

The Light - Junior Series

Lesson 121

The Family is a Precious Gift from God

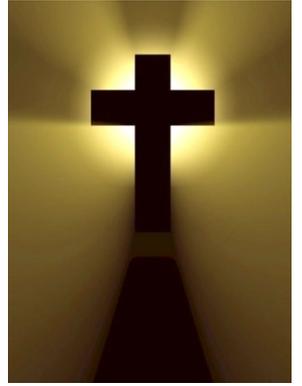
Dads & Moms & Kids



2018

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



LESSON



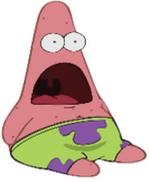
Hi, Kids. In our last lesson we started studying more about family life in the Old Testament and particularly about dads and moms. Now we're going to look in the New Testament at dads and moms in this lesson as well.

You know being Christian parents means that whoever is raising you, whether that be parents, grandparents, or guardians have a HUGE responsibility in the eyes of God.

This responsibility is so important, that the Bible has very important things to say about it. There are three major keys or subjects. Those three major keys or subjects are: **grace, love, and our fellowship or our close walk with the Holy Spirit.**



Let's go to the Old Testament again. Let's look at the 5th Commandment of the Law in **Deut 5:16**. It says, "Honor you father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, **that your days may be long (on the earth) and that it may go well with you on the land which the Lord your God gives you.**" This is the first Commandment that comes with a promise. Did you notice the promise? It promises you a long life on earth that goes well! That's a really amazing promise. Do you think God is serious about us obeying our parents or guardians? Yes, INDEED!



This commandment is for you, the children, to obey! The Ten Commandments of the Law DO NOT say how parents should parent their children! It says only that children should obey their parents...well almost...there is that one about "thou shall not murder!" Just kidding!!!

This promise for kids is repeated in the New Testament, too in Eph 6:1-2. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), (3) **SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.**"

But also, in the New Testament in Eph 6:3-4, there are commands to dads! It's in the 5th Commandment and it says, (4) Fathers, do not (unfairly) cause your children to get angry, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction (the Bible...the WORD) of the Lord.



This new commandment to the dads is for the **age of grace**, which is the **Church Age**, or **the time we live in now**. Please look at what it says. It says, "dads, DO NOT unfairly cause your children to get angry." Right off, that is a negative command to dads...it is what dads should NOT do!

The very good part is, "But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord!" Do it dads, like the Lord would do it.



So, kids, it's time now for this lesson to be directed at your parents or guardians.

Let's get practical about this, parents. Be honest about this next one. When you hear the words "parenting the Bible's way", what comes to your mind?

Do you think about the **methods**, or do you think about the desired **results**?

Most parenting books put importance on the methods but **God is much more interested in the RESULTS!!!**

Desired Results:

1. "A child whose heart is wise and whose lips speak what is right."
2. "A child who is going in the way he should go?"
3. "A child who is nurtured and guided and corrected when wrong."
4. "A child who understands the grace of God."
5. "A child who knows he is loved."
6. "A child who walks with the Holy Spirit"
7. "A child who is not angry."
8. "A child who is not bitter or discouraged."
9. "A child who is motivated."
10. "A child who is led by the example of his parents into proper thinking and behavior."



by Bénédicte Barrett

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Or, parents, do you think about spanking, and how being a Christian means you are all for spanking? Spanking is a subject that really causes a lot of guilt for a lot of parents, especially dads.

There is this idea that when children misbehave it's the father's fault. And they think that the reason is the father didn't spank the child enough. This is NOT true in most cases!



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Now there is a time and place for a tap on the tush, but if spanking is your ONLY tool in the parenting toolbox, you have a really terrible tool box! This is especially true in our age of grace...the Church Age...NOW...where we are

in union with Jesus Christ, and with **the love** of our heavenly Father, and the close fellowship of the Spirit for us at all times. We should **always use grace first** when correcting and instructing the children. Again, there is a time and place for harsher punishment. A wise parent will know the difference.



