

Principles for Raising Children

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

- Introduction:
1. “Today’s youth love luxury and have bad manners. They hold authority in contempt; they no longer stand up when an adult enters the room; they talk back to parents and contradict them; they talk too much in the presence of company; they talk nonsense instead of working; they put themselves all over the furniture; and they guzzle their food” (Socrates, 500 B.C.).
 2. Raising children is a difficult proposition and there are no guarantees.
 3. That’s why I think it is so important to talk about parental training.
 - a. Ills. we require people flipping burgers to have training.

I. Start With the Foundation of God’s Word

- A. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4).
- B. Ills. of Mezuzah.
- C. Teach God’s word and live it out before your children.
 1. (Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:4).
 2. Ills. of robbing an armored car.
 3. Ills. Burger King & 11 cents.
 4. (Genesis 22) Mt. Moriah Experiences

II. Stop Being a Good Parent and be a Responsible Parent

- A. (Ezekiel 18:20). Being moral is not enough.
- B. Help children learn that poor decisions have bad consequences.
- C. Logical & Natural Consequences.
- D. Discipline becomes more “matter of fact” and less about you and more about the child’s poor choices.
- E. Of course, if a child is too immature to make a decision that will affect their eternal destiny, step in and make it for them.

III. Children Can be Adversely Influenced by the World

- A. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- B. (Galatians 2:11-13; 2 Timothy 4:10).
- C. Yes, parents can pick their children’s friends.
- D. Ills. of girl who was planning her Dad’s murder.

- Conclusion:
1. (Psalm 127:3).
 2. We want to direct the children with which we have been entrusted back to their heavenly Father.