

CHILD TRAINING

**By
Pastor Bob Alexander**

An exhaustive study of training children and teaching parents, how to raise Godly men and women in this Laodicean church period, based on the views of Bible-believing Christianity

Note to the reader:

The scripture quotations found herein are from the text of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. Any deviations therefrom are not intentional.

Table of Contents

<small>CHAPTER</small>		<small>PAGE</small>
Child Training #1	“The Evil Day”	1
Child Training #2	“Jephthah and Lot”	13
Child Training #3	“Providing a Vision”	21
Child Training #4	“6 Absolute Principles for Biblical Parenting”	29
Child Training #5	“Authority and Accountability”	35
Child Training #6	“Affection”	48
Child Training #7	“Appreciation and Acceptance”	58
Child Training #8	“Availability”	67
Child Training #9	“13 Character Traits”	75
Child Training #10	“How to Discipline Your Child (Part 1)”	87
Child Training #11	“How to Discipline Your Child (Part 2)”	99
Child Training #12	“Dealing with a Strong Willed Child”	113
Child Training #13	“How to Lead Your Child to Christ (Part 1)”	127
Child Training #14	“How to Lead Your Child to Christ (Part 2)”	141
Child Training #15	“The Difference Between Boys and Girls”	159

CHILD TRAINING #1

“The Evil Day”

When you begin to deal with people and their issues, both saved and unsaved, 75% of their issues will be around their kids.

When learning this series, you have to realize there are two ways of understanding this material:

1. For your own children
2. For helping with the needs of others

By knowing this material, God will be able to use you as the **Right Man**, at the **Right Place**, in the **Right Situation**. The problem in today's world is that when you find a church that has young people in it with a lot of children, it is such a jumbled Charismatic mess, that you can't get any of these points across. When you find a church that wants to learn the Bible, and really has a passion for God and his word, they are all older. This is a target rich environment that our church is in with all the young couples and the problems they will encounter with their children. The bottom line is the difference between your children going to heaven or hell may simply be what you get out of this series on child training.

The single most important thing in our church (outside of the Bible) is our children. On the other hand, it is not the churches job to raise your child. If you don't take the responsibility to go down and work with kids in the nursery or children's church you lose sight on how important our children are. That is why it should not be the sole responsibility of a few people in the church, it should be shared by the entire church. If you don't share this responsibility, it sends a message to the children (and they will pick up on it) that they are not our most important commodity.

Some time along the line, our children are going to come up against a time or something else that they are going to struggle with. And if we can buy a little time in their life right now in being their friend, and they know they are important in our lives...if that will buy us 10-20 years down the line some time to help them, than that is what we need to do.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days”

This material applies to everyone’s life, whether you are single, a parent, or a grandparent. The reason it applies even if you are none of the above is because we are all a child of God and the principles are the same, and will help you wherever you are at.

Most of us are in the same boat when it comes to training our children, we are good people that love God and the word of God, and we want desperately to have our children go through and find their way through this maze called life. Most of you are doing the best you can do with where you are at, and what you have when it comes to training your children. However, there are some, that if you do not make some radical changes soon, you will lose your children.

This series is not designed to castigate anyone or scare anyone into doing what they should to train their child. It is designed to help you if you want to do what is right by your child. Some of you have already lost your children, some will understand this, some will not understand this, and some don’t want to understand this. The fact is that wherever you are at with your children, at any point, **there is always something you can do**. The longer you wait to do what is right, the harder it becomes to change the course of things that are already in your child’s life.

There comes a time that you will reach that point of no return. **Galatians 6:7** says, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”** There are consequences in your child’s life for not getting into a Biblical format and pattern to train up your child.

That brings up another concept that will come up throughout this study...YOU **RAISE** CHICKENS, HAMSTERS, RABBITS, CORN, CABBAGE...BUT YOU **TRAIN** CHILDREN!!!

First of all, you can’t be effectively what you need to be for your children, until you develop a proper context for what you are dealing with. So these first two lessons will be a context or a Biblical model of what we are up against.

The plan of the devil (Real simple):

1. He wants to get everyone in the world into hell. He will do everything he can to accomplish this goal. Some have beaten the devil, through the grace of God, and escaped the pits of hell. So now, the devil switches gears/plans.
2. If he can't get you in hell, he will get you to not follow the word of God, live your life the way YOU want to, call yourself a Christian, and do whatever you want to and justify it; thereby getting a circle of people around you that you may have had an influence in saving, but instead the devil will use you to help him send them to hell.

This is the biggest tragedy that some of us are going to heaven, but our children aren't there yet. The tragedy is now that you got in, you think you can do anything that you want to do, and are ignorant to the fact that there is somebody working behind the scene to undo everything you do. The next lesson will explain why the devil visits the iniquity of the fathers on the third and fourth generation.

“THE EVIL DAY”

Today we need to understand that we are in a battle against time! The clock is ticking against you and against a day in your child's life.

Ephesians 6

This is the great passage about SPIRITUAL WARFARE, and there are seven pieces of armor listed for this spiritual warfare. The real context for this chapter however is found in V.1 first word is “CHILDREN”!!!

V.10-13 (V.13 - “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand IN THE EVIL DAY, and having done all, to stand.”)

Every child will face this evil day found in V.13. *The evil day is a day that your child will stand by himself without his mother or father standing at his side. He/She will have to stand on his own two feet without any parental guidance.*

Ecclesiastes 12:1 “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, **while the evil days come not**, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”

You can only protect your child so long, and then thy will have to face the evil day on their own. The greatest example of this is found in **Genesis 3**. Adam and Eve were the first two:

1. Children in the Bible
2. Man and Woman in the Bible
3. Marriage in the Bible

In their child-like innocence, they represent our children. Notice the similarities:

1. They ran around naked and it did not bother them
...just like your child
2. When they did something wrong, they ran and hid
...just like your child
3. When they got caught they blamed it on someone else
...just like your child
4. They had an affinity for putting things in their mouth
...just like your child

There came a day for Adam and Eve when they both had to stand against the world, and they both FELL! The worst thing is they fell over the same issue that your child will fall against on that evil day...“Yea, hath God said?” The devil starts out very small with questioning authority. The first thing that they get hit with on that evil day is whether or not mom and dad know what they are talking about...or do your friends know better!!!

The reason that your son or daughter is in the world today is because somebody else got more influence in their life than you did. The world will tell them that whatever they have is a lot better than what God has, and down they went.

YOU CAN'T PUT OFF THE EVIL DAY...THERE IS NO ESCAPING IT.

Just remember when you put your child to bed tonight, go in and look at them sleeping so peacefully and angelic, and remember this...In that bed lies an old sin nature that can become the most godless man the world has ever seen, and the clock is running against you on that evil day.

The Biblical model on how to protect your child against the evil day is Daniel. The biggest problem parents make today is trying to **isolate** their children from the world instead of **insolating** them from the world. (A good example is the Christian School Movement).

The reason the Christian School Movement is the biggest concept laughed out of the pit of hell over the past 50 years, and to damn more kids to hell more than anything the devil could think of is:

- The Christian School Movement was built on a farce that was hatched in the minds of some great spiritual leaders. This concept was...if you want to build a church, start a Christian school. They had no care for the children themselves, or for the quality of the education/teachers. It was all about building a church, and then to preach against the public school system.
- They would then start the school and say that if your child went to our Christian school, they would turn out all right.
- It was not built because they wanted to turn out godly children, they wanted to build big church (MONEY!!! No Buck...No Buck Rogers). They would put in hidden print once your child was in their school that you would now have to go to church **there**. (It's like going to the vet. I don't like going to the vet, because the vet knows that we love our pets and they play off of that emotion. Every time I go, I cry! There's a poem about, a doggy heaven, where you die, and you are walking around this beautiful place, and suddenly you feel a cold nose on your leg, and you look down, and there's your long lost pet. I cried! And it's the stupidest thing in the world! And they have a sign up that says, "Have a Senior Dog Check-up." What is a Senior Dog Check-up? It's where you pay \$120 for him to tell you, "Your dog is OLD!" That's a senior dog check-up! There prey on EVERY FEAR that we have! Pastors in churches do the same thing with your children!)
- Now the parents drop off their kids at the school, human nature takes over and they think they don't have to train their own child now because the school will do it.

- They also think that as soon as they go to a Christian school there is a sign above the door that no one can see, “THE DEVIL CAN’T GET IN HERE.” The problem is that to build a big school you have to let everyone (including other religions) in, and get rid of the doctrine so you can make MONEY!!! Then the devil gets in. (“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”)

Daniel 1 “INSULATION vs. ISOLATION”

The Christian School mindset is to keep your child away from the world as long as you can, (and that sounds good, short-term,) but it will not put off that Evil Day! Every child that went to a Christian school still has to go through that Evil Day. Don’t misunderstand, you can send your child to Christian school, but don’t expect them to do the work for you, IT IS STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Cast of Characters:

1. Babylon = the worldly system. The unbiblical worldly system that wants to destroy your child.
2. Nebuchadnezzar = One of the 18 types of the Antichrist in the Bible. In this story, he will represent the Devil who runs this godly kingdom called Babylon.
3. Four Hebrew children = Any child. A picture of what the devil wants to do with your child, and how you can undo what he wants to do, if you will do what needs to be done.

V.3 “And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;” The first thing here to take notice of, is that this is a specific attack, not a general attack. This is an attack of the children from the “king’s seed.” In other words, the devil is trying to destroy a couple of things here:

- These Hebrew children are from Judah. Judah is the tribe that Christ comes from. These Hebrew children are in the line of Christ either directly or indirectly. The devil knows that these children are the link in the Old Testament of getting us to the first coming of Christ. Daniel himself writes this book, and without this book, the whole Bible would mean nothing.

- The devil is not just interested in anybody, he wants these children by which God has a plan for. Just like the devil wants to destroy the line of Christ in your family spiritually by attacking your children. That is what he wanted to do physically (Remember the Old Testament is a picture physically what happens to us in the New Testament spiritually)
- These children here are ripped from their homes, and are around the age of 12-16 years old (maybe younger). In most cases, these children's parents were killed right in front of them (based on Babylonian history). Now they are faced with the most wicked world system that has ever been. **SOMEBODY PREPARED THEM.** Someone **looked behind, looked around, and looked ahead**, and saw this evil day coming and built a value system around them to prepare them for THE EVIL DAY!

The Bible says these children were:

- Of the king's seed, which means they had real potential
- They were skillful in wisdom (The five wisdom books in the Bible are:)
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Job
 - Song of Solomon
 - Psalms
- **V.4** they were cunning in knowledge which means they knew how to use the Bible they were taught.
- They had understanding in science: (so they understood)
 - Job
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus

When you see this you find the three common things you find in Proverbs, Psalms, and Ecclesiastes that you have to have to survive:

1. Knowledge = facts
2. Wisdom = facts applied
3. Understanding = how God fits into the equation

Somebody prepared these children for the evil day in their life, so when mom and dad or big brother or sister was not there...they would still stand for God and do what's right, when they were on their own standing before the most wicked, godless king and society; that they would have what they needed to stand!

V.4 “Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning, and the tongue of the Chaldeans.” Here is what the devil wants to do to your child:

- Teach them. Either you will teach them, or he will teach them!
 - Teach them **the Learning** of the Chaldeans = The thought process. The concept of Attitude and Action...We are what we think, and we do what we think. If you develop an attitude toward something, that is your response to it. The first thing the devil wants to do, is to teach them the learning of the Chaldeans. **HE WANTS TO CHANGE THEIR THOUGHT PROCESS.**
 - Teach them **to talk** like the Chaldeans. If you think like the world, you will talk like the world.
- The number one problem for your child on the Evil Day was the same problem that Adam and Eve dealt with, and that is **AUTHORITY!**

V.5 “And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king’s meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.”

- The wine and the meat here was the wine and meat offered to the idols in Babylon. It is not just the wine and meat from the land, it was more significant than that. They wanted them to eat it because it was significant to where they wanted these children to go.
- “A daily portion,” The devil will have a daily portion for your child from the day he can start looking at things and understand. If you are not doing something to off set that, and shut that down, you will lose to the devil (The devil never misses an opportunity).

- “...so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.” Three years is exactly how long it took for the Lord to train his disciples. It takes God three years to get them to serve him for the rest of their life...it takes the devil three years to get people to serve him.
- “...They might stand before the king” **Ephesians 6** says he wants them to stand before God. Your child is going to stand one place or the other. The problem is that your child does not get to choose...it’s you!

V.6-7 “Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego:” The devil wants to change your sweet little child from the way he is right now, to the foul mouthed, fornicating, cigarette smoking, beer guzzling, dope head that just ruins his whole life. All these children’s names were given to them based on their relationship with God:

1. **Daniel = “God is my judge”** Teach your child that he will not escape the judgment of God. But you can’t teach him the judgment of God without the grace of God.
2. **Hananiah = “God is gracious”** Teach that child that he won’t get away with sin, but teach him that God loves him and died for him, and shed his grace through his blood.
3. **Mishael = “God without equal”** This will stand up when he goes to school and they try to teach him evolution or when someone tries to tell him there is no God.
4. **Azariah = “God is my helper”** But through all this...God is his BEST FRIEND!!!

