

Solomon's Handbook for Parenting

An Overview of Proverbs 1-9

1. Treasure the rich blessing of your parent's counsel:

1:8 2:1-2 3:1, 11-12, 21 4:1-4, 10, 20-21
5:1, 7, 20 6:1, 3, 20 7:1-4 8:32

Contrast the voice/influence of so called friends & peers:

- Those with ungodly opinions – Psa 1:1; Prov 14:7; 28:26
[Choose those who want to learn God's truth about everything]
- Those with proud, self-boasting speech – Prov 6:17
[Choose those who rejoice in the successes of others]
- Those with contempt for authority and correction – Prov 1:7; 5:12; 10:8,17; 12:15; 14:16; 15:5; 17:10; 18:2; 26:12
[Choose those who learn the value of instruction and submission]
- Those with deceitful hearts and speech – Prov 6:17; 10:18; 19:1
[Choose those who are truthful and admit faults]
- Those with destructive plans - Prov 1:10-19; 4:14-17; 6:17; 10:23
[Choose those who refuse to harm people or property]
- Those with uncontrolled anger – Prov 20:3; 22:24-25; 29:11
[Choose those who learn to subdue sinful emotions]
- Those with a heart of revenge – Prov 22:10
[Choose those who can forgive and be merciful]
- Those with a gossiping or flattering tongue – Prov 10:18; 20:19
[Choose those who protect the reputation of others]
- Those with no self-control or convictions – Prov 5:6; 17:24; 24:21; 25:19
[Choose those who are becoming more stable and predictable]
- Those with a love of foolishness – Prov 13:16; 14:24; 17:12; 26:11
[Choose those who love learning principles for wise living]

2. Perceive the real truth about power and wealth: 1:10-33

(see also 8:1-36 & 9:1-6)

- What the world enticingly offers 1:10-14
- What the world truly delivers 1:15-19
- Lady Wisdom's call to the Worldly 1:20-33
 - The sad "Back-story" (1:20-25)
 - The terrifying future-story (1:26-31)
 - The Profound summary (1:32-33)

3. Expend great effort to learn what pleases God: 2:1-22

- Effort expended 2:1-4 (4:1-9)
- Effort rewarded 2:5-19 (4:10-17)
- Profound Summary 2:20-22 (4:18-19)
- Asking The Hard Questions about Media/Social Media
 - Is this media portal an opportunity for evil? (Psa 101:3)
 - Will this content appeal to my flesh? (Rom 13:14)
 - Could Satan use this technology to weaken me? (2 Cor 2:11; Eph 6:11-12)

- Does this innocent entertainment rob me of time to serve where God asks me? (family, friends, church, school, community – 1 Tim 4:7)
- Would I be ashamed of my texts, phone conversations, and emails if my parents or pastors knew the content? (Numb 32:23; Prov 28:13; Matt 10:26; Eph 5:12; Heb 4:13)
- Am I using digital communication for vain conceit and pride? (Phil 2:3)

4. Place your full trust in God not yourself: 3:1-35

- Trust God's direction 3:1-10
- Trust God's discipline 3:11-12
- Rewards of that trust 3:13-26
- The Implications of that trust 3:27-35 (4:20-27)

5. Perceive the real truth about moral impurity: 5:1-23

- Don't glamorize the true character of an adulterer 5:1-6 (6:20-26; 7:1-21)
- Don't minimize the painful consequences of adultery 5:7-14 (6:27-35; 7:22-27)
- Don't compromise the real thrill of purity 5:15-23

Constantly Treasure God's Truth	2:1-12a	5:1-2; 7	6:20-24	7:1-5; 24
Utterly Avoid Tempting People & Places		5:8	6:25	7:6-9; 25
Wisely Discern the Truth about the Seductress	2:16-17	5:3-6	24	7:10-21; 26-27
Seriously Consider the Devastation Caused by Sin	2:18-19	5:9-14 5:21-23	6:27-35	7:22-27
Completely Trust God's Plan for Sinless Pleasure		5:15-20		

