remain faithful (Citation: Warren Mueller, Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 3.)
  - ! **take to gospel meetings, VBS, camps:** train, teach habits, take places they can learn and be with good role models
- ! **take personal responsibility:** to raise and train children religiously
  - ! **positive results :** ("USA Today Snapshots," USA Today - June 14-16, 2002)
    - ! **Children with involved fathers are:**
      - ! **More confident** and **less anxious** in unfamiliar settings.
      - ! Better able to **deal with frustration.**
      - ! Better able to **gain a sense of independence.**
      - ! More likely to **become compassionate adults.**
      - ! More likely to **have higher self-esteem.**
      - ! More likely to have **higher grade-point averages.**
      - ! More **sociable.**

➤ #3 **How should we talk to our children, to raise them in the Lord? — all the time, His commands, His will, Jesus, salvation**

➤ → **Deut. 11:18-20** OT command / for our learning, instruction (Rom. 15:4)

- ! #1 put on your heart first - parent
- ! #2 teach children: talk all the time, write where they can see them
- ! #3 day multiplied - self and children (**vs. 21**)

➤ → **Heb. 13:15** fruit of lips, let them hear it

➤ → **today:** teach children the way God instructs to teach

- ! **we have the Bible:** let them see it, see you use it - have Scriptures up on the walls, Biblical ideas
- ! **talk about church, Bible class**
  - ! about Bible lessons — why have youth and adult class on same topic
  - ! about church service
  - ! about preaching - good / bad
- ! **live God / talk God:** eat and drink God, church, religion
  - ! everything can be related to God
- ! **ask about their spiritual life:** joke, Pam talking to friends
- ! **kids learn more when they hear it from their parents + see it:**
  - ! **May/June 1999 issue of the Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology** - study of Purdue University:
    - ! **children were more likely to adopt their parents' beliefs when they had a clear understanding of what the parents believed — taking the time to explain their beliefs and encouraging the child to participate** in activities the parents think support those beliefs.

- #4 **How much time should we need to spend time with our children, to raise them up in the Lord? — a lot - social, recreationally, spiritually**
- → **rf - Eph. 6:4; Deut. 11:18-20** enough to command, train and admonish, bring up in the Lord = spend time with
  - ! e.g., if school teacher, teach children to read write, do math without spending time with — riot, school board
  - ! **stat: if we spend time with our children, we will influence them positively - spiritually**
  - ! A study of 4,600 adolescents (11-18 years old) found:
  - ! **37% ate two or fewer family meals** with all or most of their family the previous week.
  - ! **26% ate seven or more meals with their family.**
  - ! **Researchers found** that **adolescents who ate more meals with their family** suffered significantly **lower rates of cigarette, alcohol, and drug abuse, enjoyed higher grade point averages, and struggled less with depression and suicide.** Citation: "Are Family Meals Good for the Health of Adolescents?" American Family Physician, volume 71, number 6 (3-15-04)
  - ! **stat: many parents aren't interested in spending time with their children** Citation: Cited in Christianity Today, August 27, 1976.
  - ! **The Three Things Fathers Say Most:** Family-life specialists Delmer W. Holbrook and his wife have been lecturing and conducting surveys across America.
  - ! **In a survey of hundreds of children,** the Holbrooks came up with the three things **fathers say most in** responding to their kids.
    - ! **"I'm too tired" took first place.**
    - ! **"We don't have enough money" was second.**
    - ! **"Keep quiet" was third.**
  - ! **lesson:** we can't be like a lot of parents today, we have to be different
  - ! **saying:** you have to be different, to make a difference
- → **What can we do today:** — spend time, teach in everyday activities
  - ! **activities,** don't have to spend a lot of \$
  - ! **illus.:** Gary Smalley, family lecturer, took poll among successful families, common thread was camping — spending time together in tight quarters (doesn't have to be camping specifically)
  - ! **get to know their friends,** and their friends' parents
    - ! **have the home** where the kids spend time
    - ! **take places and do things** with them and friends
    - ! **set standards:-** where they can go, with whom
  - ! **be involved — e.g., dating**
    - ! **set rules:** where go, activities, curfew
    - ! **Allan:** boy has to ask me
    - ! **Pam, joke: six steps** before can date (set standards for everything from holding hands, kissing, etc)
      - ! e.g., **Sam Holton,** when Terry came to pick up Tina, dressed in Border Patrol Uniform with gun, "What are your intentions with my daughter?"
    - ! **Mark (brother):** third date is church

➤ #5 - Are clear rules and corrective discipline necessary, to raise our children up in the Lord? — of course - spanking, grounding, etc.