This was the value system that was built into these children, and it was so great in these children, that it was the definition of their very names. The Devil wants to change even this very minor thing, so he changes their names to:

1. **Belteshazzar = “Baal’s prince”**

2. **Shadrach** = “Illuminator of the sun god”
3. **Meshach** = “Who is like Venus” (In today’s terms it would be “Who is like Paris Hilton)
4. **Abednego** = “Servant of Nego”

The saddest part still in our churches today, they take the devil’s name for these three Hebrew children over God’s name, and teach about Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. The devil wants to change your child’s personality from being like Christ’s to being like the world’s.

The devil wants your child to think like the Chaldeans, talk like the Chaldeans, and wants them to become one with all the filth of this world. The evil day is coming, and the clock is running toward that day, and you are up against it. He has a whole smorgasbord of this filth for them and they see it every time they walk out the door.

But here is where you want your child to be:

V.8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” **DARE TO BE A DANIEL...he purposed in his heart.**

They tried to change his value system and think and talk like the world. They tried to get him to change his name and get him to be someone he wasn’t. They worked on him for three years, but Daniel purposed in his heart...(V.8). Somebody had built a VALUE SYSTEM into that young man. He was established in the Bible and it did not matter what the world wanted him to do.

Somebody had taken the scriptures that they had and:

1. Shaped his will
2. Developed his character
3. Built God into his mind, and
4. Molded his spirit

Daniel was in a place that he did not want to be, and had none of his family there to protect him from the devil and his evil day, but he knew even though no one was looking and no one would have known...he knew that God saw him, and could not do as the Babylonians wanted him to do. This is where you want your children to be. When nobody else is around you want them to do right, because God sees them.

The rest of the story they eat nothing but pulse and water for 10 days and are stronger and smarter than everyone else that Babylon had to offer. In **Psalm 78:24/Isaiah 55:11**, pulse and water are a type of the Word of God in the Bible.

V.20 “**And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.**” What you have here is your child being taught a value system versus the world without a value system.

The great principle here is that he used two kinds of people to describe Babylon:

1. Magicians (Magicians deal with the illusion they can do magic)
2. Astrologers (They give you the illusion they can tell the future by the stars)

These people tell you what you want to know, and show you what you want to see.

The world is an illusion...it isn't true! (Example of beer and cigarette commercials!)

V.21 “**And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.**” = 70 Years!

Psalm 90:10 says that our life is three score and ten = 70 years. The principle here is that what his parents taught him not only sustained him through that evil day, but it also helped him the rest of his life. Daniel was not perfect, but he never let Babylon change who he was.

DARE TO BE A DANIEL!!!

CHILD TRAINING #2

“Jephthah and Lot”

The context needs to be set before anything else is covered about this topic. If you recall the first lesson talked about “The Evil Day” which is when your child has to face the devil, the flesh, and this world without you looking over their shoulder.

We then looked how the Bible gives us an example of a child that was properly trained by his parents to withstand this Evil Day. Daniel was this example of how in **Daniel 1:8** he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat.

In this lesson, we need to see the perspective, and to see this thing as it really is. We now have seen what we’re up against, and now we need to see how to work it through. This will be a foundation or a perspective for this lesson as a whole. In the weeks to come we will learn **how to build our children’s value system**. We are also going to take Bible principles and **shape your child’s will**, how to **shape his mind** and **mold his spirit**. In all this, we will then learn how to **save his soul**. We will also learn about the four (4) types of parents, and the six (6) principles of parenting and how to instill these. The same way you build a church is the same way you build your children. We will cover discipline, dealing with a strong-willed child, setting goals for your children, and establishing character in your child’s life. We will also cover split families and how to deal with other people’s children. We are also going to cover the situation where one parent is saved and the other is not.

There is never a time in your life (if you are a Christian) that you cannot turn the situation you are in around, and start doing God’s plan for your life. Some of you have children that are young and have some time to prepare for the Evil Day, some of your children are quickly approaching it, and some have already gone through it, and your child is now lost. Wherever you are at there is always time to correct it. This is true for all of us whether you have children or not. The longer you let your life go, the harder it is to make that turn and do what’s right.

In radical situations in life sometimes you have to make radical maneuvers (example of the airplane pilot going against his training to pull out of engine failure). The longer you wait to solve your problems, the greater the turnaround in solving them. This is true also with your children.

The biggest thing that will destroy your child more than anything else (drugs, alcohol, teen pregnancy, an abductor, a molester)...will be you as the parent! **Psalms 127:4** “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” Just like a world-class archer, you will launch your children at one of two targets in life, and they will hit it based on your ability as a parent:

1. The target of heaven
2. The target of hell

You, not some child molester, not some abductor, not some Roman Catholic priest, not some Baptist preacher, **YOU** will launch that child based on the absolute infallible word of God that says “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”

J. Frank Norris (Started the fundamental movement from the Southern Baptist Church when they went against the Bible) was accused of being a sensationalist. Sometimes you have to do some radical things to wake them up. Sometimes we need to hear the hard truth to wake us up, and for us to get the right context and perspective on training your child. J. Frank Norris preached against liquor and had no problem talking and preaching against the top corrupt leaders in the town. A certain district attorney spoke out against J. Frank Norris and implied that if he did not shut up in his preaching that he might have a terrible accident. Then next week this drunk attorney was involved in a car accident while drunk driving, drove head on into a street car in Dallas and was killed. One of the Dallas Police Officers went to J. Frank Norris' church and while he was cleaning up the mess found a half bottle of whiskey broken off, with a chunk of human brain in it. This officer brought this bottle to Norris. Then next Sunday morning, he put it on the pulpit, and preached “Weighed in the Balances and Found Wanting!”

There are two things in your life that will destroy your family, your marriage and probably your children: (Two men in the Bible portray these two things)

1. Pride
2. Selfishness

THE THINGS THAT WILL SEND YOUR CHILD TO HELL IS **YOUR** PRIDE AND **YOUR** SELFISHNESS!!! THE THINGS THAT WILL BREAK THE SPIRITUAL LINE OF CHRIST IN YOUR FAMILY ARE...**YOUR** PRIDE AND **YOUR** SELFISHNESS!!!

In **Numbers 14:18** a principle is found that is terrible, but is a great principle to learn. “The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression and by no means clearing the guilty, *visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*” There are seven (7) laws in your Bible whereupon everything in this world operates, both physically and spiritually. These laws are absolute and constant, they never change. When God made everything he placed in the workings these seven absolute laws and man is constantly trying to get around these laws. The law found in this verse is the “law of human collapse.” When you don’t do what is right three of these laws start to interplay into your life:

1. The law of human collapse (**Judges** showing man in their worst state)
2. The law of sowing and reaping (**Galatians 6:7**)
3. The law of God’s perspective (**Isaiah 55:10-11**)

When you start to live your life the way you want to, there is a progression. And **Numbers 14:18** says that God will visit your iniquity to the third and fourth generation. Compare sin today to 1907. There was no sin back then compared to now. Our country and our government is so screwed up (because we dumped the Bible) that they can’t even get one piece of legislation passed today that means anything.

The point is, the longer you wait to do what is right, and once you start to go down that road where you are going to disobey the laws of God...Whatever you are spiritually (good or bad) your children will be less than you are, and their children less than them. THE LAW OF HUMAN COLLAPSE! Now you can break this cycle any time you want, but we don’t because of PRIDE AND SELFISHNESS! **Romans 1** says the progression of sin is down, not up.

First example of PRIDE is found in Judges 11:

Jephthah

Jephthah was one of the judges while the Ammonites were persecuting Israel, and they want him to go kill the Ammonites. Jephthah agrees but only if Israel makes him their leader. Jephthah (because he likes to think that he is spiritual), says to the Lord that if you give me the victory over the Ammonites, I will give you as a sacrifice the first thing I see when I get back home. When he wins, he comes home, bragging about himself, and God, and all that God did with him, and when he comes into his house the first thing he sees is his only daughter. Jephthah then takes his only daughter and kills her as a sacrifice to God.

The reason that God let this happen is found in **Judges 17:24**, which says there is no king in Israel and everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes. Nobody was listening to God, and everyone was pretending to be Biblical (Just like today). A lot of things today in Christianity are Christian and spiritual...they're just not scriptural or Biblical.

Jephthah is one of those guys who is spiritual, but does it in his own flesh. Jephthah is a picture of 99% of the parents that you will find today. The way that God allowed Jephthah to kill his own daughter is the same way that he will let you kill your own children, spiritually.

Here is your example of pride:

- **V.9** Jephthah says "I'll fight for you but I want to be your head." He was only interested in the political gain of spirituality. Jephthah wanted the power of God (like most modern day Christians) without the character of God (fruit of the spirit). Power out of control always leads to pride!
- **V.30-31** There was no place in the Bible that Jephthah was told to make this vow to God...but look how spiritual it sounds. God will always keep you accountable for what you say. His problem was he thought he was Abraham and God was going to stop his hand before he killed his daughter. The difference is that God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, he never told Jephthah to sacrifice his daughter. Jephthah is Christian and spiritual...just not very BIBLICAL!!!

- **V.34-36** Jephthah blamed his daughter by saying “Alas, my daughter! Thou hast brought me very low...” It couldn’t be Jephthah’s fault, HE WAS THE MAN OF GOD! “...And thou art one of them that trouble me.” It wasn’t her fault she was just coming out to meet her daddy.
- Jephthah is caught up in his pride and how big he is, and when he saw his daughter he was too prideful to say he was sorry and wrong in making that vow to God...he blamed his daughter because he could not be wrong, HE’S JEPHTHAH! **V.35** “...For I have opened my mouth” Yes you have “And I cannot go back.” Sure you can. Like stated before, there is always something you can do. **Ecclesiastes 4** states if you make a vow, you better keep that vow; but it also says in **Leviticus 5:1-4** if you make a stupid vow that is not of God, and you get on your knees and tell God it was stupid and wrong to vow, he will release you from that vow.
- Jephthah would rather kill his daughter than say, “I WAS WRONG!” He had too much pride, and his daughter died for it.

Jephthah’s daughter never argued or told her dad that the vow was stupid; she just did what he vowed and went along with being sacrificed. When you stop and think about it what potential that girl must have had for God if Jephthah hadn’t killed her. The same is true for our children, and what potential they would have, if they didn’t have us as parents.

Children manifest the problems that are in a family, children are never the problem themselves, and because of your pride you kill that kid, spiritually, as ever being anything for God.

The second example of SELFISHNESS is Genesis 19:

LOT

This story actually starts in chapter 18 when the Lord and two angels go down to see Abraham (Which is a picture of the fellowship that you should have with the Lord). During this visit, the Lord tells Abraham that he is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of its wickedness. Abraham

gets nervous because his nephew Lot and his family are in Sodom. So Abraham starts a negotiation with God to save the city which will save his nephew Lot. God agrees to spare Lot, and sends two angels into Sodom for Lot.

Gen 19:1 “And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;” Notice the Lord in **Gen 18:22** stayed with Abraham and would not go down himself to Sodom.

- Lot is a picture of a child of God, whom God has no fellowship with whatsoever. **2Peter 2:7**, says Lot was vexed with the filthy conversation of this world. Lot is a picture of the selfishness in the things we want, rather than the things of God.
- Lot still thinks that God has no plan, and he can do whatever he wants and get away with it, not remembering that God will visit the iniquity of his children to the third and fourth generations, because they won't stop and do what is right.

Lot's Value System:

- These angels go down to Sodom and Gomorrah, which is faggot city. The definition of a faggot is a stick that you put into bundles, and you started fires with it. Someone back in the old days saw their wickedness, and deduced that they were faggots, meaning that someday God was going to stoke the fires of hell with those faggots.
- **V.2** When the angels came to this city they knew what sin was going on here, so they decided to stay in the streets all night, instead of going into Lot's house! I wonder what was going on in there!!!
- **V.4** the word gets out that there was some new men in town
- **V.5** the faggots show up for these two angels. They did not just want to introduce themselves to the angels by “knowing them” they wanted them for their sexual pleasure, by raping them.

