

May 5, 2024

Proverbs 13; 22; 23; 24; 29

Wise Parenting

The scene is all too familiar. You are at the store picking up the things on your shopping list when you hear crying and screaming a short way down the aisle. You turn to see an exasperated parent trying to deal with a young child.

“I want a toy, I want a toy,” the child screams. The parent tells the child he or she cannot have the toy, but the child’s crying and begging only get louder. The parent tries to be firm, but the child hits the parent and screams again, “I WANT A TOY!” Finally, the embarrassed parent hands the child the toy he or she wants, and the screaming and “crying” immediately stop.

What happened? The child has learned that Mom or Dad has a breaking point, and if he can push them to that point, he can get whatever he wants.

Child discipline is a serious problem in America today. Parents don’t know how to discipline, so teachers are struggling with uncontrollable children. What does the Bible say about parenting?

Children Need Discipline

Prov. 22:15 What is “*bound up in the heart of a child?*”

Children are foolish, and don’t know what is best for them. What will drive foolishness from them?

The word **rod** means a branch or switch, not an axe handle.

Prov. 29:15 What gives wisdom?

If a child is “*left to himself,*” what will happen?

Discipline is a Mark of Love

Prov. 13:24 “He that _____ his rod _____ his son.” What does a parent who loves his child do?

Let’s review: Children are foolish and need proper discipline. A child that is **NOT** disciplined will bring shame to his mother. The parent who truly loves his or her child will chasten him at times (just as God does with His children: Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19).

Correct and Teach Your Children

Prov. 23:13 “Withhold not _____ from the child.” Properly administered punishment won’t kill the child, and may keep him from an early death caused by unrestrained sinful behavior.

- Prov. 23:14** What does proper discipline deliver a child from?
- Prov. 23:15-16** What causes parents to rejoice?
- Prov. 23:17** “Let not thine heart envy _____: but be thou in the _____ of the LORD all the day long.”
- Prov. 23:18-19** There **are** future consequences to our present behavior. Parents must teach their children to make wise decisions now so they can enjoy a good future.

Benefits of Proper Discipline

- Prov. 22:6** How should parents train their children?
- What is the benefit of such training?
- Prov. 29:17** What are the benefits of correcting your son?

Parental Teaching is a Blessing to Children

- Prov. 24:13** Honey in this verse represents wisdom. Honey was the sweetest substance available to ancient people.
- Prov. 24:14** God says wisdom is as sweet to your soul as honey is to your mouth (if you don't like honey, substitute chocolate). What are the blessings of wisdom?
- Prov. 24:16** “For a _____ man _____ seven times, and _____ up again: but the _____ shall fall into _____.”
- Prov. 24:17-18** Why shouldn't we rejoice when our enemy falls?
- Prov. 24:19** “_____ not thyself because of _____ men, neither be thou _____ at the _____.”
- Prov. 24:20** Why shouldn't we worry about evil people?
- Prov. 24:27** Ancient people had to provide for their food first, and for their housing second. Godly parents teach their children to be wise by doing first things first.

Concluding Thoughts: Children need godly discipline and training, and it is the responsibility of parents to provide both. In fact, it is a **shame** when a child doesn't get discipline and training.

Are you a parent? Your child deserves and needs loving, firm, consistent discipline. Confess your shortcomings as a parent, ask God to enable you to properly train and correct your child, and make a commitment to do better, starting today.

Are you a child still living under your parents' roof? Your parents' discipline is an evidence of their love for you. Submit to their authority, obey their rules, and try to learn all you can from their wisdom and experience. Confess any sins of rebellion and disobedience, ask your parents' forgiveness, and ask God to enable you to submit, obey, and learn. Make a commitment to God to do those things.

Do you know someone who needs help with parenting skills? Tell them what the Bible says, offer practical advice, and pray for them.

Project: Memorize **Proverbs 22:6**. Be consistent in your discipline (if you're a parent) or your obedience (if you're a child).