
BIBLE TALK

This week the question continues to be: **What does the Bible say about child training?** (Pt. 2)

Last week we pointed out there were two phases to child training:

- 1) **Control**
- 2) **Teaching**

The Bible and common sense teaches that before a child can be properly taught he must first be brought under control.

Also, we noticed the Biblical solution to rebellion. When children refuse to submit to the authority of their parents, they are to be chastised with a rod.

Did you know that the Bible teaches that an underage child living at home is no different than a slave?

Galatians 4:1

1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

The KJV uses the word "servant," but the Greek text specifically uses the word "slave." There is a difference between a servant (hired) and a slave (owned). The child, while he is underage and living at home is no different than a slave to his parents.

Now, listen to how God expects a slave to obey his master:

Titus 2:9

9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

Since a child is equal to a slave and his parents are his "masters," here's how a child ought to be obeying his parents:

- They must be obedient.
- They must please their parents in all things.
- They are not to "answer again" -- that is, they are not to back-talk.

If this does not describe the obedience your child renders to you, you need to get him under control so he will be prepared to receive your teachings.

TEACHING THE CHILD

This week, we are going to discuss how to teach the child, now that he is brought under control.

By the time a child becomes a teenager the parents have hopefully trained him to obey without questioning why. But now it is time to begin giving the reasons for the rules you have been requiring him to obey. The Bible recognizes there is a proper time to begin teaching reasons that underlie commands (Exodus 12:26-27).

Until a child is a teenager they must have external control exercised over them. When they become a teenager, they must learn to control themselves internally.

This is where some parents fail because they continue extending full external control over their children without giving the necessary teaching that must accompany it.

THE TEACHING PROCESS

Now ... there are five basic steps in the teaching process:

- 1) Set the standards by which the child should live.
- 2) When a standard is broken, rebuke the child.
- 3) Require an admission of guilt.
- 4) Forgive the child after he confesses guilt.
- 5) After you have forgiven him, punish him, but do not chastise him.

Let's say just a brief word about each of these steps.

1) Set the standards by which the child should live.

In doing this, we should follow the example of God in the Scriptures. When God set standards for Christians He used very clear and easy to understand language.

In setting standards, tell the child ahead of time the penalty that will follow if the standard is violated. This is what God does -- He warns us ahead of time about the consequences of sin -- see John 3:36 for an example.

2) When a standard is broken, rebuke the child.

To rebuke does not mean to yell, or curse at the child. It means simply to tell the child bluntly that they did wrong. Also, rebuke carries with it a warning that such behavior cannot be repeated. Read Luke 17:3.

3) Require an admission of guilt.

Unless a child admits he is guilty of violating a rule, any punishment that may be given to him will cause resentment. But, if he admits he is guilty, he will accept punishment because he knows he deserves it.

Requiring a child to admit guilt has no bearing on how the child feels, or displays emotions. Some people are guilty of crime, but do not feel guilty. Others feel guilty when really they are not. Admitting guilt has no bearing on the child's feelings. It simply means the child admits the fact that he has broken the standards of his parents. He may not like the standards, and he may not think they are fair, but he must admit that he has broken the standard. 1 John 1:8-9 teaches this principle.

Any child who is guilty, but will not admit it is rebelling and rebellion, as noticed in our last study, requires chastisement with a rod (Proverbs 23:13-14).

4) Forgive the child after he confesses guilt.

Forgiving the child means the parent will no longer treat the child as a guilty violator who is living in rebellion.

Luke 17:3

3 ... If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Although this passage concerns brethren in the church, it also is true of parents and their children. If a child repents, forgive him. Don't hold his misbehavior against him any longer.

5) After you have forgiven him, punish him, but do not chastise him.

Punishment is generally equated with chastisement, but the two are completely different. Chastisement is the infliction of pain with a rod to force submission and to control rebellion. Punishment is the just penalty for a crime committed.

For example, suppose a child breaks a lamp by throwing a temper tantrum. By doing this the child is rebelling against authority and needs to be chastised with a rod to conquer the rebellion (Proverbs 22:15). However, if the lamp is broken by carelessness, because the child was throwing a ball in the house, he must be punished.

- 1) First, set the standard you expect the child to live by, in this case, no baseball throwing in the house.
- 2) Next, when the standard is broken, rebuke the child -- tell him bluntly that he has broken the rule.
- 3) Next, require him to admit that he was guilty of violating the rule.
- 4) If he refuses to admit the obvious he is rebelling and needs chastisement. If he admits he is guilty, then forgive him.
- 5) Finally, he must be punished.

Even after forgiveness, the lamp is still broken and someone has to clean up the mess and pay for a new lamp. Require the child to do this. By paying for the lamp with his own money he learns that he is responsible for his own actions and he will learn to be more careful next time.

SUMMARY

Two of the greatest problems with children growing up in America is:

- They are not being taught respect for authority, and
- They are not being taught responsibility for their own actions

When these children mature they turn into adults that exhibit the same qualities. They turn into adults that have no respect for authority and law and they take no responsibility for their own actions -- they continuously blame others for their own misconduct.

How parents train their children today will determine the fate of this country tomorrow. The only sure methods of child training are the ones God gave us in His inspired book, the Bible!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.