- **V.6** Lot shuts the door so the angels can't hear what he is telling these faggots
- **V.7** Lot calls these faggots, "Brethren." Lot's been in Sodom too long!
- **V.8** Lot offers these faggots his own two daughters to get raped by these faggots. **THAT'S SOME VALUE SYSTEM THAT LOT HAS!** This is the same thing parents do today to their children by saying, "Here, world, take them, do what you want to them." You can't do whatever you want to and think that your children are going to turn out all right.
- **V.14** Finally Lot understands that God is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and goes to get his other daughters that were married and tell them that God was going to destroy the city. The Bible says that his daughters looked at him as one that mocked. They couldn't believe that Lot had gotten a message from God, because he was living such a wicked and godless lifestyle. He didn't even have enough power with God to influence his own children.
- **V.16-17** Lot did not believe God when he told him it was time to leave and head to the mountains. **V.18** "And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:" These types of people will get into the situations they are in, because they think they know more about it than God does, when in reality they know nothing about it.
- **V.19-20** Millions of people are about to die in Sodom including his own daughters, and all he can think about is himself, "Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto **me** in saving **my** life; and **I** cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take **me**, and **I** die: Behold now, his city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let **me** escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and **my** soul shall live."
- **V.24-26** Lot's wife was looking back from behind, thinking about all the possessions she had just lost, and having a pity party for herself, not even caring about the family she lost, and God turns her into a pillar of salt.

The problem was not getting Lot and his wife out of Sodom, the problem was getting Sodom out of Lot and his wife. Changing geographical locations will never solve your problems. You have to identify your problems, and you have to deal with them, and realize that you are responsible for them.

If you think for a moment that you can cheat the Law of Human Collapse and do what you want, just like Jephthah and Lot lost their children, you are going to lose yours. God will visit the children due to the iniquity of their fathers to the third and fourth generations.

- **V.30-38** The first thing you see is that if you don't do what is right with the oldest child in your family, the younger ones will follow. The younger ones always follow the oldest one.
- Lot transferred his value system right into his daughters.
- His daughter said there were no other men to carry their father's seed. This was a rationalization and not true, the world was full of men. This is "situation ethics", which Lot taught her.
- These girls just a short time before had lost their sisters and their mother, and have no grief whatsoever. Now they are worried about **their** seed, and have incest with their own father. SOME VALUE SYSTEM, POP!!!
- These girls with their sin get pregnant and deliver two men that become the nations of Moab and Ammon, which cause problems for Israel throughout the rest of the Bible and are still at it today. This all starts with a man and wife getting away from the Bible, and getting a bad value system, which is still in place in 2007.
- When the anti-Christ goes up against the nation of Israel in the tribulation, it is Ammon and Moab that are with him.

PRIDE and SELFISHNESS!!!

CHILD TRAINING #3

“Providing a Vision”

Proverbs 29:18

This lesson is the main lesson for this series of Child Training.

The first two weeks laid the ground work, because there was no reason to start with this until you as a parent understood where you were at.

1. Daniel 1 showed, in a worldly setting, what you were up against as a parent
2. We saw how key you were in your children’s spiritual growth.

Parenting Verse #1:

Psalm 127:4 “As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” This verse is saying basically that no one will have more control over your child than you will, unless you allow them to have that control.

Parenting Verse #2:

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

Parenting Verse #3:

Psalm 71:17-18 “O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”

Two words we are going to key in on today are found in the above verses:

1. Train
2. Teach

This is your basic fundamental responsibility as a parent to your child. By doing this, your child will complete the plan that God has for his life. That does not mean that he won't do something stupid or wrong down the line, but at the end of the day, God has something to work with and to bring him back to him if he does.

The problem with children everywhere (as seen last week) is authority. And this is because it falls into these two areas of Training and Teaching.

The Bible is a very simple book to understand, and God would not have given something to the common man that the common, uneducated man could not understand. The most simple verse on salvation in the Bible is **1John 5:11-13** “**He that hath the son hath life, he that hath not the son of God, hath not life.**” All one syllable words, who couldn't get that? Common Sense = *a common man with a common Bible*. So the Devil wants to take the common Bible out, and make religion uncommon, and everyone starts to make it confusing. The “Flesch Kincaid Formula” evaluates a book to determine what grade level it is reading at. The KJV (based on the standard for every public school in the country) is based on a 5th Grade level. The NKJV and ASV is written on a 6th Grade level. The Good News for Modern Man is written on a 7th Grade level, and the NIV is on an 8th Grade level. *The problem is today that common sense has become an uncommon thing.*

Parenting Verse #4:

Proverbs 29:17-18 “**Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**” Usually this is used by pastors to teach that if the church has no vision the people perish. This is the first thing that a pastor should provide for his people, to let them know what he has in mind for them. But this is not the context of this verse, look at verse 17 “**Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.**” The context is your children, giving your child a vision. This is the single most important thing to give a child, or you will lose him to the world.

Right now if your children are in elementary classes they are confused. They are too young to enjoy sin, but still do what is wrong from time to time. He is confused because we as parents are confused. He has no plan for his life, because we as parents don't have a plan for our life.

A vision is not for your child to do what is right, or to grow to love God, or to become a great, godly leader some day. This is not a vision or a plan, because there is nothing listed in there on how you are going to accomplish it. These are things you need to do, the question is, how do you do these things? Tomorrow how do you start to place a vision in your child's life? YOU need to have a vision first.

When you talk about having a vision, those children need to understand who they are, and who you are. They need to understand your responsibility to them, and their responsibility back to you.

The next thing to add to this problem is that these children have no concept of God. This is all by God's design. You as a parent are really all your child understands about God, because they see and understand God by watching you and your life. God's design is for you as a parent to be God in your child's life. Then to emulate and illustrate everything that God is, and some point in their life (when they can understand) you will transfer that love as a parent to the love for God.

This is the same format that a pastor does. When someone first gets saved they usually know very little about God. That pastor (at this point) is all that young Christian knows about God. That pastor can tell you what is right or what is wrong. Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I am a follower of Christ." This is the key...everyone is following someone; just make sure you are following the right person. The pastor should train you, and teach you, and let you grow, and place someone in your life that will help you grow. But that pastor should never keep you from standing on your own two feet, and building your own relationship with Christ.

Not only do you have to give your child a vision, but you have to define it for him as well. The most definitive passages in the Bible about defining a vision is found in **Habakkuk 2:1-3**, "**I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.**" This is the exact way that you put a vision together for yourself, and for your children.

- **V.1** He is standing watch on a tower. That tower in the Bible is one of the seven towers that are around the walls of Jerusalem. The tower in the Bible always represents your ability with the word of God, because the Bible is the book that elevates you! This is a picture of a man without a Bible going through life without that higher perspective, and a man in the tower with the Bible, who sees life from a 360° panoramic view.
 - He is watching in this tower for the nation of Israel. Just like the pastor should watch on the tower for his church, and just like a parent has to stand in the tower and watch out for his children.
 - “...**and what I shall answer when I am reproved.**” He is not just watching out for the nation of Israel, he knows that the change in the nation of Israel will only come through him. So he is watching and listening what God will tell him, so he can change to get the proper message to Israel. Here is the point...**You can't change anything in your child's life until you change YOUR life!!!**
 - He is not standing on this tower waiting to whack the children of Israel, he is standing there waiting for when HE gets reproved. You should be looking inside yourself to see what needs to be changed. Some things can be changed quickly, some will take time.
- **V.2 “Write the vision”** You should have the vision written down, and laid out so that your child can see it and understand it.
 - “...**And make it plain unto tables**” Tables mean two things in the Bible:
 - Table of Fellowship
 - Table of Your Heart (**Romans 2** where it speaks about writing the word of God on the tables of your heart)
 - When you lay this vision out, you should lay it out to his heart and through the fellowship that you have together with your child. Remember that all your child sees of God is what he sees in you.

- “...That he may run that readeth it” **1Corinthians 9:25** says that this run is for the Incorruptible Crown. **Hebrews 12:1** says to run with patience the race that is set before us. He will not run away from God, but to God, and for God, and with God...and will run the race God has called him to run.
- **V.3 “For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”** This thing has to go on for a long time. This vision will not happen overnight, and is not immediate...You need patience. You may not even notice that the vision you begin to implement is working, but if you do your job and your work, It’ll happen (Your going to have good days and bad days). **“But at the end it shall speak”**. It will happen! It will work! PATIENCE!!!!

Defining a Vision:

- A vision is not what your child will **DO** for God, but what he needs to **BE** for God.

This is the lowest common denominator explanation of what a vision should be for both you and your child:

1. A vision is a mental picture of where you want to get to in your future, rooted in the person and power of the Lord Jesus Christ in spite of your finite limitations.

This vision should be something that you get from the Bible and something that you are going to live and die by. How in the world are you going to transfer a vision on to your child if you don’t have it detailed out for your own life first?

Here is what a vision means to me personally:

1. **Hear the inaudible** (Hearing what God says, when nobody else wants to hear him)
2. **Touch the intangible** (I want to reach out and grasp the things of God that the average person doesn’t even care about)
3. **See the invisible** (I want to see what God sees, not what man sees)

4. **Believing the infallible** (I want to be dumb enough to believe that God wrote A BOOK and inspired it, preserved it, and kept it for me to have.)
5. **Do the impossible** (When you hear the inaudible, touch the intangible, see the invisible, and believe the infallible, then you are in the perfect place to DO what is impossible)

The same model that a pastor uses to build a church, should be the same model that you use to train up a child. If you are a parent, then you are the pastor of that young child. Young Christians need this same vision, but just on a different level.

For you to establish this vision for your life, you need to change four (4) things about yourself (You can't change them, until you 1st change YOU!):

1. **Correct thinking** (seeing your child from God's standpoint and not your own)
2. **Correct treatment** (dealing with your child in the right way)
3. **Correct teaching** (instilling in your child a vision, a plan, a concept)
4. **Correct testimony** (they will have to see God in you)

We as parents have to provide this vision, and it is up to us, whether we make it or break it, for our children. The key here is CONSISTENCY. If you can't be consistent...don't do it. **THE PRICE OF LEARNING IS REPETITION**

Deuteronomy, God had to give Moses the law twice because the first generation failed, and now when they are ready to enter the promise land, their children have no idea who they were. The vision in the Old Testament was the land promised by God.

In the Old Testament if your child rebelled against mom and dad, they killed them. The reason God did this was because God had a plan for the nation of Israel...their vision was the land, and God knew that the number one thing that destroyed them from getting that land was if the families malfunctioned. This is why in the Bible it says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (**1Samuel 15:23**). That is why in the Ten Commandments it says to honor

thy father and mother that thy days may be long upon the earth (**Exodus 20:12**). **Ephesians 6** says for children to obey your parents in all things, for this is the first commandment given with promise. The promise was that if you didn't obey, they were going to kill you.

God knew that if the families fractured, the nation would crumble. That is why we as a church have to keep our families intact. The same way that the devil knows if he can break your child spiritually, he can break that spiritual line of Christ in your family, and you will never accomplish what God has for you.

Deuteronomy 6:6-25

2. **V.7 “And thou shalt teach them diligently”** You have to diligently teach your children. The verse says to do this when **“Thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”** Constantly instilling this vision during everything that you do.
3. **V.8 “And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”** You should bind them, not on their hands, but on your hands
 4. Your hands are what you do, and
 5. Your eyes are the windows of your soul and the opening of your mind.

What we used to do for binding something on you hand was to tie a string around your finger to remind us. The frontlets were something they used to tie to their heads so it was in front of their eyes 24/7 so they could read it constantly.

- **V.20 “And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, what mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you?”** The children don't understand.
- **V.21-25 “Then thou shalt say unto thy son, we were Pharaoh's bondsmen in Egypt...”** When he asks, he brought them back to the original vision God had for them in Israel...THE LAND. When your child wants to know, you bring them back to the original vision and plan you have in your life for you, your wife, and your family.

A few things you need to remember from this lesson:

- 1. You can't change your child until you change yourself first!**
- 2. You have to have a vision!**
 - a. Not with what God is going to **DO** with them, but
 - b. What they need to **BE** for God

CHILD TRAINING #4

“6 Absolute Principles for Biblical Parenting”

What we are attempting to accomplish is building on each aspect every lesson. The last two lessons we dealt with getting our lives as parents straight, and we know that we will never change as parents until we change what we have to change in our lives first.

We spoke about how we need to establish a vision for our children.

We then covered the following topics/areas:

1. **Proverbs 29:17** - Where the Bible says where there is no vision the people perish. We then went back one verse and saw that the context was your children. We also saw how important it was to provide that vision for your child.
2. **Habakkuk 2** - We saw here how you teach that vision, and make the child understand that vision.
3. **Deuteronomy 6:17-25** - How you are to constantly reinforce that vision

We also covered that the vision is not what we want the child to DO for God, but what he needs to BE for God.

We are now going to begin to cover the **“6 Absolute Principles for Biblical Parenting”**

We also covered the four things that we as parents needed to correct before we could instill a vision for our children: (Page 26)

1. Correct thinking
2. Correct treatment
3. Correct teaching
4. Correct testimony

When you place these four things together with a vision for your child you develop a core value system into your child. Just like Daniel and the value system that was instilled in him so he could face that “Evil Day.”