Recognize the imminent danger of procrastination: 6:1-11

Avoid the habits & character of the sluggard's presumptuous life

- He *delays beginning* a job because he is *dishonest*.
“I can't because...” Prov. 26:13 & 22:13
- He *delays beginning* a job because he is *self-indulgent*.
“I'm too tired, I'll do it later” Proverbs 26:14 & 6:6-10
- He *delays completing* a job because he is *lazy*. Prov. 26:15 & 19:24
- He *defends* his inaction because he is *proud*. Prov. 26:16

Avoid the frightening consequences of the sluggard's presumptuous life

- He suffers unemployment
Prov. 10:26; 12:24
- He suffers hunger
Prov. 19:15; 20:4
- He suffers unfulfilled cravings
Prov. 13:4; 21:25-26
- He suffers unnecessary hindrances
Prov. 15:19; 18:9
- He suffers sudden, unexpected poverty
Prov. 24:30-34; 6:11; 20:13; 2 Thes. 3:6-13

6. Pursue the humility of a teachable heart: 9:7-12

Parenting: The Big Picture

Two priorities for Children's Relationship with Their Parents:
Ephesians 6:1-3

Priority #1: Obedient Action in Response to a Parent's God-given Authority

A. Command: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord" (cf Col 3:20 "in all things").

Obedience – listening with a view to submission

B. Reason: "For this is right" (cf Col. 3:20 "For this is well-pleasing in His sight").

Obedience is "right" in the sight of God

Disobedience is condemned by God:

Rom 1:30 mark of man's moral depravity

2 Tim 3:2 disobedient children are a sign of the difficult "last days"

1 Tim 1:9 children who murder their parents contrary to God's law

- Train your children that because of God's command, the first time that you speak a command, they must obey.
- Avoid an early warning system or countdown method: "I'm gonna count to three! One, two, three..."
- Avoid repeating a command multiple times:
"Come to Mommy...Come to Mommy, I said come to Mommy NOW!!!"
- Avoid giving a command followed by seeking your child's approval "Let's stop hitting your sibling, OK?" Replace "... OK?" with, "Do you hear or understand Mommy?"

"Obedience is doing what you are asked without challenge, delay or excuse"
Tedd Tripp in "Shepherding a Child's Heart"

Priority #2: Honoring Attitude in Response to a Parent's God-given Authority

A. Command: "Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise)."

Honor – a loving, respect that holds a parent's delegated authority in high regard.

Outward manifestations of this inward attitude.

- Eye contact with you and other adults/authority figures
- Respectful words choices and tone of voice
- Honoring facial expression/body language
- Attentive listening
- Soft hearted submission & compliance
- Tender relinquishing of their desires

B. Reason "So that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

Paul quotes Ex 20:12 7 Deut. 5:16 as a summary of the rewards and benefits and protection of obedience. This is not a law of longevity. Nor does it mean that all childhood sickness or death is the result of sin. Contrast Prov. 30:17!

Parenting: The Big Picture

Two priorities for a Parent's Relationship with Their Children:
Ephesians 6:4

Priority #1

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger" Eph 6:4a

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart." Col. 3:21

Priority #2:

"But bring them up" Eph 6:4b

Literally, "feed them, nourish them"

Rear them tenderly

Bring them to maturity

In the discipline of the Lord

Training of all kinds, including, but not limited to correction.

In the instruction of the Lord

Verbally placing truth into the mind

Priority #1: Avoid Sinful Provocation and Discouragement of Your Children
“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger” (cf Col 3:21 “do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”)

Provoke = Goading then into perpetual resentment

25 Ways to Provoke Your Children to Anger*

1. Lack of marital harmony
2. Establishing a child-centered home
3. Modeling sinful anger
4. Consistently disciplining in anger
5. Scolding
6. Being inconsistent with discipline
7. Having double standards
8. Being legalistic
9. Not admitting when you are wrong
10. Constantly finding fault
11. Reversing the God-given husband and wife roles
12. Not listening to the Child’s opinion or side of the story
13. Comparing them to others
14. Not having time to talk
15. Not praising the child
16. Failing to keep promises
17. Correcting him/her in front of others
18. Giving too much freedom
19. Not giving enough freedom
20. Making fun of the child
21. Abusing them physically
22. Calling them names
23. Having unrealistic expectations
24. Showing favoritism toward one child
25. Using child training methods that not biblical