Each child is different and responds differently to different kinds of correction and instruction. The Bible teaches in **Prov 22:6** that parents should, "Train up a child in the (Bible) way that he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

REMEMBER, the thing that is **really important to understand** is the **goal of desired results of** our instruction and training up children. See the above list and read it again.



Remember that the Ten Commandments could not work because of the weakness of our flesh, the sinfulness of our flesh. So, God took things in a new direction with the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for all our sins and the sins of the entire world. God's perfect plan...a free gift...a gift from Jesus of Eternal Life. With this gift, HE gave us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us as individuals and as parents from the Word in our souls.



We serve now as parents in the newness that the Holy Spirit brings rather than the oldness of the letter of the law...specifically, the Ten Commandments. 2 Cor 3:2-6 "You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; (3) being shown that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the (Holy) Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of

stone (Ten Commandments) but on tablets of human hearts. (4) Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. (5) Not that we are enough in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our capability is from God, (6) who also made us acceptable as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter (of the Law) but of the (Holy) Spirit; for the letter (of the Law brings knowledge of) death, but the (Holy) Spirit gives (eternal) life."

To say to dads, "Thou shalt spank... or else", is to put the family under Law, not under grace. Look here in the Book of Proverbs for a few examples of the Old Testament Law:

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

Prov 23:13 "Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you spank him with the rod, he will not die."

Prov 23:14 "You shall spank him (an unbelieving child) with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol."

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

Remember, we are now in the age of grace and our parenting should reflect that grace.



Now in the age of grace, look at Gal 5:1 "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a burden of slavery (to sin)." 2 Cor 3:17 "Now the Lord is the (Holy) Spirit, and where the (Holy) Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (from being a slave to the flesh...sin)."

In other words, Christian parents have freedom in how they use discipline and instruction to bring up each child in the Lord. They have the Holy Spirit to help them. So, let's get clear about what the New Testament does say by means of instruction and command to the parents, primarily to the dads in the following verses:



Eph 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), (3) SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. (4) Fathers, **do not cause your children to get angry**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Col 3:21 "Fathers, do not **frustrate** your children, so that they will not lose heart (get discouraged)."

So, here are the commands to parents, mainly dads in the New Testament:

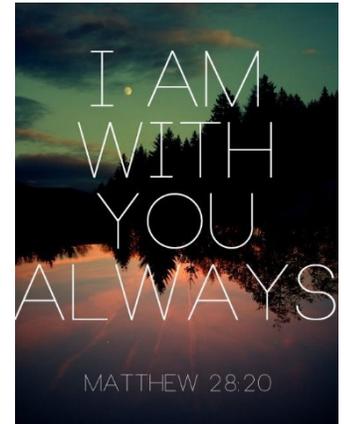
1. Do not cause your child to get angry.
2. Bring them up, nourish and love them. This is the same Greek word as found in Eph 5:29 "for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church..."
3. To nurture in bringing them up to maturity.
4. Use discipline, scolding, correction, and training.
5. Use instruction, teaching them with guidance and direction including what the Christian life is all about.
6. Don't resort to nagging. Don't frustrate your children.
7. Watch over their hearts (souls); make sure they don't get discouraged.





And how are we to do that? **We do it in the discipline and instruction of the Lord! Do it all in the LORD,** not by the law but in the Lord! It's the Lord's discipline! It's the Lord's instruction!

Our children are also members of the body of Christ just like Christian parents are in HIM and in the same way that marriages are in the Lord. And the Lord is right there with the husbands and wives. The Lord is right there with us as dads and sons and daughters; and moms and sons and daughters...ALWAYS!