When you stand on that tower as taught in **Habakkuk 2** and watch your child grow, you will find that there are four stages that your child will go through: (These stages build on each other)

1. **Discipline Stage** (6 months to 2-3 years old) this is the stage that you begin to see the test of authority. This is the most important stage in building a foundation in his life.
2. **Relationship Stage** (End of Discipline Stage to 9-11 years old) this is where you find the test of your will verses the will of your child. In this stage you have mellow children to strong willed children, and everything in between. **This is where you begin to have the ability to communicate this vision to your children.** This is also where you as a parent begin to build a relationship with your child through communication.
3. **Fellowship Stage** (End of Relationship Stage to 13-15 years old) this is where if you have done your work in the first two stages, you can now transfer over the relationship they have with you to a relationship they should have with God. At the end of the Relationship Stage and the beginning of the Fellowship Stage is where we have the all important age in your child where we find the **“AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.”** This is the stage that your child needs to be saved. This is also probably the worse stage of all for your child’s growth. This is where their hormones kick in and everything changes:
 - a. **Emotionally**
 - b. **Physically,** and
 - c. **Spiritually**

This is where your child is caught between being a child and an adult, and they can develop a bad self image of themselves. When you get to this stage you know if you did it right or not, and if not, you will know you are in trouble.

4. **Responsibility Stage** (15-19 years old) This is the stage that if you have done your work right, your child should have more freedom. If you have not done it right up to this point, you will now have to place more restrictions on them.

These principles that we are going to cover apply whether you have children or not because they apply to you as a child of God. The Bible says that when you first got saved, you laid a foundation in your life. You then should build upon that foundation three (3) things: (1Corinthians 3)

- Gold
- Silver
- Precious Stones

Gold represents WHO GOD IS. So the first thing you need to do to lay that foundation is to find out who God is and find out everything about him.

Silver represents THE REDEMPTION OF CHRIST. So you then need to find out what Christ has done for you.

Precious Stones represent THE PEOPLE THAT YOU INVEST IN.

By the time that your child is 14-16 years of age, and they have no interest in coming to church, or they are lazing around the house, or no motivation, bad in school, and everything always breaks into an argument. You as a parent will be able to get along with them until you have to deal with them on any issue. As long as they are able to do what they want to do, they are the sweetest thing on earth until you have to drop the hammer of authority...and you now have problems. You now see that they are beginning to buy into the world, and you have no control over them, and they now begin to look and talk like the world. Now they are no longer your child, they are somebody you have never seen before. Of course, you would like to think that they are going to be alright down the line, because they are probably saved...the truth of the matter is they are probably NOT!

The thing that you can't take away from your child in the early stages is personal accountability. You can't give your child a "Victim Status" to do whatever they want when life is hard for them. This is not to say that you don't protect your children from some things, but choose your battles carefully.

The two greatest principles you can have in your life if you are building a church, dealing with people, and understanding the six (6) principles of parenting are found in **John 1:17**

Parenting Verse #5:

John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

When Christ came to earth, the law was basically done away with, and he came bringing GRACE and TRUTH.

- TRUTH is a standard that we hold; what we believe. Truth in our case is a KJV 1611 AV = the Bible. ***The Bible is the absolute final authority in all things in faith and practice.*** (Faith = Salvation, Practice = Your daily life). Truth is what you believe about the Bible, but you also have to have grace.
- GRACE is how you use the Bible you claim to believe. We should do in churches what you do in truth, but you can be truthful in the wrong manner and have no grace (Example: Fred Phelps, Topeka, Kansas)

These 6 principles of parenting are all built around these two principles of Grace and Truth. Two fall on the truth side, and four fall on the Grace side.

1. Authority
2. Accountability
3. Affection
4. Availability
5. Appreciation
6. Acceptance

#1 and #2 fall under Truth, #3 - #6 fall under Grace.

Authority and Accountability

You as a parent are your children’s primary source of truth for authority. You are God in your children’s life, because they don’t understand God, but they understand you. You’re the image of God to them in your testimony and in life. They will find (or won’t find) God basically in you, and then in the Fellowship stage you transfer that love for God to them.

Within that truth you need to provide boundaries and limitations for your children...Accountability.

You have to provide truth for your child...that is **Authority**; But at the same time you have to place boundaries in your child's life...that is **Accountability**.

Affection, Availability, Appreciation, and Acceptance

These four form the basis of how you give truth, and how you establish the Authority and Accountability, through Grace.

It is the grace that you have with the truth that you have, that you get the vision instilled in their life.

Four (4) basic types of parenting: (All parents fall under these types or a combination of these types)

1. **Autocratic** = "My way or the highway" or "Do it because I said so." There is no grace involved in an autocratic parent. They are very disciplinary, and like their children are under an Old Testament Law. Most of these parents came out of very legalistic churches growing up. The autocratic parent most of the time equals the autocratic church.
2. **Permissive** = The parents are so afraid that they will lose the love of their child, that they will never really discipline them. By the time the child gets to be 15-16 years old, it is obvious who is in control of the family. These children will end up using God and the people in church, just like they use you. This is where they begin to get into all the weird stuff, where **Romans 1** comes into play. Usually in this situation, you have a strong willed mother, and a weak father.
3. **Neglectful** = Parents allowing their children to run wild. Parents allowing their children to raise themselves, providing nothing for their children. These parents fall into the category of Lot and Jephthah, no accountability for them...no accountability for their children. You let them do whatever they want, and provide no real structure for them. Many times you see a variation of this in parents that are divorced. The "**I'll show you**" syndrome. This is where the husband or wife hates the other partner because of what they did to them, and

because they can't get past their own issues, the child always pays the price.

4. **Relationship** = Through their own personal relationship and their own personal growth, they have built a great foundation of grace and truth. And now, through the vision and the understanding of what they are up against (like in **Daniel 1**), and they understand their responsibility they get a really good relationship with that child and balance out that relationship. They then take the six principles and begin to work them into their child's life.

Building on the concept of a vision:

You never want to get to the place in your child's life that you can't relate to the problems they are going through. You and your child are going through the same things in life, but they are just on two different levels. Jesus in his earthly ministry always put things on such a basic level, and illustrated things to people on this basic level so they could understand them...just like we should do with our children.

The first thing we have to do as a parent is change ourself.

CHILD TRAINING #5

AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Proverbs 29:18-19 show how important it is to have a vision.

Habakkuk 2 shows the basic tools that you need to have your child understand that vision.

Psalm 71 shows the two watch words for our children are:

- Teach
- Train

Then we outlined as your kids grow up there will basically be four (4) stages that your children will go through physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually:

- Discipline Stage
- Relationship Stage
- Fellowship Stage
- Responsibility Stage

Then we listed the six (6) absolute principles of parenting, or the things that you have to instill and build into your child's life through the concept of a vision:

- Authority
- Accountability
- Affection
- Availability
- Appreciation
- Acceptance

All these build around the principle found in **John 1:17**...GRACE and TRUTH! The Bible is God's absolute standard for truth. Truth is what we have, however our children need to see truth. The problem is, How you instill that truth in your child's life, which is just as important (if not more so) than having the truth. How you do it is the GRACE factor. Just like Jesus meeting the woman at the well, he had the truth, but he also had the grace that was needed to witness to this woman. The same was true with Nicodemus.

When you have the truth, you have to have the grace to administer that truth.

AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The same principles of authority and accountability apply to parents that have children they are training, and people who do not have children. The reason is because we are all children of God and the same principles apply if you are saved.

When your children are young, you need to build an authority and accountability system into your children's life. You do this by taking the concept of a vision, and understanding where your child is at. One of the biggest keys in training your child is understanding which one of the four (4) phases listed above your child is in.

Parenting Verse #6

Proverbs 27:23 "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds."

This verse is very clear, that a pastor needs to know where his people are at spiritually. This verse also applies to parents who should be the pastor of your home. Knowing, diligently, where your child is at, is probably the key to the whole concept of instilling the vision in their lives. You should be so in touch and so in tune with your children that you know when they go from one phase to the next. By being in tune with your children, you will not need to worry about someone else leading them to Christ when it is time. You will be in tune with your child, and you will be able to transfer your love of God to your child, when you see the time is right.

The **Discipline Stage** runs from birth up to approximately 3-4 years of age. This is the foundational stage for instilling a vision in your child. One of the greatest concepts found in the Bible dealing with your relationship with God is found very early on in Genesis. This concept is found when he mentions the “Evening and the morning were the first day.” Why did he reverse that? For us it is the morning and evening. The principle is first of all **Isaiah 55:11**, “His ways are not our ways...” But the great principle here is God’s day begins at night in your life and mine. **Job 34:15** says that when men sleep, God seals their instructions for the next day. **This is why the last thing you should put into your mind before you fall asleep is some principle of the word of God.**

In the discipline stage for your child, there is not a lot of conversation you can have that will be doctrinally meaningful. But what you can do is utilize this principle while your child is sleeping at night. The same is true if you are currently pregnant. You should be reading the Bible to your baby while it is in your womb. This is how you are able to communicate the Bible with your child in this stage through their subconscious, and begin to instill the principles of the word of God in them. Just like we should have a personal prayer out of **Psalms 119**, you should have one for your child, which you pray while your children sleep.

This is probably the most important stage where you begin to set boundaries and limitations, and you teach that child the basic concepts of AUTHORITY and ACCOUNTABILITY.

Last week we spoke about the Autocratic parent. We know that in the long term (and other stages of growth for your child) the autocratic approach will not work. However, here in this stage of discipline your child needs to know who the boss is. Kids in this age group do not learn by a relationship, they learn through association. That is why when they do something they should not, you give them a strong, stern, firm, **NO!!!** So they will associate that with something they should not be doing or touching. If a person can build a relationship with a dog, by teaching them association, how much more can you teach your children in the discipline stage of life? You teach them by association of boundaries, things they can do and things they can’t. Your children also understand when you are not consistent in this stage, and they will test you to see if you mean what you are telling them.

The **Relationship Stage** can go from 2-3 to 10-11 years of age. **Right here is generally where parents lose the battle for your child.** This is where your will is tested against their will. This is where your AUTHORITY and ACCOUNTABILITY, in general, are tested. This is where the sweet little angel that you watch sleeping at night really could be the Anti-Christ. This is also where you begin to see that what you are doing, and did in the Discipline Stage is beginning to pay off. When before you were telling them NO, NO, NO...their favorite word becomes NO, NO, NO!!!

This really does turn out to be the phase in their life, if you are following the Bible, that you can get a lot of things done to establish the vision. This is where you begin to administer AUTHORITY and ACCOUNTABILITY with grace and love on a more understandable level. This is also where you begin to move into “corporal punishment.”

This is where they learn they can’t play both ends against the middle. This will also help create boundaries in their lives to help them make the right choices. This is also where you begin to see a core value system built into their lives...just like in Daniel’s life.

The reality of life is that God has boundaries and limitations for all of us as his children. Also life is about choices. Biblically life is choices, and there are consequences for those choices, and life has its limitations and its boundaries...it’s just that simple. An example of this is YOU and YOUR life and how we set boundaries, limitations, and understand the consequences of the choices we make in our lives.

Remember that when your child is in the Discipline Stage of life, you are all of God that your child will ever know. Your life by association will show them the principles and begin to build that concept through: (Page 26)

- Correct thinking
- Correct treatment
- Correct teaching
- Correct testimony

God will develop that concept for your child of God in you, and then in time that fellowship will come directly from you; from your child seeing you use the principles above.

Many Christians today live in fear, like they are some kind of bug and God is waiting around the corner with a shoe to squash them. Or they live in fear thinking that God is just waiting to give them cancer or some other terrible disease...That is not what God does. If you are God's child no matter what state you are in, he loves you, and he wants to have a fellowship with you so you can be everything he wants you to be. It doesn't matter what you did or where you came from...it only matters where you are at!!!

YOUR perspective of God will become your children's perspective of God.

One of the reasons that God wrote the Bible is because he wants to give us principles to live by:

- Holy Spirit of God is to guide us
- Church and the pastor to help teach you
- Infallible word of God as our standard of truth

Every sin that man gets into today is listed, explained, and defined in the Bible somewhere, somehow. God gave us the cause and effect for an end result, that we might be able to set boundaries and limitations in our lives.

2Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (V.17) That the man of God be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." This is quite possibly the best passage as a human man on earth trying to get something with God to deal with all my struggles.

- **V.17** The word "perfect" does not mean sinless. This perfect means perfect as far as the work of God is concerned. You and I go through a daily perfecting in our lives that makes us usable for God.
- "Thoroughly furnished" (not "thoroughly equipped")
- **Thoroughly** is the right word, not thoroughly, because God works through you. Thoroughly means around you. The word of God does not make you perfect by going AROUND you, it makes you perfect by going THROUGH you!!!

Philippians 1:6 says, “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” “In you”...not around you. It starts in you, then goes out through you!