*Taken from “The Heart of Anger” by Lou Priolo

Priority #2 Pursue Tender Nurture of Your Children

“But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Bring them up - Literally means “to feed or nourish” cf Eph. 5:29

Metaphorically - “to care for,” develop with painstaking care, “to bring to maturity”

Fathers NOTE: This is NOT strictly a feminine trait!

A. Bring them up by Training

Training of all types by various means: instruction, rules, modeling, rewards.

1. Proactive Teaching

- Waiting/Self-control
- Eating/manners
- Naps and bedtime
- Communication (speaking vs. screaming, polite words)
- Helping with chores
- Inside/outside behaviors (running vs. walking)
- Caring for others property
- Sharing & Self-control
- Preferring others (Prayer for other’s needs)
- Repeating an event following the rod

2. Correction & Chastisement

- Reserved for disobedience, defiance, and dishonoring behavior
- Not for immaturity, confusion, irrationality
- Begin as soon as they are old enough to disobey

B. Instruction

Admonish = to verbally place God’s truth into the mind

Tragic examples of failure to train children:

Eli 1 Sam 3:13

David 1 Kings 1:5-6

Encouraging examples of diligence to train children:

Lois & Eunice: 2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15

Israel: Deut 6:4ff

Asaph Psalm 78:1-8

Godly Elders in the church 1 Tim. 3:4

Proverbs on the Use of the Rod

The rod is necessary because of children's sinful nature

"The rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding" 10:13

"In the mouth of fools is a rod for his back" 14:3

"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him" 22:15

"A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools" 26:3

The rod teaches that sin leads to suffering!

The rod is necessary because of a parent's sinful reluctance

"He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently 13:24

"Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, He will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol." 23:13-14

The rod is necessary because of the consequences

"Disciplines your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death" 19:18

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother." 29:15

"Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul." 29:17

Common Problems with the use of the Rod

Waiting too late for discipline

Parental Anger/lack of love

Too much force

Not enough force

Inconsistency

Failing to include instruction

Child's fear

No confession/acknowledgement of sin

Release for parental frustration, rather than loving correction

Failing to represent God's authority/offence in the process

Failing to show affection and reconcile afterwards

Suggestions When Using the Rod

From "Parenting for Life" Grace Community Church

The goal of biblical discipline is to correct, not merely to punish; to clear the conscience and be reconciled with God and others. These things are true of both chastisement and negative consequences.

"Let it (*the rod*) be reserved, at least in its more serious forms, for willfulness. It is medicine, not food; the remedy for the occasional diseases of the constitution, not the daily regimen for life and nourishment. And to convert medicine into daily food, gradually destroys its remedial qualities." Charles Bridges, Proverbs p. 430

When a child willfully defies a parent, the parents are God's instrument of correction so that the child knows his choice was wrong and against God's will. However, God does not tell parents how to practically apply discipline in all cases. The following suggestions may be helpful as you learn to apply the principles of biblical discipline lovingly, effectively, and prayerfully in your home.

Calmly examine the nature of the offense in your own mind.

Was the offense **rebellious? Defiant?**

- Were clear directions given and obeyed without challenge, excuse, or delay?
- Was stubbornness demonstrated with pouting, grumbling, or sulking? Was the child saying "no" with his body language? Ask proper questions to determine what they intended to convey with their body language (Prov. 18:13). (Be careful not to confuse momentary disappointment or sorrow with defiance.)
- Was a disrespectful or dishonoring comment made?
- Was there a contrary spirit in general?
- Was **lying** involved?

If you are convinced that there was rebellion or defiance, most likely a spanking is required (Prov. 15:10a) unless there are other mitigating factors (i.e. immaturity, grace). If a spanking isn't necessary, substitute an appropriate negative consequence in this process.