➔ **Num. 12 story of Miriam's sin:** had not been discipline sufficiently by her father

! **Num. 12:9-15** Miriam leprous, Moses prayed, if father would have spit in face would bear her shame, sent out of the camp 7 days

➤ ➔ **Scriptures regarding corrective (punitive) discipline:**

! **PP - Pr. 13:24** withholds rod, hates

➤ ! **PP - Pr. 22:15** removes foolishness

➤ ! **PP - Pr. 23:13-14** discipline, will not die, rescue soul from Sheol

➤ ➔ **kids who are disciplined, live better lives**

! **stat: The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse** has released an extensive study on teens and substance abuse. Their main finding was that "teens whose parents have established rules in the house have better relationships with their parents and a substantially lower risk of smoking, drinking, and using illegal drugs than the typical teen." (Pete Hartogs, "Study: Rules Improve Parent-Child Relationship," CNN Online (02-21-01); submitted by Jerry De Luca, Montreal, Quebec, Canada)

The study discovered that the successful parents **habitually did at least 10 of the following 12 actions:**

! Monitor what their teens watch on TV.

! Monitor what their teens do on the Internet.

! Put restrictions on the CDs they buy.

! Know where their teens are after school and on weekends.

! Are told the truth by their teens about where they really are going.

! Are "very aware" of their teens academic performance.

! Impose a curfew.

! Make clear they would be "extremely upset" if their teen used pot.

! Eat dinner with their teens six or seven nights a week.

! Turn off the TV during dinner.

! Assign their teen regular chores.

! Have an adult present when the teens return home from school.

➤ ! **stat - Time Mag.:**

! According to a study published in Effective Clinical Practice, **teens whose parents restrict them from watching R-rated movies are one-third as likely to smoke or drink than kids who have no such restrictions.** Citation: Lisa McLaughlin, "R-Rated Behavior," Time (2-25-02)

➤ ! **stat - Survey conducted by Columbia University's Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)**

! "Almost one in five American teens say **they live with 'hands-off' adults** who fail to consistently set rules and monitor their behavior. These youth are at a **four-times greater risk for smoking, drinking, and illegal drug use than their peers with 'hands-on' parents.**" (Reuters News Service, (2-21-01)

➤ ➔ **today:**

! **we don't use rods** to discipline children

! **but we must discipline** them, in whatever way that is done in our society

! **Heb. 12 God chastens us** because He loves us / **we chasten our children because we love them**

! **saying:** a child who loves his child, chastens his child

! **our job:** instructively set clear rules (guidelines), discipline when break rules (disobey)

➤ **Summary / Conclusion:**

- ➔ compliment parents
- ➔ God has given parents the **responsibility** to instruct and discipline their children - bring up in the Lord
- ➔ God has taught us **how** to teach them and instruct them: Bible, god-given human intellect
- ➔ **if we work hard, do your best, we will be successful** — because of God, giver of all good gifts - children
  - ! use God's word
  - ! apply to the age and culture we live to teach, train, discipline, admonish
- ➔ **challenge yourself**
  - ! time to work on becoming a good parent, is before having children
- ➔ **inv.**
  - ! being a "good" parent and "good" son or daughter begins with faithfully serving Christ
  - ! what has Jesus commanded: saved, faithful till death, crown of life

Audio sermon notes:

- ! ➤ denotes the place to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- ! All Scriptures are NASB unless otherwise noted.
- ! Sermons recorded 10-23-05, Church of Christ, South Livingston congregation in Lutz, FL.