- **Furnishings** (Equipped is not the word) the greatest picture of the Bible in our life is the tabernacle in the Old Testament. In that tabernacle there were seven (7) pieces of furniture. That tabernacle (in the Old Testament) is where God abode. Now, God abides in our body, (in our tabernacle), you have to have those same seven (7) pieces of furniture.
- **So it is not “Thoroughly Equipped” it is “Thoroughly furnished.”** The problem with God’s people today is they are not “thoroughly furnished.” They don’t have any furnishings. How would you like it if someone invited you over for the weekend, and when you got there, they put you into a cold, dark basement with nothing inside, and told you to have a good weekend? Now the same thing goes if you had everything you needed (furnishings) to be comfortable.
- The problem is that when it comes to having the furnishings that the Holy Spirit of God needs inside of us to do the work, we have him living on a cement slab in the basement.

V.16 says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” This is good when someone tells you that the KJV 1611 AV was not inspired, but instead it was the original manuscripts that were inspired. The way you beat them up on that is the word “**SCRIPTURE**” in the Bible, is NEVER a reference to the original manuscripts. The original manuscripts were not at ANY TIME every compiled together in a BOOK. Every time you find the word “Scripture” mentioned in the Bible it is referring to a BOOK that someone has in their hand!!! Paul to Timothy, **2Timothy 3:15** says “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Do you honestly think that Timothy had the ORIGINAL copy of

Genesis? But he had a copy of the SCRIPTURES!

- Next time you talk to one of these guys, ask them if they believe the Bible has mistakes in it? They will answer “Yeah.” Do you believe the Bible is perfect? They will say, “No.” Do you believe it is God in the written form? “No.” Do you believe it is an absolute holy book as I have here? “No.” Then ask him for his Bible, and there will be a page in the front (or even on the cover) that says “Holy Bible”...just rip it out and give it to him. Why would you have the title of Holy on it if you don’t believe it’s holy?
- **V.16** says, “...and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...”
 - The first thing the Bible is profitable for is **Doctrine**. That means it teaches you what is right.
 - The second thing is for **Reproof**. Then the Bible first of all shows you what is right with doctrine, and then it also shows you what is wrong.
 - The third thing it is profitable for is **Correction**. After the Bible shows you what is right and what is wrong, then it shows you how to fix it.
 - The last thing it is profitable for is **Instruction in Righteousness**. Showing you how to keep it right.

When you do this and use the Bible in this sense, you are able to set up boundaries in your life, and change in your life what you have to change. God then takes it and “Thoroughly” (from the inside out) furnishes you, and makes you perfect for the work of God.

Do you put up safety items around your house just to be mean to your children? No, you are trying to teach your children BOUNDARIES to keep them from hurting themselves.

In beginning with the concept of setting up a vision for you child, you have to begin with Authority and Accountability by explaining to him and having him understand that YOU, as a parent have to have boundaries and limitations in YOUR life, and YOU have to make the right choices.

This is where testimony is so important in their young lives, because if you don't instill in them the authority and accountability now, you will not get it done when they are 15-16, and you have no more control over them. **Genesis 19:11** when Lot finally figured it out that God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and went to tell his children, and told them they needed to leave immediately because God was going to wipe them out. The Bible says that the children saw Lot as "One that mocked." TESTIMONY...Lot lost his testimony with his children.

If you haven't figured it out by now...YOU HAVE TO LEAD YOUR CHILD BY TRUTH!! You get your child to see boundaries and limitations, and realize authority and accountability by how YOU accept it.

Throughout all these stages of growth you have to keep re-defining to them what God wants them to be = VISION! You also have been investing in their spiritual bank account, building a core value system in this child, to make a difference when they are 15-16 years old.

ACCOUNTABILITY (Remember these are built on Grace and Truth)

How would you think the best way would be to teach your child Accountability? The answer is simple...**To have a good sense of accountability in YOUR own life.**

- If you don't want your child to be lazy, then you don't be lazy
- If you don't want them to be late, then you yourself be early to things
- If you don't want your child to be disorganized, you be orderly
- If you don't want your child to be dysfunctional/undisciplined, then you be functional and disciplined
- If you want your child to keep his word, then you keep your word
- If you want your child to have good study habits, let him see your good study habits in the word of God
- If you want him to be truthful, then you tell the truth
- If you want him to be satisfied with things, then you be satisfied with what you have

This is why children are totally out of control in today's world, because people have no authority and accountability in their own lives, so how can they teach their children to be any better.

In the 1960's, a study was completed, that showed that children in the school system were having problems more than ever with authority. Of course the problem was that America herself was going through a change where no one wanted to obey authority. This is directly caused by approximately 60 years without a Bible in this country. The official rejection of the KJV 1611 AV was in 1888, Sarasota Florida by the Southern Baptist Convention (when they kicked out the KJV and accepted the RSV). **Amos 8:11** says "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:" Here (1960's) we begin to see the results of that famine. In this passage it is not saying there is no Bible, just that nobody is hearing the words of the Lord.

In the sixties, the divorce rate was 60% in America, with half of them married and divorced a second time. The family was being fractured, and America was changing its value system. Even the preachers that before were holding the country together by their powerful preaching are no longer around. Here is where society began to change, labeling their problems from a "sin" issue to a "sickness" issue. This is where personal accountability is taken away from everything, and it was made a social disorder.

- "Drunks" was changed to "Alcoholics"
- "Drug addicts" was changed to "Substance Abusers"
- "Homosexuals" (Who where never in the forefront) are now accepted, and we no longer can use derogative names for them, are changed to "Alternative Lifestyles" (Alternative to what?)

This is what happens to a country when it dumps the Authority and Accountability system. When the children then have no authority and accountability the world comes up with little "problems" to victimize your children instead of dealing with the sin issues:

- Bi-polar

- Manic Depressive
- ADD/ADHD (I have NEVER seen a parent with a child, that was diagnosed with these “Disorders” that was ever worth the powder it’d take to blow them to hell. Because they live their lives whatever way they want, and when the kids don’t turn out right, they label them with something like this) Parents, who follow the Biblical Principles, don’t have these problems with their children!

Then behind all these disorders, and after the parents have failed with training their children comes the DRUGS. **Matthew 4** God tells you that there is no such thing as ADD (**Attention Deficit Disorder**). He tells you what the three problems are, and ADD is not one of them.

A book that goes along with this is called “The Emperors New Clothes” (on counseling). This book covers how over every 30-40 years doctors come up with new terms, (for the suckers), to start using, that don’t mean anything, because they have no answers. Example, around the 1800’s there was a man called Franz Mesmer (a psychologist), where we get the word, “mesmerize.” His contribution to this was the term “Nervous Breakdown.”

The problem with this term is that if you get to the point where your nerves break down...you just died! There is no such thing as a “nervous breakdown.” The same is true with “Bi-polar” that was found for the first time in **1Kings 18**. There is no problem, that you or your child, are going to get into, which you cannot use the Bible and find a Biblical way out.

This is where you find the “Asa” principle (one of the kings of Israel in **2Chronicles 16:11**): **What can help you? 16:11 - KJV 1611 (Showing that the answer is in the 1611 Bible, not the world)**

- Asa was a king who got a disease in his feet (A picture of you having a problem with your walk with God).
- Asa went to the physicians instead of going to God
- Asa died
- When you get a disease in your feet (your walk with God) and you take it to the secular section of the world, instead of taking it to the word of God...YOUR GOING TO DIE!!!

When you begin to pump drugs into your child's system it affects his conscience, and it's his conscience that God has to touch to get him saved, and when YOU as a parent, dull his conscience, SO HE CAN'T GET SAVED...GOD HELP YOU. This is what is affected when you take him to the world for help, instead of God. That's **The Asa Principle**.

There is no drug in this world that fixes mental illness, because mental illness is an impossibility. Your brain can't be sick. Yes, you can be mentally retarded, but your brain can't physically be mentally ill. What the drugs that they give you do, is turn you into a zombie.

You can't just live a lifestyle that you just thumb your nose at God, and expect your children who are watching you to turn out all right. There is another principle you must learn in life found in **Job 9:4** "He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?" The answer here is NOBODY!!

A child that was trained Biblically, and taken to the scriptures the way he should have been has never turned out the way they are turning out today. And in every case, without exception, with ADD or ADS or whatever else you want to call it, it is simply a lack of a system of AUTHORITY and ACCOUNTABILITY put in a child's life by a lawless, godless, parent who thinks they can live like hell.

You have to train them and teach them the concepts of:

- Authority
- Accountability
- Limitations
- Responsibility
- Self-discipline
- Self-respect
- Self-control
- Respect for others

Habakkuk 2:1-2 says “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.”

You know what the vision is? **The vision is nothing more than you developing a lifestyle of loving God and the word of God in that child's life.** That, during the four stages, you are providing through your family, a vision, talking and communication that Christianity and obeying the rules, and loving God and the Bible are a lifestyle in your home.

You have to:

- Have a vision
- Write the vision, make it plain
- Through that vision you instill in your child the right expectation of what to expect through you as a parent
- Using yourself as an example, submitting yourself to authority and accountability
- Leading them to truth
- Then understanding that great principle that “Repetition is the price of Learning”

CHILD TRAINING #6

“Affection”

A vision is defined as “Providing a Biblical lifestyle for your child.” Christianity and the way you live your lives is not just something you do sporadically, but a normal lifestyle. That child then grows up looking, seeing, and understanding the clear Biblical principles, and all that goes along with that.

Truth is the absolute law...truth is being right. However, you can be right, but if you don't have grace in your life, even though you have the truth, you can do some wrong things and end up hurting someone. This happens in churches that have the truth, but don't administer the truth through grace. These six parenting principles must be balanced with truth and grace).

We also talked about the four (4) stages, from the time they are born until they are on their own. It is important that you always know where your child is at, in relation to their growth, during these stages. **Proverbs 27** says, as a pastor, they should know the state of their flocks. Pastors should know where their people are at, spiritually, to better help them. Just like you, as a parent, should know where your child is at in life.

We also began to cover the six parenting principles, and we began with showing how to set up a structure in your child's life with Authority. We discussed why building a base foundation of Authority in your child's life is very crucial; also setting up boundaries and limitations in their lives early. We then looked at Accountability in your child's life, and that you first need to be accountable to them. The truth given was that you will never change your child's life (wherever your child is at), until you are first willing to change yourself. The best way to teach Accountability to your children is to be accountable to your child as a parent.

Every saved person is a missionary, and your first mission field is to you're:

- Family
- Neighborhood
- Job
- It then becomes a total lifestyle, wherever you go, and whatever you do

AFFECTION

In 1000 BC when the nation of Israel was at its highest point in history, King Solomon was the renowned king on planet Earth. Everybody knew who he was, who the Jews were, and that they had a living God in Jerusalem. The whole world at this time was coming to Jerusalem because they knew that Israel had a king that was untouchable. Solomon was not only the wisest man that ever lived, but also the most unique. He wrote three books in the Bible:

- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Songs of Solomon

The other two books that are included in these that make up the “wisdom” books are:

- Job
- Psalms

The three books that Solomon writes are crucial in getting what the Bible calls understanding. The Bible talks about three levels of learning:

1. **Knowledge** = facts
2. **Wisdom** = facts applies
3. **Understanding** = how God fits into the Knowledge and Wisdom

Facts and knowledge show us that WWI started because the Austrian/Hungarian Empire was in conflict with other nations. And with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the national alliances all took sides and automatically brought about WWI. Now take this same war and Wisdom and Knowledge, and put God into it to develop Wisdom...When you put Understanding into it, you can forget Archduke Ferdinand and the Austrian/Hungarian Empire.

What WWI and WWII were about, simply put, is this:

- WWI got the LAND ready for the Jew
- WWII got the JEW ready for the land
- 1948 after the land was made ready in 1918, and the Jew was made ready in 1940-1945, they go back and become a nation in 1948.
- This is the second greatest prophecy in the Bible on the second coming of Christ

“Understanding”, in any period of history is figuring into the equation what God is doing. Solomon like no other man in the Bible does that. In 1951 the Illinois Institute of Architects figured out the dimensions and the wealth of Solomon’s temple alone, in Jerusalem, and found it to be worth 171 Trillion dollars. Solomon was the wisest man in the world, and for some reason, God allowed him to experience every pleasure in life that man could want. Solomon, in 1000 BC, in the book of Ecclesiastes, goes through and defines every philosophy of man that hasn’t even been thought about yet:

- Existentialism
- Socialism
- Communism
- Paganism
- Capitalism

After experiencing everything, at the end of Solomon’s life, he writes in **Ecclesiastes 12:13**, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

Bearing this in mind, the next four principles fall under the side of Grace, and we need to remember that with our children it should be a blending of the two, Truth and Grace.

