



Proverbs: Biblical Parenting

Common responses to Proverbs 22:6

For parents in the midst of parenting

False hope – “If we do everything right, it promises all our children will turn out well.”

An unbearable burden – “Is it realistic to think we’ll get everything right?”

Inadequacy – “I doubt we have the time, energy and brainpower to master ALL this!”

Anxiety – “What if we mess up or miss something important?”

Common responses to Proverbs 22:6

For grieving parents of a rebellious child

Guilt – “What did we do wrong? What did we miss? It’s all our fault. We failed as parents.”

False hope – “They’ll eventually come back when they’re old.”

Common responses to Proverbs 22:6

For parents of godly children

Sinful pride – “We did everything right!! Look to US as the model of ideal parenting.”

Proverbs: Biblical Parenting

A Three-fold ministry

*Biblical parenting employs:
a hopeful disposition,
faithful discipleship and
loving discipline*

“SUCCESSFUL” PARENTING???

“To the degree that we have followed God’s design for parenting, we have succeeded as parents before God” and “Success in parenting is measured by what the parents do, not by what the child does”

(John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting*, p. 17)

I. Biblical parenting embraces a hopeful disposition

Child (22:6) – Old enough to learn

According to his way – lit., “according to the mouth [beginning] of his way” (Waltke)

His way – Only 2 ways in Proverbs: 1) fear of Yahweh the Creator (vv. 2, 4); 2) “the way of the crooked” (vv. 3, 5).

“Way” in v. 6 = “the way the child must choose”. See 23:17, 19.

“Train up” – Prov 22:6

- Heb. verb (*hanak*) described the initial use of a house or temple (Dt 20:5; 1 Kgs 8:63)
- Heb. noun (*hanuka*) used for the offerings used to “break in” a newly set up altar (Num 7:10)
- Applied to a child, the idea here is starting them off in God’s path (1:7; 9:10)
- Thus, **“Start them in God’s path and they are not likely to turn from that path”**



Correct response to Proverbs 22:6

Solomon intended Proverbs 22:6 to encourage parents to be faithful to carry out God's plan and to give them comfort to rest in God's sovereignty for the actual results

II. Biblical parenting engages faithful discipleship

Your basic three-fold message (Prov 1:7-19)

- 1) Call your child to fear and know Yahweh (7)
- 2) Call your child to follow your instruction (1:8-9; 6:23)
- 3) Call your child to flee from evil (10-19)

III. Biblical parenting exercises loving discipline

Rod dislodges folly from the heart (22:15). “Bodily harm without heals the moral rot within” (Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, II:216)

Rod delivers the child from death (23:13-14). “Do not withhold discipline from the child, **if** ~~although~~ you strike him with the rod, **then** he will not die. [Re-stated:] You shall strike him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol”

Discipline is a mark of love (13:24). Not disciplining is a mark of hatred.

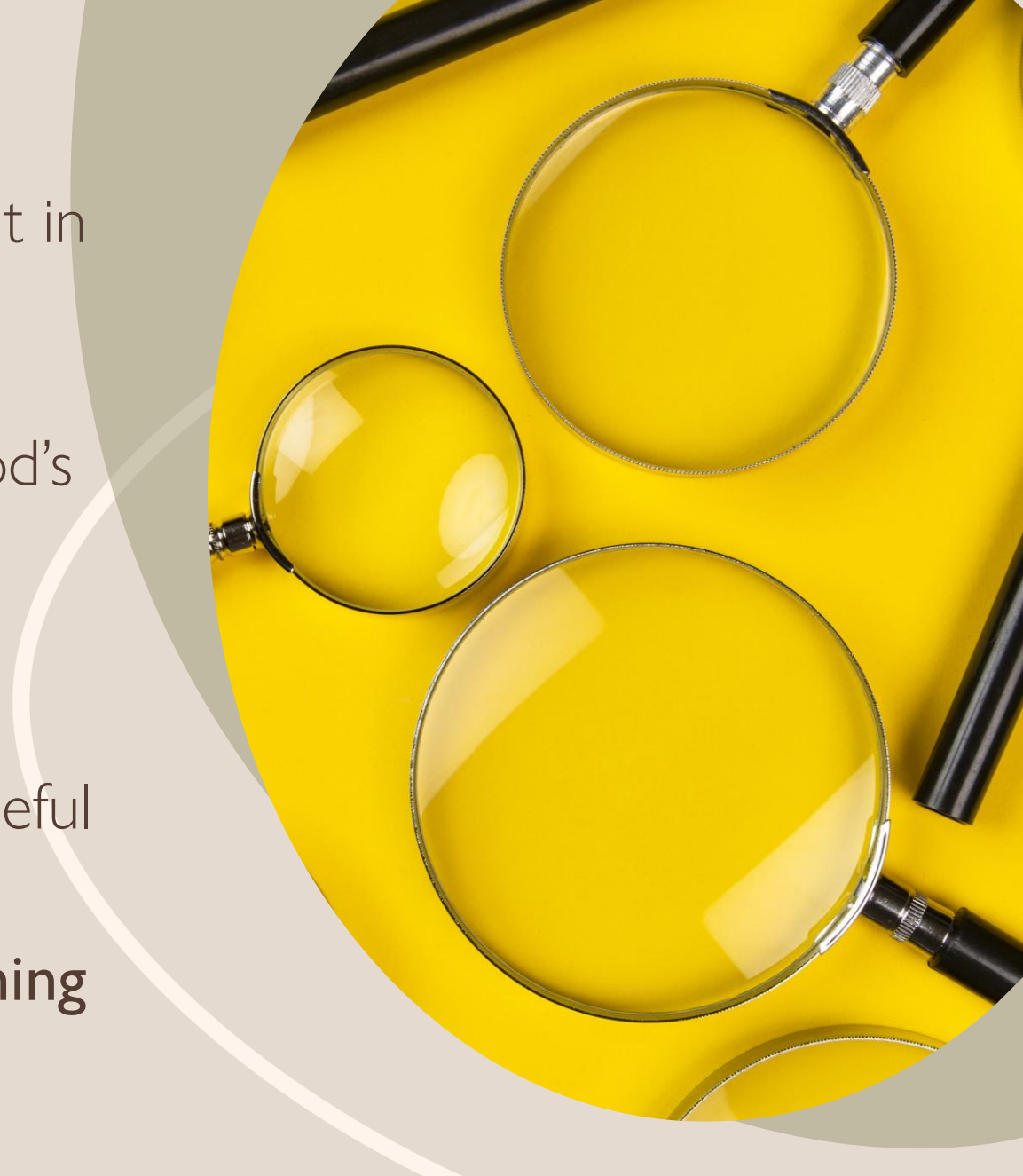
Leaving a child in sin, leaves them in death's grip

Discipline's "function is not primarily punitive. It is corrective. The primary thrust of discipline is not to take revenge, but to correct. The discipline of a child is a parent refusing to be a willing party to his child's death (Proverbs 19:18)"

(Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding A Child's Heart*, p. 56)

“Discipline” – Prov 1:2

- Lit., a “**chastening lesson**” to correct a fault in the learner to shape his character (Bruce Waltke, Proverbs, vol. 1, p. 175)
- May take the form of **instruction** from God’s word (1:8; 6:23) that leads to growing in wisdom (4:1; 8:10, 33)
- May take the form of **reproof** (5:12; 6:23)
- Good listening and questioning skills are useful here (18:2, 13; 20:5)
- “**The finest art of communication is learning what they think**” (Tedd Tripp, workshop notes)



Isaiah 53:5

Jesus received
your discipline
unto death so
when you receive
discipline it will
work unto life!

