

## “The Secret to Joyful Parenting”

Ephesians 6:1-4

C.I.T.—In order for the family to properly train the next generation to follow Christ, each character must play their part.

C.I.S.—We need to play our part in our family.

Purpose—I want to reorient our parents and children to recognize their role in the family and to play their part.

Introduction—**Proverbs 10:1**—a wise son brings joy to his father

### **I. A Wise Son Will Obey his Father vs. 1-3**

a. hypakouw—to listen to, obey

b. Parents—mother and father—the adults who are responsible for you

c. 3 Reasons

i. Obedience is Worship

1. “In the Lord” refers to the context in which you obey.

2. Could refer to parents in the Lord, saved parents, but we are to obey unsaved parents as well

3. Instead this modifies the obedience, in that as Christian children, we should live in obedience to the Lord by obeying our parents.

4. Similar to the wife submitting to her husband, not because he is so good, but because it is an act of worship to the Lord.

ii. Obedience is Right

1. Diakaion—right/righteous to the standard set

2. The Lord is the standard, and obedience matches the Lord’s standard, and example

3. Illus.—God the Son obeyed God the Father

iii. Obedience is wise.

1. Honor—timaw—to revere or respect, and in this case refers to obedience

2. It might be well with you

3. Long lasting life, refers not just to quantity, but quality

4. God will honor the child that obeys his parents.

5. Also, the child that obeys his parents will be blessed, because his parents are giving good advice and direction.

d. Illus.—Dad—If you would just do what I tell you, it will all work out.

e. Application

i. Obedience requires humility.

1. You don’t know it all.

2. Not that you are unintelligent, but you haven’t experienced life.

3. You parents know more than you.

4. There were teenagers once too.

5. Obedience means that you recognize that they might know more than you.

ii. Obedience requires trust.

1. If you don’t trust your parents, you will have a hard time obeying them.

2. They love you and have your interest in mind

iii. In order to be saved and to live the Christian life, you obey the Lord.

iv. We learn to obey Christ by first obeying our parents.

### **II. A Glad Father Will Train His Son. Vs. 4**

a. Fathers—specifically father, but mothers are included

b. Do not provoke

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- i. Parorgizw—orge is the slow burning anger that develops over time
- ii. This word means to build resentment, anger, and bitterness in a child’s life.
- iii. This is in the present tense, which refers to an ongoing way of life.
- iv. Some ways this takes place are, John MacArthur:
  1. Smothering/controlling
  2. Favoritism—Jacob and Esau, Joseph and the coat of many colors
  3. Pushing achievement beyond reasonable bounds
  4. Discouragement
  5. Failure to sacrifice for your children and making them feel unwanted
  6. Failing to let children grow up at a normal pace
  7. Using love as a tool of reward or punishment
  8. Physical or verbal abuse
- c. Instead, nourish
  - i. Bring them up/rear them/fertilize their life
  - ii. Training—paideia—systematic training of a child—emphasizes training done by act
  - iii. Admonition—nouthesia—putting into the mind, emphasizes training done by word
  - iv. This training is in the context of knowing and following Jesus.
  - v. This positive nourishing to Jesus will negate and keep parents from provoking their children with those other means
- d. Argumentation
  - i. Instruction
    1. **Proverbs 1:1-8**
    2. **Proverbs 22:6**
  - ii. Example
    1. **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
  - iii. Discipline
    1. **Proverbs 13:24**
    2. **Proverbs 22:15**
    3. **Proverbs 23:13-14**
    4. **Proverbs 29:15**
- e. Illus.—Potty Training a Son
- f. Application
  - i. This is a silly example, but is it not true of the more serious aspects of life?
  - ii. We, as parents, have a responsibility to train and teach our children to follow Christ.
  - iii. They learn to follow Jesus by following us.
  - iv. If we abdicate this responsibility, we doom them to a miserable life.
  - v. We train them in everything else, why not spiritually?

### Conclusion

- So who is responsible for a child following Christ?
- Both the child and the parents
- It starts with the parents.
- Invitation to pray with your family.

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**Proverbs 10:1** Solomon's proverbs: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son, heartache to his mother.

**Proverbs 1:1** The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: <sup>2</sup> For learning wisdom and discipline; for understanding insightful sayings; <sup>3</sup> for receiving prudent instruction in righteousness, justice, and integrity; <sup>4</sup> for teaching shrewdness to the inexperienced, knowledge and discretion to a young man-- <sup>5</sup> let a wise person listen and increase learning, and let a discerning person obtain guidance-- <sup>6</sup> for understanding a proverb or a parable, the words of the wise, and their riddles. <sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline. <sup>8</sup> Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and don't reject your mother's teaching,

**Proverbs 22:6** Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it.

**Deuteronomy 6:4** "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

**Proverbs 13:24** The one who will not use the rod hates his son, but the one who loves him disciplines him diligently.

**Proverbs 22:15** Foolishness is bound to the heart of a youth; a rod of discipline will separate it from him.

**Proverbs 23:13** Don't withhold discipline from a youth; if you punish him with a rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup> Punish him with a rod, and you will rescue his life from Sheol.

**Proverbs 29:15** A rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a youth left to himself is a disgrace to his mother.