If there could be a summary of these next four principles, like Solomon gave a summary of his life it would be:

- *You as a parent need to provide and give to your child a peaceful, stable, wholesome, quiet, loving, affectionate, godly, safe, and secure living environment. A place where they can see the quality of the Bible displayed in an open relationship. Someplace where they hear about it at church, and then when they go home, they see it in their home life.*

The home should be a happy place with mom and dad, which they should never want to leave, nor ever want to lose.

Solomon then goes on to tell you in **Ecclesiastes 12:14** why you should hear the whole conclusion of the matter, because “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” You are not going to win anyways...this is God’s concept and God’s plan, so what you think about it or how you want to rebel against it doesn’t matter.

Job 9:4 “...Who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?”
NOBODY!!

Your children should see mom and dad in a loving open affectionate relationship. Parents should say to each other “I love you” 100 times a day for the children to see, and you should tell your children “I love you” 100 times a day.

Principles for affection:

Your affection toward your child, displayed openly, will build your relationship with them inwardly.

- You never want your child to do right just because they fear the consequences of not doing right. They should never fear the consequences more than the fear of losing your fellowship. Fellowship with your child is the number one thing, and you only build that through affection and love, and displaying grace in their life as you administer Truth and Accountability. When something happens that breaks that fellowship, it should be worse to them than any punishment.

When you stop growing spiritually your child stops growing spiritually. Your children's spiritual growth is nothing more than your spiritual growth.

- **Deuteronomy 6:10-14, “And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; (God gave these people everything that they did not deserve, and now they are full) Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you”**
- There is a great danger when dealing with God and your children...Success! This is when you have nothing spiritually, and you finally get plugged into the Bible, and God begins to bless you with what you don't deserve. When you get all this and you get full, you forget what God did for you when you didn't have it...then you forget the Lord.

The “**Me First**” principle or otherwise known as the “**Sharp stick in the eye to God**” principle:

There are two ways to look at things, how Man views them and how God views them. One example is in **Acts 7**. When they are stoning Stephen, and he makes two statements:

- “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit”
- “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”

Then you find in the gospels about the crucifixion of the Lord in **Luke 23**, you find two more great statements when Jesus was dying on the cross:

- “Father forgive them”
- “Into thy hands I commend my spirit”

The Lord put man first and himself second, but Stephen put himself first, and others second. This is the “ME First” principle! God always gets the sharp stick in the eye, because man puts himself first...then God.

When your attitude is, “I am more concerned about “ME” than whatever else is going to take place in life. It doesn’t matter who else has to pay the tab, or what inconvenience it places on others, as long as it doesn’t inconvenience me.” **YOUR CHILD SEES THIS BEHAVIOR!!!**

When you stop looking ahead, looking around, and looking behind, and live your life haphazardly and disorganized...and you can’t look beyond tomorrow, God will never give you responsibility and you will never learn to teach your child responsibility.

There are three types of Christians in the Bible: (Matthew 13)

1. Some bore fruit 30 fold (These Christians serve God **out of fear**) = Servants
2. Some bore fruit 60 fold (They serve God **for what they can get back**) = Hirelings
3. Some bore fruit 100 fold (They serve God **because they love him**) = Sons in their father’s house

God wants to give you more and more responsibility when he knows he can trust you. The same is true in church...you will get more responsibility when the pastor sees he can trust you, and do the job better than he could do it himself.

Your children should understand....They should not do right because of the consequences. We should not refrain from sin in our lives because of the consequences, (yet, we understand there are consequences) but because we really love Him, and work to love him more every day. When we disobey God it should grieve us so desperately...it should be like losing fellowship with our parents, and the disappointment that comes with that loss. It should be the same way with our children, the same as it is when we fall out of fellowship with God.

There is a great study in the Bible built around the word...PERFECT:

- Starting with a perfect God
- Then it moves into a perfect God...giving a perfect book
- Then it grows into a perfect God...giving a perfect book...to that book giving us a perfect love
- Then it grows into a perfect God...giving a perfect book...giving us a perfect loving relationship...into making us a perfect man
- Then it translates from a perfect God...and a perfect book...to a perfect love...and a perfect man...to a perfect ministry
- Then it goes from a perfect God...to a perfect book...to a perfect love...to a perfect man...to a perfect ministry...to a perfect family

This is not perfect in the sense of sinless lives, but that you have everything you need to please God in your life. **1John 4:18** says, “**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**”

You don't serve God because you are afraid of Him; you do it because you love Him. You then realize that you don't serve God because of the consequences, but because you understand the depth of the cross, the depth

of God's love, his sacrifice for you, and when you understand that, and disobey the word of God it should break your heart...that's where you want your children to be.

When your child is 2-4 years old, they can't grasp this concept relating to you and God, but they will be able to understand it relating to you as a parent. In time, you will be able to transfer this into their relationship with God, and be able to build it in just like when you build a car you put four tires on before you drive it.

Affection from the very beginning makes the whole concept of Authority and Accountability easier. Children can't understand being the object of your love; they learn love like everything else...by association. As you move from the discipline stage to the relationship stage and the fellowship stage, and they see and begin to understand that they are the object of your love, they begin to return the favor and begin to love you, and then you transfer that love back to God. The problem is that most time, something or someone else becomes the subject of your child's love, and in most cases the devil will make sure it is not a good thing or person for them to love.

Just like a pastor builds a relationship with his people to the point that they know he loves them, and they know he would never hurt them, he is then able to say some hard things to them, and correct them, and show them when they are wrong. They take it and love it because the pastor loves them. **Proverbs 27:7** says **“The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.”**

- “The full soul...” means that you are filled up inside with everything else
- “Honeycomb” = the Bible. A honeycomb will have 20,000 chambers each with a little honey inside. You don't just reach inside a hive and pull out the honey; you have to reach inside every little compartment to get it. That is exactly how the Bible is. You can't just reach down and get the entire Bible at one time, you have to get the honey out one little chamber at a time.

- “loatheth” = no good, can’t take any more
- “...But to the hungry soul...” = The hungry soul says “I love God, I want that book, I want God, I don’t care what it costs, or what I have to change or give up...I WANT IT.”
- “...every bitter thing is sweet.” = The hard things in the Bible become the honey in your heart and soul. Because you love God and don’t want to disobey him, so when he rebukes you, you love it just like when you get the stuff you like to hear.

The same thing is true with your children. If you train and teach them to see and understand your accountability and authority to them through your love and affection by grace, if you make them feel like they are the only one in your world...that is AFFECTION. Make them the object of your love and affection, and in time through association and through relationship and fellowship you will become the object of their affection, and they will want to please you and do what is right, because they will never want to disappoint their father. They will do right because they will hate to see your heart broken. Then in time you will be able to transfer that love to a walk with God on their own, not because they fear the consequences or serve God out of fear or for a reward...but they will serve God because they love him.

Parenting Verse #7

Psalms 127:3, “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Every new translation makes this verse say, “Lo, children are an heritage **from** the Lord...” Children are not a heritage to you from the Lord, they are an heritage of the Lord. They should be a continuation of what God started in your life, that unbroken chain of ministry that flows through your family. The fruit of the womb is HIS reward, Christ’s reward.

Your children are not yours, they belong to God...they are his heritage, for his ministry, for his reward; we are just stewards of them. You have stewardship of these children to continue on God’s heritage. Whatever your children do throughout time will turn out to be Christ’s reward. **Revelation 4:10-11** says that everything goes back to him anyways. **“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship**

him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

- This is when you and your family are at the Judgment Seat of Christ and you have your rewards because you stayed faithful, and got into the Bible, and gave your life to God...you then take those rewards and cast them (as a family) at his feet.
- Kids are great, but don't forget the one that gave you the ability to have those children tells you here they are for his pleasure, not just yours. So you had better do what is right with them, because they are HIS heritage not yours.

By exercising authority and accountability, which is the TRUTH side of the balance, you have to bring in grace, which completes the balance. And the first area of grace that you bring in is AFFECTION. They will want to do right, because they don't want to lose what they have...the home is everything, mom and dad are everything. The warmth, fun, enjoyment, laughter, good times, being together are more important to them, so that you can build into their lives that they will become everything that God wants them to be.

CHILD TRAINING #7

“Appreciation and Acceptance”

The last few lessons we have spent focusing on the “Six Absolute Principles of Parenting.” The Six things, that when combined with the vision, and combined with the concepts of Grace and Truth; and also combined with the aspect of Correct Thinking, Correct Treatment, Correct Teaching, and Correct Testimony, really begin to help you train your child through the four stages of their growth:

1. Discipline Stage
2. Relationship Stage
3. Fellowship Stage, and
4. Responsibility Stage

We then covered two verses:

1. **Psalm 127:3**
2. **Psalm 127:4**
 - **“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”**
 - **“As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”**

Shaping their will, and developing your child’s spirit is done by providing for them a vision. A vision was also defined as giving them an understanding of a life with God. Really, it’s having them grow up knowing no other alternative.

At this point we are building all this information with a goal of incorporating this lifestyle into our children, but we don’t want to implement this until we fully understand all the aspects of this study. The last week of study will be a recap to help bring all this information together and start with your child, training him to understand the vision.

Appreciation and Acceptance

Have you ever caught your child doing something wrong? Of course you have. **Proverbs 20:11** says, “**Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.**” But have you ever caught your child doing something right? You see we have a tendency as parents to only point out the things that our children are doing wrong. We only point out their mistakes and failures. Some parents are even to the point, (because they are so out of control in their own lives), that they only point out these bad things their children do.

It is crucial that your children are told and shown that they are appreciated by the things that they do right, and not just pointing out when they do wrong. **NEVER BELITTLE YOUR CHILD.** This is the worst thing you can do as a parent. One way to show and teach appreciation is to make sure your child knows that they are valuable to you. You want them to understand that you could not be a successful family without them in your life.

A lady had a daughter that, whenever she didn't want to deal with an issue, she'd say, I can't remember! The mother would respond, C'mon, now you remember. The child then comes back and says, You can't read my mind! Don't get flustered by this, just tell them, “I don't have to be able to read your mind...the Bible reads your mind...and the Bible says whatever you have in your heart comes out in your actions.” **YOU ALWAYS TAKE THEM BACK TO THE BIBLE.** Basically you are trying to form in that child's mind that there is no winning by going **AGAINST** that Bible.

Job 9:4 says, “**He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?**” Your child needs to learn that there is no prospering in life without God.

You must constantly reinforce to your child how valuable your child is to you. We mentioned before that the parallels of dealing with issues in your life and your child's life are basically the same just on different levels. The same way you build a church is the same in a child's life...Building them one person (or one child) at a time!!! The key of building a church and the key to building people (and children) is to do it one at a time.

Most of the time when dealing with God's people many times they are similar to little children in one aspect...they have been beaten up. The little children have been beat up by bad parenting, and many times Christians have been beat up by bad churches or other Christians they have been around. (Most pastors today are like pimps. They just want you for what money that you can bring them, then they discard you.) Then later these young Christians give up on church and the pastors. Some of us when we first started back in church had this same bad attitude toward churches and pastors, but there is a key in turning this mentality around: (same is true for children)

1. First, you have to get that person to see themselves as God sees them, not like they see themselves or others see them.
2. Next, you have to see them as God sees them. You have to see them in their struggle. You can't write them off just because they don't act or talk the right way. You always have to see the potential in people and get past the problems that have stopped them.

Always try to appreciate the good in people when you get a chance to work with them. You shouldn't care where they have come from, what they have done, whatever they were in to, that has nothing to do with anything...the only thing that is important, is what they want to do with their life right now. One of the most disappointing things in the ministry is the waste seen in people's lives and the potential that they have. If a person could use the same kind of dedication, energy, and time they devote to worldly things, and devote it to God...some of you would be the greatest Christian since the Apostle Paul. When you get into the mindset of seeing people as God sees them, and you understand that the problems and issues are all superficial...if you could just get that person to turn their life around for God...but many times those things just never come to pass. You have to get that person to see who they are in Christ, and the same is true of your child. The way you do this is by **Appreciation**. Focus on the good things in their life instead of always pointing out the bad.

You have to focus on the good that is there, and develop what you see that is good through Appreciation.

Remember the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved:

1. You got a New nature
2. New affections
3. New citizenship
4. Now seated in heavenly places
5. New attitude
6. Now an ambassador for Christ
7. New conversation

Your children have to see in time that they are not just a member of your family. You should always appreciate a person for the good that is in their life and develop from that good everything else that person (or child) needs spiritually. The way to get people where they need to be is not by standing at the top of your spiritual staircase and belittling them to trying to get where you are at; but to get down off your spiritual throne put your arm around them and bring them up one step at a time. In the same parallel this is how you build your child into your family.

Another thing you need to get people (or children) to see and to understand is that God appreciates them much more than man or parents do. They need to understand that there is one that loves and appreciates them much more than I could ever love them. Christ died for you and you alone.

The same four (4) stages that your child goes through are the same four (4) transitions we are brought through spiritually when we first get saved.