So, maybe the most important question we can ask each day as we try our best to be good parents is this one: "How does the Lord wish to train up my child today?" "What instruction does the Lord desire to give my child today?" **If He were the one dealing with my child, how would He go about it?**



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The greatest college basketball coach, who took young men from all kinds of backgrounds and with different faults and struggles, and molded them again and again into national champions, had this say about adults and young people and it is so true: **"Young people need role models – not critics."**

He also said this: **"A coach is someone who can give correction without anger".**

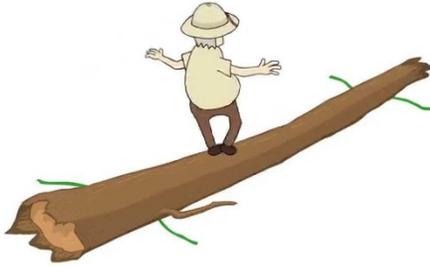
That is the Bible, kids, moms, and dads! That is the New Testament. That is Christian advice from the mind of JESUS.

As parents, we ARE called to correct our children. We are called upon to do this pretty much every single day! But we need to be trained by the Holy Spirit from



the Word of God on how to do this in such a way that we do not cause our child to be resentful, or angry. That they do not lose heart over it.

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

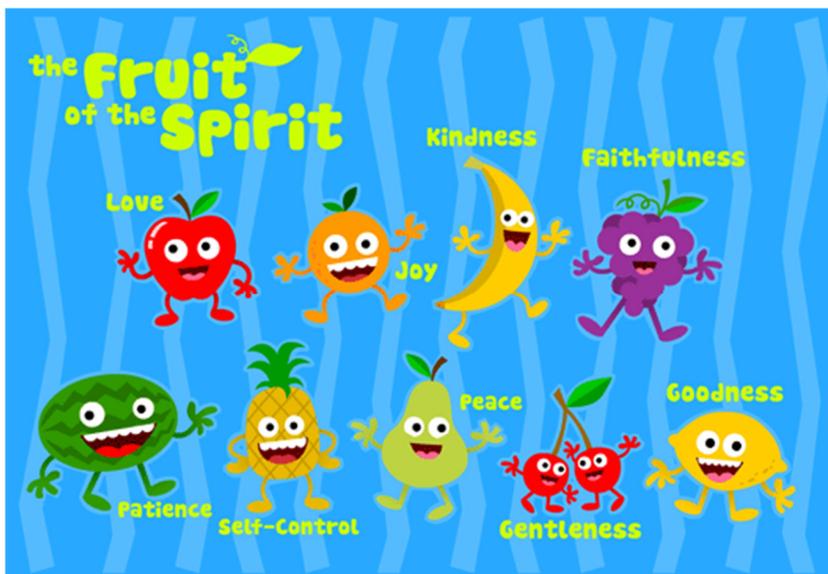


This is a real challenge! It calls for much more wisdom from the Bible and virtue, which you get from studying God's Word. It's far better than a spanking punishment as the only way to train children.

As parents it's hard to correct a child without causing that child to be frustrated. It's hard to accomplish that. Parents need HELP to be able to do that...they need patience.

Parents need to learn to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance to be there with them every single time that they have to correct or train their children.

How do we correct and train the children? Do we do it by means of the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Yes!! How do parents correct and scold their children in love? How do we do it and preserve their joy? How do parents do it with a sense of peace that not only we have but our child has?

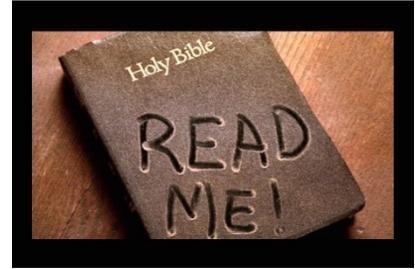


Let's look at what the Bible has to say to us...Gal 5:18; 22-25 "But I say, walk by (means of) the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (17) For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (18) But if you are led by

(means of) the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.** (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by (means of) the Spirit, let us also walk by (means of) the Spirit."

So, maybe an even deeper question is this one: How does your heavenly Father treat you? What is His way of parenting you? It's GRACE ALL the WAY.

Until next time...stay in God's Word.



Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 3-6-2016
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