Require the child to acknowledge his guilt and accept responsibility for his foolish choice.

- Ask him what choice he should have made.
- Ask him if what he did was right or wrong in God's eyes.
- Call him to repentance and pray that God would bring true repentance to pass. He needs to understand he has offended God.

Administer the chastisement calmly and thoroughly.

- Don't spank in such a way that would injure the child. Corporal punishment should be moderate, reasonable, and age-appropriate.
- The discipline needs to be thorough enough to cause reflection and sorrow that may bring change.
- Spank the proper area so safety is maintained.

- In general, children should as much as is possible be chastised privately. Be especially careful to avoid disciplining the child in a public setting.
- Remember, the goal is not punishment but correction so that he will repent, not repeat the offense (II Pet. 2:22; Prov. 26:11).

Follow the chastisement with instruction, teaching, training, and prayer (II Tim. 3:16,17).

- Discuss what to do the next time a similar situation occurs. What could he have done instead, and why?
- Remind your child that you desire to come along side and help him.
- This can be a special time of comfort and prayer, asking God to work in his heart.
- Instruct him to sincerely ask God and other appropriate people for forgiveness, and to affirm an offended brother or sister with affection, making an effort to restore the relationship (Luke 11:24-26; Eph. 4:22-24).

All that you do should be a demonstration of *agape* love.

- *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up strife* Prov. 15:1.
- The anger of man will not accomplish God's purposes (James. 1:20).
- Use words that help resolve and clarify the problem, avoiding words and tones that attack the person (Eph. 4:29).
- Do not mention the offense again, so as to use it against the child. If you must mention past offenses do so for their good (i.e. to help them deal with a sinful pattern).
- Look for an opportunity to encourage your child now that the issue is resolved.

Understand that though you may pray for and desire the correction to be complete with repentance and reconciliation, sometimes it won't be. Be patient as God works in the heart of the child.

Unless their reaction is severe enough to warrant new correction, move on. Look for other opportunities to talk with your child apart from this specific conflict in order to understand the true condition of his heart (Prov. 4:23; 20:5). Pray for wisdom; God will provide it (Jms. 1:5).

Our responsibility before God is to administer correction under His authority, accurately reflecting the manner in which He chastises His beloved sons in love. Biblical correction can only be administered in a context of love; anything else is not biblical correction. It may be discipline, or it may have a correcting influence, but it is not biblical correction. It is not obedient to the command of God.

Bruce Ray from *Withhold Not Correction*

Recommended Resources

Parenting for Life

<https://www.gracebooks.com/ISBN/303>

(12 week class will be offered on Wednesday evenings, Fall of 2016 at GIBC)

Shepherding a Child's Heart

Tedd Tripp

Shepherd Press

The Faithful Parent

Stuart Scott & Martha Peace

P&R Publishers

Withhold Not Correction

Bruce Ray

P&R Publishing

Disciplines of a Godly Family

Kent & Barbara Hughes

Crossway Publishing

Duties of Parents

J.C. Ryle

Hints for Parents

Gardiner Spring

Shepherd Press

The Lord-Built House

Psalm 127

Solomon reminds God's people
that they are utterly dependent on God in two important realms:

1. God's people are utterly dependent on Him in the routine blessings of everyday life (vs 1-2).

A. For their home (vs. 1a)

God is the ultimate source of a literal shelter

God is the ultimate source of a future legacy

B. For their security & protection (vs. 1b)

C. For their daily bread (vs. 2)

Three "vanities":

Rising up early

Staying up late

Grievous, joyless labor and toil

So what is a God-pleasing work ethic?

Hard, yet dependent work

Prov. 10:22

1 Cor. 15:10, 58

Fearless faith

Matt. 6:25-34

Col. 3:23-24

Complete contentment

Prov. 10:22

1 Tim. 6:8

2. God's people are utterly dependent on Him for the rich blessings of family life (vs. 3-5)

A. For young children – God's provision for parents early in life (vs. 3).

B. For adult children – God's protection of parents late in life (vs. 4-5).