If your child is 15-16 years of age, you should not have to remind him of his chores around the house, he should see what needs to be done and do it. If he comes to that age and he is made to feel that he is part of the family, you won't have to ask him to clean up or do his chores. In fact, it should make him feel terrible if you do his job, because he is part of the team, and he let you down because of all you have to do. When you build them with Appreciation into your family they understand they are part of a team. When they come through those stages, if you have done your job, they are now able to handle more responsibility and you place fewer restrictions on them instead of putting more on them.

This is the same thing a pastor should do with his people, bringing them through the stages.

- Look at the Discipline Stage...the word “discipline” comes from the word “disciple” which means “to teach.” When you become a disciple of Christ, all it means is that you have disciplined yourself after His teachings.
- Then once you get past the Discipline Stage and you have gone through discipleship class, you now meet one-on-one, and begin your Relationship Stage. You now learn how to have a personal relationship with Christ...you learn who God is (GOLD = THE DEITY OF CHRIST, SILVER = THE REDEMPTION OF CHRIST, PRECIOUS STONES = PEOPLE). The first thing you do when you enter into the Relationship Stage is to learn who God is (GOLD), then you move into the...
- Fellowship Stage – (SILVER) Redemption is what He paid for your salvation. Then once you have learned this you start to take it to other people...
- Responsibility Stage - precious stones or people.

The same four (4) stages your child will go through physically, are the same four (4) stages a Christian will go through spiritually. Once you realize that the process is the same when dealing with people, you can apply it to any circumstance. This will make you, not only a good parent, but a good counselor when you start dealing with people.

The principle here is that you reproduce yourself in men and women so they become like-minded when it comes to ministry. The parallels are the same for people and your children. You need to give them the vision of who they are in Christ Jesus, building on their potential, and looking past their problems. The same principles that pastors should use to build people, one at a time, are the same as building a child, one at a time = The Four Stages. It's important that your child understands APPRECIATION!!

One of the best things about our church is that 99% of you don't know what it means to be a Baptist. Most don't realize the politics and the problems that come with Christianity. But the problem is that you can't be shielded from this your whole life, just like you can't shield your child from the world. You will raise that child up in an age of innocence, then the "Evil Day" will come and this old world is going to bite them. Just like , as a Christian, a day will come when some of the people you believed were saved, are not what they claim to be, and they will bite you.

As a leader in our church (just like in a child) you have to grow to the level of responsibility. Once you get to that point, you have to realize that you have a responsibility to the family, and you can't live your life the way you did before. You should recognize when things need to be done, and do them for the betterment of the family. You have to live above the circumstances, and have the right attitude about it. Sometimes you have to deal with your friends, and they won't be your friends anymore because you take a Biblical stand, verses, a worldly stand. Once you become a leader in the church, you no longer have the luxury of being the way you were, you now have a responsibility to the family, just like your children should. **NO SLACK GIVEN AT THIS POINT.** You should be there to help **SOLVE** problems, not to **CAUSE** problems.

Responsibility (you have to grow to this stage)! A pastor's job is to lead you through truth and growth to get you to take a piece of this ministry. Your job is seeing things, people, circumstances, life, problems, from God's standpoint and not your own. Your job as a parent is to bring your child to the same point; in both cases, you do it by Appreciation.

Taking young raw people who just got saved, focusing on the good things in their life, walking down and helping them through every issue they have to

go through, molding and bringing them to the point where they can grow through those four stages, to a point where they take the responsibility. That is how our church will meet every demand that walks through the door. It becomes a thing where you see the ministry because you have taken the responsibility, and have grown through the process. **THIS IS WHERE YOUR CHILDREN NEED TO COME FROM.**

Not only are the children going to be leaders in our family and in life some day, they will also be the leaders in our church. They will have to grow through this process to become everything God wants them to be.

ACCEPTANCE

Self-Esteem is very important for both your child and a young Christian. When you build someone up in Christ and take them through those four stages, you should build their self-esteem. Self-Esteem is not meant here as building yourself up for yourself, but rather building up your self-esteem for who you are in Christ, and being able to see what God wants to do with you.

Your child has to understand that they are a vital part of your life, home, and ministry. Your child will go through things in life that are terribly hard for them as they go through these four stages. You as a parent have to then look at every avenue in their life to see how to get them through it. You have to be able to look at what they are going through and place a positive spin on it. We've all made dumb mistakes...learn through it, do what is right with it, apply the Bible, and then deal with it. We all make mistakes, but the desire should be, do you learn from the mistakes that you made?

Example of sending your children off to school for the first time. It is just a matter of time before someone is going to be mean to them. This is where you have the opportunity to take the bad things in life and apply Appreciation and Acceptance to them and use them. Your child will come home upset because a person they considered a friend was mean to them. This is an issue that will naturally come up, **USE IT!** You can take this opportunity to say, "I'm sorry that boy/girl was mean to you, but you know what, that is why God gave you this family we are always going to love you, we will always accept you. There isn't anything your will ever do or say, that we will not always love you and accept you. We may not be happy with

what you do, but we love you...” You shouldn’t sit there and tell her how bad that other child is, you just explain to them that the other family probably didn’t have God and the Bible like we do, and you can tell them that when we pray at night, we should pray for that child. You have to teach them this early that there will always be someone out in the world that won’t like them no matter what they say or do to that person, and that they will always be accepted at home.

Your child should never have the opinion that they are nothing more than a possession in your life. Do they look at all that you own, and think they are on the same level as those possessions? Do they know they are the absolute number one thing in your life, and if you lost everything else it wouldn’t make any difference as long as you had them? Or do they know they are the #1 thing in your world.

The same is true in peoples lives when building them spiritually, you have to make them feel as if they are the number one thing in your life at that moment. The same is true with your children, your child needs to know that there is nothing that you will not stop doing when they need you. They need to know and feel this acceptance, and they are more important to you than anything in the world.

Sometimes you need to discipline your child, and they should be taught to suffer the consequences, but you also need to praise them when they do right; so they develop the attitude that they would rather please you than disobey you.

Your unconditional love in the form of Appreciation and Acceptance is what really builds a sense of Stability...a sense of self worth and purpose in their lives. You might not always like what your child does, they will not always like what you do, and rightly so. Our children need to always know that we love them, appreciate them, and accept them. No matter what you have to do with your child, they will always know, at that point, that you are doing it out of love because you have given them that vision.

Some people were raised in a home where they were not shown Appreciation or Acceptance, but that should not stop you from being your own person in Christ. Don’t let that be a problem for you in your life

in raising your children. There shouldn't be a day that goes by that you don't tell your wife and children 100 times how much you love them. You start by telling God 100 times a day that you love him, and then your wife (call her all day long and tell her). These kinds of things are worth more to her than anything you could buy her...she doesn't want things, she just wants you. Your children are the same way; **they only care about the things AFTER they learn they aren't going to get YOU!!!** Your most prize possession should be them, and their most prize possession should be you.

As a child of God, I am unconditionally accepted by God through Christ based on Grace and Truth. I'm not accepted because I am a good person all the time...I'm not. I am accepted unconditionally because the love of Christ sees no issue that stopped me from being his son. I'm God's son no matter what I DO. That doesn't give me a license to go out and do what I want to do because there are consequences for doing what I want, but I always know, no matter where I'm at, who I am in Him, and I know how to get back.

That is the key and your child should know that too. God may not always approve of my life as a believer, but always accepts, loves me, and appreciates me as his son. You always want to be truthful with you child, but at the same time you need to be able to use grace though appreciation and acceptance that no matter what they do they know that you always love them and accept them.

CHILD TRAINING #8

AVAILABILITY

A saying to remember when dealing with Availability and your children is, “Love is spelled, T...I...M...E.”

Another thing that we should not take for granted, is the truth and principle that God is our father and we are his children. And there is never a time that God, as our father (if you are saved), that I as his child do not have access to him 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

He always makes himself totally available to us. One of the major differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that the people did not have the ability to have a personal relationship with God like we do. God was working a totally different system back then, and the Holy Spirit of God never indwelt with anybody. God does pick out certain people in the Old Testament to have a relationship with them, but not through his son in the sense of a glorified Christ. Not in the sense of God living in them never to leave, or them being sealed by the Holy Spirit of God unto the day of redemption.

This is why God set up the system of worship that he had with an order of priests, and then a man who was the high priest. Then once a year at the Feast of Atonement, you had to bring your sacrifice to a human man (high priest). The high priest then took that offering, as found in **Leviticus** and **Exodus**, and lays on the Mercy Seat the blood that cleansed Israel’s sin AS A NATION.

We as Christians don’t have to go through all this procedure. **Hebrews 4:16** says, “Let us come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” You see the high priest in the New Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ who lives inside of us. The tabernacle that he now dwells in is your body, if you are saved. So we don’t need a human man to confess our sins to, or to make sacrifices for our sins. All a pastor can do is lead and point you to the one that can deal with your sins. Once you accept Christ as your personal savior, you then have

Him living inside you, and you are sealed unto the day of redemption, and the rest of your life you have total and complete access to God. (**Romans 10, Psalms 4, Psalm 18, Psalm 50, 1Peter 5:8, Matthew 11, Psalms 80**) There are no restrictions on our time with God. I could spend as much time with Him, and He with me, without ever being told he was too busy to hear from us.

All throughout the Bible we find that God is always available for us regardless of our behavior, or our spiritual condition. Part of our unconditional acceptance of our children is making ourselves available for our children.

A lot of times in our current society, both parents are forced to work (this is not the best scenario; however, it is the world we live in). Many times the reason both parents work, is because they have become undisciplined in their spending habits and debt. The more things that you want, the more hours you have to put in to buy these things.

Another issue is that parents have become undisciplined in how many children they have. With all these issues, and our jobs we often become desensitized with our children and lose touch with them and their needs. Many times it is simply because when we get home and have time with them, we are worn out and have nothing left to give. **Don't forget, your children are up for grabs in this world, and you as a parent are the deciding factor on how they turn out.** If your children grow up and are totally gone and living a life without God, let's face it, it is your fault as a parent. You can't wait until your children are 17 years old to jump into their lives and expect to fix everything that you started. By the time they get to this age, if they don't want you, it's because they already have something or someone else.

One big issue with children (also with marriage) is that life is not made up of big things. The most important things of life are made up of little things. It is the special moments in life that count, not the big money you spend on them. In all of life, you should be your child's best friend. There should be nobody else in the world they would rather talk to about their issues than you. You need to realize that you are the best gift that you could give them. You should be their hero. Throughout life if your child is told something by a teacher, friend, or anybody else, your child should be looking over his

shoulder to see what you think of it before ever making up his own mind whether that person is telling the truth or not.

Authority and **Accountability** fall under the TRUTH side of teaching. There are two things that you have to instill in your child when it comes to Truth:

1. Their respect for authority
2. An understanding that because of authority we have an accountability factor

As a parent you have to make sure your child understands that there are boundaries and limitations. When they do something wrong, they should understand that there are consequences, and they are responsible for their actions. Sometimes parents will take the child's side in every situation, saying, My child would NEVER do that! We should never create a circumstance that takes away from the personal responsibility of your children.

Affection, Appreciation, Acceptance and Availability all fall under the GRACE side of teaching. Where truth is the ability to hold you child accountable, grace is how we administer truth. These four things mark our performance as a parent (the four types of parents: Page 33).

Pastors, or anyone else, do not possess the power to overcome the power of a parent. There is no more powerful person in the family system than the parent. You can either use those powers for the honor and glory of God or you can abuse those powers and use it for yourself. If you are going to change your children, you have to start by changing yourself first. The reason that most of us have not taken this to heart, and really sat down and changed what we need to change about ourselves is because WE DON'T WANT TO. WE DON'T THAT THINK WE ARE THE REAL PROBLEM. This will transfer right down to your child by them not thinking they have a problem either when it comes to a behavior that they need to change. By now you should have a detailed list of things that are wrong with you that you need to change, so that you can correct your children...the problem is that you won't do it.

Today, many churches around the country are meeting to try and figure out why their churches are not growing. Most of the people they are bringing in to help are placing the emphasis on the world and society, not on the

pastors. There is nothing in this world that can impact the power of God. The power of God is the same today as it was 50 to 500 years ago. Let's say the power went out in this building, and it is just gone, does that mean necessarily that the power is off the lines in front of the building? Not necessarily. If the power is off here, then it is on somewhere there is just a break between the central source and where we are at now. So we think there is no power but in reality everyone else around us has power except us. That is the way most churches are. The problem is not the power of God; it is that there is a break in the power line between the main source and where they are at. They then go around blaming the lack of God's power on the times they are living in. The power on the pole is just as powerful today as it was 2000 years ago. The problem is there is a break in the connection from point A to B. We as humans like to blame our problems on somebody else.

