

# Choose to Make a Parents Imprint

Lesson #16

**Scripture:** Proverbs 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

## **Introduction:**

I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day,  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded to my will.  
I came again when days were past –  
The bit of clay was hard at last;  
The form I gave it, it still bore,  
But I could change that form no more.  
I took a piece of living clay  
And gently formed it day by day,  
And molded with my power and art  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.  
I came again when years were gone –  
It was a man I looked upon;  
He still that early impress wore,  
And I could change him nevermore.

--Author unknown

## **Transitional Statement:**

When our first son Colton was born I thought it was really great. I had no idea what I was in for. I didn't know come here from sick em about babies and yes after only a few days I dropped Colton off the couch onto his head. The rest of Colton's baby years I wouldn't hardly hold him because I didn't know what to do and was afraid of doing something wrong.

You know, I fear that I have failed as a parent more than I have succeeded. Looking back over the years in which my three boys have grown up, in sadness I realize that I can't go back and change the past.....but there is always the present.

Parenting makes eternal differences, both in the life of the child and the parent. It is godly parenting that can change the rate at which people are leaving the church, and godly parenting that can change a world so desperate for salvation.

## **Lesson:**

### **I. Foundational principles of parenting.**

The following are some biblical basics that will guide the dedicated parent

## A. The original plan of parenting

### 1. Genesis 1:27-28

*“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “ Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- a. Effective parenting realizes that God is the designer and creator of the family.
- b. It is God who made both man and woman and gave them ability to bring children into this world.
- c. And with each child we understand that they are a gift from God and come with enormous expectation from God to care for them.

## B. The Law of parenting

### 1. Deuteronomy 6:1-9

*“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, 2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 “O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

- a. God establishes that the fundamental responsibility of parents is to teach their children about Him and His ways.
- b. First, teach them that God is one
  - 1) That He is unified
  - 2) He is consistent and that He is creditable
  - 3) And that He is dependable

c. Second, teach them that God has sovereign authority

1) That He is above all, in all and over all ...Isa 40

a) That He answers to know one

2) And that His sovereign authority is our guiding light.

a) Into the knowledge of right and wrong. Ps 119:105

b) And into an understanding of the boundaries of righteousness.

2) You see, every child must learn that the world doesn't evolve around them.

3) Every child must gain a respect for authority ...for God first, then in the home, at school and then on into adulthood.

d. And lastly that God is a covenant making and covenant keeping God.

1) This truth not only assures the child that God will be faithful to His word but that He expects the child to be true to his promises.

e. Here God instructs the parents to be the child's teacher

1) To show the children the importance of God's words

C. The season of parenting

1. Proverbs 22:6

*“Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

a. This passage has grieved many parents hearts as they blame themselves for their children's problems.

1) I think it goes without saying that any parent could have done better.

2) But there is another way to interpret this passage which lends more to the context.

*Give everything a child needs at every level of his  
development and the passing of years will not deface the  
imprints that are made.*

b. This passage helps us understand that there are optimum seasons of parenting i.e. when the child is most able to learn and the timing is right.

- 1) Child development experts have fairly well defined that attitudes about self, others, things and God are best taught from 0 – 5 years old.
- 2) Values such as ethics, work habits and dependability 6 – 10 years of age.
- 3) While modeling, positive or negative, 11 – 15 years of age
- 4) A child will do his own testing from 16 – 20 years of age

\* Time spent with children during each season is a must.

#### D. The goal of parenting

##### 1. Luke 2:50-52

*“But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. 51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*

- a. Obedience to the parents is defiantly foundational.
  - 1) Respect for authority is taught in the home.
  - 2) It should be trained for and measured time and time again
- b. Helping a child understand what wisdom is and show them how to increase in it.
- c. And children certainly need instruction on how to play well, work well and interact with others
- d. And most importantly children need to understand a life long principle of growing in favor with God.

#### E. The strategy of parenting

##### 1. Ephesians 6:1-4

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

- a. Teach the child to be a good listener.... “obey” means listen under

- b. Teach the child to perceive and understand value..... “honor” here suggests that they should build from the good and with appreciation show love and respect.
- c. We should remove obstacles that block growth in our children
  - 1) If the television is filling your child with smut from the world, we should cast it aside.
  - 2) If our kids have friends that are bad influences they need to be separated.
  - 3) This amounts to spiritual protection

## **II. The pillars of parenting**

### A. The commitment of parenting

Every parent should make a commitment, prior to becoming a parent and periodically renewing it along the way. The following are some suggestions.

- 1. Take seriously the gift that God has given to us.
- 2. Understand that each child is different
- 3. Help develop their giftedness
- 4. Help them examine future potentials in their lives.
- 5. Be involved in their lives
- 6. Offer my parenting as a sacrifice to God.

### C. The discipline in parenting

- 1. Hebrews 12:5-6

*“...MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”*

- 2. Proverbs 23:13

*“Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.”*

- 3. Proverbs 13:24

*“He who withholds his rod hates his son,*

*But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”*

D. The tone of parenting

1. Positive...with more praise than blame
2. Not critical, but encouraging
  - a. Ephesians 6:4

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

3. With much love

**III. The skills of parenting**

- A. Listening
- B. Conflict management
- C. Time management
- D. Financial management
- E. Relationship building

**Conclusion:**

**10 Commandments of Parenting.**

1. Teach them, using God's Word (\reference{Deut. 6:4-9}{Deuteronomy 6:4-9}).
2. Tell them what's right and wrong (I King 1:6).
3. See them as gifts from God (\reference{Ps. 127:3}{Psalms 127:3}).
4. Guide them in godly ways (\reference{Prov. 22:6}{Proverbs 22:6}).
5. Discipline them (\reference{Prov. 29:17}{Proverbs 29:17}).
6. Love them unconditionally (\reference{Luke 15:11-32}{Luke 15:11-32}).
7. Do not provoke them to wrath (\reference{Eph. 6:4}{Ephesians 6:4}).
8. Earn their respect by example (I Tim. 3:4).
9. Provide for their physical needs (I Tim. 5:8). 10. Pass your faith along to them (2 Tim. 1:5).