

“Even a Child is Known by His Deeds”

Proverbs 20:11 - “Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does is pure and right.”

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- In infancy, every child is driven by basic needs: hunger, pain, exhaustion, stimulation, discomfort... and is completely self-oriented.
- As they become toddlers, they become aware that they and their needs are not the only needs in this world
- They learn this by means of their interaction with other persons in their lives, primarily by how they are treated by others

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- The terrible twos are inevitable
- When parents take a firm hand in the beginning, the terrible twos will be shorter and less painful; when parents are indulgent to the tantrums that accompany this conflict their child must face, they extend the time their child will experience this transition.

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- Brother Irvan Lee, author of Good Homes in a Wicked World, wrote: “Many children are abused and neglected. Some are spoiled and pampered. A fortunate few are properly disciplined. Those exercised or drilled in obedience through instruction, love, and chastening produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness. The home is the place where this fruit should grow.”

“Even a Child is Known by His Deeds”

- What do the scriptures teach?
 - Heb. 12:11 - “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
 - Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

The Bible Is God's Child Raising Manual

- “Children are not all alike and training is not easy, but the Creator has designed the child so that he is young for several years. This gives the parents time to search for skill in how to bring each into subjection (1Tim. 3:4-5). This knowledge cannot be bought at the store. Parents must seek this skill to find it. They may seek advice from others, but advice from others may be diverse and contradictory. The best counsel is always from the Bible. This book is consistent and does not vary from generation to generation according to the trends of philosophers and psychologists.” (Irvan Lee)

The Bible Is God's Child Raising Manual

- Prov. 22:15 - “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.”
- Prov. 19:13 - “A foolish son is the ruin of his father”
- Prov. 29:15, 17 - “The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother... 17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.”

Discipline Produces Righteousness

- “Punishment or chastening has its place as a tool for wise parents to use in nurturing their children. Many object to its use, but the Lord has always recommended it. He knows best.” (Irvan Lee)
 - Prov. 13:24 - “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
 - Prov. 19:18 - “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”

Discipline Produces Righteousness

- Prov. 23:13-14 - “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.”
- This advice was needed long before Solomon’s day, and it has been needed ever since, and it will be needed until this world ends.

Discipline Produces Righteousness

- Heb. 12:5-11 - “And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Discipline Produces Righteousness

- “The child is not the one to take charge of things in the home. He is not the head of the family and should learn this lesson early in life. Every child should also be fully assured that he is loved and that he is a welcomed member of the family. The chastening is only part of the training process. Inconsistent and ineffective chastening may only agitate the problem. It is very important that the punishment be adequate to get the job done. Discipline in the home is basic and important for proper conduct at school. Good teachers would be glad if all parents were good disciplinarians. Officers of the law and employers in industry and business wish the same. There would be less crime and more peace among neighbors if each adult had been taught respect for laws and for those in authority early in life. Obedience to God is more natural for one who has first been trained by a wise and determined father and mother.” (Irven Lee)

Bible Instruction Applied

- “This part of the training should begin early. Teaching Bible stories and principles of righteousness help children become worthy adults. They can be taught good manners and proper behavior just as the school child can be taught grammar and mathematics.” (Irvan Lee)

Bible Instruction Applied

- Some young parents struggle with the question of discipline for unruly children in worship services. Consider the conflict:
 - I love my child and am concerned for their comfort
 - I love my child and don't want to be too harsh
 - I am embarrassed that my child is making me the center of attention with his crying
 - I want to be able to remain in worship services
 - I uncomfortable under all of those unpleasant stares
 - I am uncertain how much time I should give my child to calm down versus how much others around me can tolerate

Bible Instruction Applied

- So how much time should parents allow a child to fuss before taking them out? The answer depends on who you ask.
 - Some people get upset at the first cry; they are not the standard
 - Some people are not bothered by crying children, they are not the standard
 - What the child wants; they are not the standard
 - What the parent thinks is an acceptable period of time, whether short or long; they are not the standard
 - “Wait a minute; I’m the parent; I know what is best for my child!”

Bible Instruction Applied

- It is not a matter of weighing the needs of your child versus the needs of the congregation to worship; the matter depends on why your child is crying
 - If the child is crying because of a physical need, attend to that need, whether in a timely manner in your pew or in the nursery
 - If the child is crying because of a behavioral need, he or she will need a different kind of attention in a different location

Bible Instruction Applied

- Digressive churches and denominations answer this question by having such things as junior worship and worship daycare so that the children are not in worship services. This is an evil travesty!
 - It is a disservice to children
 - It is unfair to young parents
 - It is a dishonor to the congregation

Bible Instruction Applied

- The nursery is not a surrogate auditorium; it is a temporary solution to a temporary matter, an upset child
- The nursery is where the physical needs of an uncomfortable infant are taken care of
- The restroom, basement, or parking lot are the places where the behavioral needs of the child are taken care of

Bible Instruction Applied

- If you make being taken out for unnecessary fussing an unpleasant experience, it will reduce the number of incidents where they need to be taken out
- It will be difficult at first, but if you take a firm hand, literally, from the beginning, it will shorten the process of adjustment for your child.
- Sooner or later, you will have to teach your child to respect worship services. It is easier to accomplish sooner, at a time when the child is most receptive to that kind of teaching.

Bible Instruction Applied

- No one has all of the answers to child rearing except for God. Seek for His wisdom where it can be found:
 - In His word
 - In fervent prayer - James 1:5
 - Through the counsel of His faithful children who have successfully raised children in the Lord - Phil. 3:17
 - Prepare yourself to work hard
 - Prepare yourself for some unpleasant moments

Bible Instruction Applied

- Please understand that you have the support and love of this eldership as well as the good Christians around you. We are in this together; we are not “us against them”; we are a large family
- You have the sympathies of all of the people who have raised children.