

Why Do Good People Have Bad Children

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

- Introduction:
1. Raising children is a very difficult proposition.
 2. Ephesians 6:1 says just as much to parents as it does to children.
 - a. Children are to obey.
 - b. But not out of fear, oppression, or force, but out of honor and respect.
 3. I have often heard the question and perhaps even raised it myself, "Why do good people have bad children?"
 4. In this lesson, we seek to answer this question and provide some solutions to this problem.
- I. Not All Good People Are Good Parents
- A. I don't like that answer, but facts are facts.
 1. This fact stands to challenge or haunt every father or mother.
 - B. Just to be a good person does not mean that we are going to be good parents.
 - C. Some are under the false impression that if I am good, then my children will be good also.
 1. This just simply is not the case.
 2. (Ezekiel 18:20).
 3. My child will not inherit my wickedness, nor will he inherit my righteousness.
 - D. Children come into his world morally pure-ant it is through a process of choices that they become defiled.
 1. The job of a parent is to help that child in the decision making process.
 2. Some good people are bad parents because they do not properly help in this decision making process.
 - a. I am all in favor of helping your children to mature by involving them in the decision making process.
 - b. I am in favor of allowing your children to experience natural consequences.
 1. Example: stuffed animal left outside all night.
 - c. But a line must be drawn, and here's where I draw it, "If a child is too immature to make a decision that will affect their eternity, then as a parent, I am obligated by God to step in and help.
 - d. Example of a girl allowed to go to bars and dances.
 1. This is equivalent to allowing a child to play with a loaded gun-If he shoots himself, he will have learned his lesson.
 3. Notice a couple of Good people who were not good parents, and thus did not have good children.
 - a. Eli.
 1. Eli was a Levite, a priest of God serving in the tabernacle.
 2. One of the greatest prophets of Israel was taught and instructed under the oversight of Eli.
 3. No question, Eli was a good man.

4. However, he was not a good parent.
 - a. (I Samuel 3:13).
 - b. (I Samuel 2:22-24).
5. Eli was a man who made the same mistake many parents are making today.
 - a. Failing to restrain or rebuke.
 - b. Coming to one's senses when it's too late.
6. Allow me to insert some opinion.
 - a. To me, it appears that Eli devoted his attention to Samuel and neglected his own sons.
 - b. It's not right to save the world or a community, and lose your own family.
 - c. Example of Connally in Africa.

b. David.

1. David was a good man, a man after God's own heart (I Samuel 13:14), yet he was a failure as a father.
2. Notice what happened in David's family:
 - a. One of his sons rapes and defiles one of his daughters (II Samuel 13:1-20).
 - b. In response, another son murders the brother who raped his sister (II Samuel 13:21-36).
 - c. The son that murdered his brother, eventually rebelled against his father (II Samuel 15: 7-12).
3. But notice David's difficulty.
 - a. David defiled a woman, is he now to rebuke his son for the very same action?
 - b. David committed murder, is he now to rebuke his son for the very same action?
 - c. David rebelled his God, is he now to rebuke his son for the very same action?
4. By his very example, David, though a good man, was a very poor father.

E Solutions that will help good people be good parents.

1. Parents, love your children.
 - a. (I Corinthians 13:4-7).
2. Parents, discipline your children.
 - a. (Prov. 22:15) "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him."
 - b. He said the rod of corrections, not the pat of disappointment, or verbal chastisement.
 - c. By pain (not abuse), a child learns.

1. Example of a hot stove.
 2. Example of match with Kelli.
 3. Who do people not go to the dentist?
 4. Example of being spanked by my Mom and my Dad.
- d. (Prove. 23:13) “Do not withhold correction form a child, for if you beat him witha rod, he will not die.”
3. Other things:
 - a. Time.
 - b. Trust.
 - c. Talk.
- F. Example of a man who took his responsibility as a father seriously.
1. There’s a young boy in Jew Jersey who looks forward ever year to his birthday.
 2. On his birthday, he hurries out to the mail box to get a special letter, a letter from his father, his deceased father.
 3. This father discovered that he had a terminal illness, so he made it a practice to write several letters to his son, (birthdays, wedding day).
 4. Here’s a father who knew he wouldn't be around to help his son over the hurdles of life, so he did the best he could by writing letters.

II. Children Can Be And Are Adversely Influenced By The World

- A. (I Corinthians 15:33) “Do not be deceived, evil companions corrupt good morals.”
1. This doesn’t say that it corrupts those form learning evil.
- B. Are we to take his to mean that we cannot allow our children to have friends and companions who are not Christians?
1. (II Corinthians 6:14) “Be not *UNEQUALLY* yoked together...”
- C. Examples of good men adversely influenced.
1. Barnabas.
 - a. (Acts 4:36) Joseph (son of exhortation, encouragement).
 - b. (Acts 11:24) Sent to Antioch to encourage and it is said of him that “he was a good man”.
 - c. (Galatians 2:11-13).
 2. Demas.
 - a. (Colossians 4:14) Salutes the brethren.
 - b. (Philemon 24) Fellow worker.
 - c. (II Timothy 4:10) Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world.
- D. Parents, don’t deceive yourself into thinking that my children will not be influenced by the world.
- E. How can we help our children deal with these adverse influences.
1. Be aware of adverse influences.
 - a. get involved in the activities of your child.

1. Movies.
 2. Music.
 3. Television.
2. Set an example for your children.
 - a. Let the Lordship of Jesus be seen in your life.
 - b. (Galatians 2:20).
 - c. "In His Steps".

- Conclusion:
1. Parents have been entrusted with an eternal soul, destined for heaven or hell.
 2. Your child's destiny largely hinges upon your life.
 3. If you have not been taking parenthood seriously, then begin to do so with determination this day.