The reason that churches fail is the same reason most parents fail. The Bible is the book that is the pattern for ministry and ministering to your family. The key to ministry, whether it is you going around the world, or reaching people locally, or reaching your family, depends on one very important thing...*Understanding different cultures*. Your family is a different culture than you are...i.e. women think differently than men. You must be able to transcend from your culture to another. Men should be able to understand why their wife thinks or says something. Just the same, your children also don't look at life the same way (The "generation gap"). Not being able to understand cultures in the family is the same thing that has destroyed churches and ministries.

Missionaries are being taught that when they get to their mission field, they should be living separately from the ones they are trying to reach. All these missionaries live in the same area, with a little American flag on their window or on his lapel. He will completely desensitize himself from the people he is trying to reach, and still try to keep himself an American. They won't celebrate their holidays or sing their music. One missionary even said, after years of beating his head against the wall on why people won't come to his church, someone finally told him, "Missionary man, I know you love my soul, but you don't love me. You won't accept my culture. You're an American coming down to us, bringing your American ways, and refusing to become one of us." The best missionaries have abandoned their

own nationality and became one with the people that they wanted to reach. This pattern comes from the great missionary in the Bible...The Lord Jesus Christ. When he came down to Earth he abandoned everything he was, and became that which he wanted to reach. Christ is the perfect pattern for three things in the Bible:

1. Missionary
2. Pastor
3. Father

At the same time, God also gave us imperfect patterns:

1. David
2. Moses
3. Abraham
4. Isaac
5. Jacob
6. Paul
7. Timothy
8. John

He gave us an imperfect pattern to show us how an imperfect pattern can get as close as a perfect pattern that you can get without becoming the perfect pattern.

There is no reason for us to not reach our children and change the events of their lives except one...We don't want to. The key is reaching into those cultures both in ministry and in your family.

The reason God had men speaking in tongues in Acts, is because in 606 BC all the Jews were spread throughout the land. None of these Jews after 400 years knew their culture or who their God was. This is called a generation gap. The same thing happens in your family when you allow your child to do what he wants and loses sight of what God wants him to do and be. Because we fail to bridge those generation gaps in our lives between you your family; we then fail to penetrate into that culture and become one

with our family. We then choose who we let in, when we let them in, and fail to ever understand those different cultures.

Something else you should do with your child is when they get to the age of about 10 years old; you should sit them down and ask them “Is there anything about me as a parent that I could change to be a better parent?” You could then help them make a chart or something like that to have them grade you as a parent. Then you bring up the point that there may be some things in your child’s life that they need to change, and you can go over those things with them. The point is that you just didn’t drop the problems on them first; you placed it on you and then worked their problems into it. The problem is that most parents will never do this because:

You have no intentions of changing the things you need to change

Time and Availability...your children need you. And giving them material things over the vision that God has given you just won’t work.

Remember God always has time for us as his children, there is never a time in my life that God doesn’t have time for me, and whatever pattern we set as parents is the pattern our children will find. **Proverbs 20:7** says, “**The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.**”

2Peter 1:4-9 shows us in time as our children grows through these four stages that you have to continue defining the vision, but there are some things going through these stages that you have to build into your child. “**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**”

This passage is telling us that the key to our relationship with God is the promises he has given you. Also that in time there are some things you need to add to both your own faith and to your children's faith:

1. **Virtue** (character) Your child does not automatically know character, you have to train them to understand character.
2. **Knowledge** (the structure of life) The teaching and training that you give to them
3. **Temperance** (self-control/self-discipline) In all things you are to be balanced, and take things in life that happen, and have control.
4. **Patience** (being content) Being satisfied with where you are at. **1 Timothy 6:6** says, "**But godliness with contentment is great gain.**" **Philippians 4:11** says, "**Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**"
5. **Godliness** (the character qualities of Christ) Grace and Truth.
6. **Brotherly Kindness** (how you treat other Christians) **Romans 15:1** says, "**We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak...**"
7. **Charity** (the ability to give of yourself in everything, unconditionally) This is what made Christ the perfect missionary, pastor, and father.
 - Notice that in this passage (V.8) all three titles are present, "Lord Jesus Christ." If you study the Lord, Jesus, and Christ you will have the complete package.
 - "**But he that lacketh these things are blind**" (V.9) No Vision. You lack the ability to see beyond, and all you see is what is before you.

Availability is the key to your child. And through availability you provide for him one of the great patterns that God provided for us. That is that your child should have access to you any time he wants to. There is never a time that you are too busy to deal with them.

CHILD TRAINING #9

“13 Character Traits”

The six principles of parenting that we just studied are important because they basically represent the areas that we as parents need to change in our lives. These are things we need to change to impact our children’s lives the way we need to.

The concept of a Vision should now begin to become clearer every week. **Philippians 2:5** and **1Corinthians 2:16** talks about letting this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, which represents us having the mind of Christ. What your pastor should be doing for you is the same thing that you should be doing for your children as their pastor...Instilling in them the vision of God and a lifestyle of Biblical principles so that they can live by them and operate by them.

Life is nothing more than how you react to it based on the principles. The principles are nothing more than the word of God in your life providing the vision.

Last lesson we talked about the seven great essentials (**1Peter 1:4-9**) that you have to build into your child’s life, and the pastor has to build them into his people’s life which makes you Christ-like.

Isaiah 28:9-10 says, “**Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.**”

- Historically - this is talking about the building of the nation of Israel
- Doctrinally - this is talking about you and me, as a Christian, learning the Bible. This illustration has been used many times on how to build Christians.

- Inspirationally - we have to look at our children as a building, because they are. Your child's body needs to be built into God's temple. Your child is God's building, and it is your job as a parent to build that child and bring them to the point where they become in every way shape and form, God's building.
- "Precept upon precept" and "Line upon line" is a picture of a stone mason building a wall of a building. Every building has to have a foundation. In your child's life your home is your child's foundation. This home foundation needs to be a strong wholesome home, built on Biblical principles, saturated with grace and truth, and the six principles that we learned earlier.
- "Weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts" is a baby who is still on his mothers milk, but there comes a time where they have to be weaned off because they are growing to the point they now need more to sustain life. It is also a picture of bringing your child from birth and building them into a strong building for God, using the six principles.

In this lesson we are going to take these six principles and try to approach them from another angle, so that when you look at your child you have a better understanding for applying these absolute parenting principles.

First, in this passage, he asks a question, "Whom shall he teach knowledge?" and "whom shall he make to understand doctrine?" See you can teach you child knowledge (where the front and back door are, where the cookies are, where the bathroom is...etc.), but you have to **MAKE** someone understand doctrine. Doctrine doesn't come as easy as just teaching someone knowledge.

The reason that we can see a movie one time and remember every character, every song, and every second of that movie, but have to spend 4 hours to remember one memory verse is because you can **teach** your child knowledge, but you have to **make** them understand doctrine. There is no child in the world that wakes up one morning and says that he wants to be like God.

When he is talking about “line upon line and precept upon precept” he is saying:

- Precepts in the Bible are principles. What you have here is the picture of a man building a wall. He is making each one of these principles into a cinder block wall, so to speak. He is then laying on the homes foundation individual principles of God. When you then get a whole course built upon that foundation, what you have is a DOCTRINE.
- Bible doctrines are built up of Bible principles. Just like big \$50 words are made up of little letters. Just like you take the alphabet to make up words, God takes principles and one by one builds doctrine that gives you understanding in the Bible.
- Cinder block walls are all tied into each other. You don't just place one block upon the other or it will fall. You have to tie each one into the next to have a strong wall. When you begin to build doctrine into your child's life using the six principles we learned, you are taking precepts and principles and building doctrine line upon line.
- When this builder takes the first row of blocks he uses a plumb line to keep the wall straight. This is a picture of you and your discipline when you are building the principles...but you are HOLDING THE LINE! This is exactly what you do with your child.

You must build into your children's lives precept upon precept, line upon line, then it says, “here a little, and there a little.” This means that you are continually adding to the principles and precepts in your children's lives.

CHARACTER

Most parents want their children to grow up with character; however, most children grow up just being a character without any character. Unfortunately, just wanting your child to have character doesn't mean it will happen. Today we are going to cover thirteen (13) principles of character that you can build into your children, just like the seven (7) things we found in **1Peter 1:4-9**.

Definition of Character:

What we have all heard in the past is that character is “Doing right when nobody is watching.” This is a good definition, but it doesn’t go deep enough. Proverbs is the book in the Bible that shows you the structure of how to get character. That is why the first seven chapters begin with “My Son” or “My Children.” Solomon is telling you, as he was telling his child, if you will do this with my word, I will do this for you. If you get the word of God into your life, and do what I tell you to do, it will bring about understanding in your life.

- Understanding (unsaved people can’t have understanding, he can have facts, knowledge, or wisdom, but not understanding) is how God fits into the equation in any given circumstance or situation.
- Understanding comes from having discretion and discernment.

Discernment and Discretion is your child’s ability to look at any given situation and make the right choice. THIS IS NOT CHARACTER!

Character is the ability for a child of God in any circumstances in life to exercise the courage to make the right choice.

Knowing the right choice does you no good if you do not have the character and courage to make the right choice. This is the missing element in most children, because it is the missing element in most Christians. Character is not only is doing right when nobody sees, but character comes down to your courage to do what is right when your going to pay the consequences for it.

Character Trait #1 **Attentiveness (having your child pay attention)**

The best way to obtain this is to develop and exercise your child’s mind. This is done by reading. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. Every great man that ever got anywhere in life has one common thread...they all read. If you want to develop your retention, comprehension skills, and listening skills, you have to develop your mind to do it. This is an absolute invaluable skill when it comes to the Bible later on in life.

Character Trait #2 Obedience to Authority

Romans 13 deals with authority being a way of life. Your children will always be under someone's authority. Growing up without this will be a tough lesson to learn. Tim Lee (Evangelist) who has both legs missing, and preaches from a wheelchair, tells his testimony about how he grew up as a rebellious teenager. He grew up wanting to get out of his parents authority, and didn't like being told what to do...so he joined the Marines. God ultimately got a hold of him, and he's now a great evangelist.

You should teach your child that submissiveness and obedience is the key to the blessings of God in their life. How many times do you tell your children to do something? Because inside, your child knows how many times you are going to tell him before he needs to stop.

Character Trait #3 Contentment

This is probably one of the toughest ones to face as a parent, because we are living in a world of THINGS. In everything we do, whether it be buying lipstick (women) or buying clothing, there are hundreds of choices we have to make for even the simplest things. **The reason for this is because the world wants to develop in you, me, and our children a lustful, covetous, spirit of what you don't have but what you think you need.** Most people today go out on Saturday night to the mall to look at what they don't have. This is all aimed at our children. **1Timothy 6:6-9** says, **“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men into destruction and perdition.”** There is nothing wrong with having nice things, but when you get to the point that you can't afford something and it is over your head because you don't want to wait, or because you don't understand contentment and being content with the things God has given you.

You should never get yourself so tied down with anything that you can't drop it in 15 seconds when God calls you to do something else. This is the trap from the devil, and it comes from not being content. Your children see this behavior, and they grow up also not being content.

Character Trait #4 Neatness and Orderliness

All kids are somewhat un-clean and un-orderly, but your favorite verse should be **1Corinthians 14:33** “God is not the author of confusion...” Sloppy lives lead to sloppy ministry. We all have issues, but these are things we need to work on.

Character Trait #5 Respect

First of all your child should respect themselves, then other people, then adults, and then most importantly respecting God. Looking back into the nation of Israel, God makes it very clear that there were things that were ordinary, and things in their culture that God called the hallowed things (things that were holy). There are likewise things in our lives that are hallowed things that we should have respect to because of how God looks at them. There are hallowed in our life that God expects you to deal with differently than your dog, or car, or cat, or personal possession.

Your child needs to understand that you have to be respectful not only to adults or other things, but be respectful to things that are God’s. Example is when you walk into a building you take your hat off, and when you prayed you took your hat off (**1Corinthians 11**). Everything obviously has a balance to them, but there are some things that God considers hallowed, and we should show Him our respect.

Character Trait #6 Forgiveness

This is one that you will have many opportunities to teach, and will probably never go away. Many parents never learn to forgive and forget, and this trait goes on right to the child who sees the parents act this way. This is probably the greatest area to take control of when your child is young. Whether you have children that are in school or if you have two or more children, there will always be this issue to work on and instill in their lives.

You need to teach this trait because you have to remember to forgive and forget just like God forgave and forgot the way you were when he first looked at you. You can’t fake forgiving somebody just like you can’t fake real spirituality, and for them to be real, they need to be unconditional.

Character Trait #7 Thankfulness

Thanking God for what he has given us and not taking them or Him for granted. Your children need to see you thankful so they grow up conscious of the things God has given them. Developing a thankful spirit in your life, and giving God the thanks for everything is a character trait your children need to first see in your life.

When things go bad in your life do you stop and give God the praise for an opportunity to serve him, or do you rant and rave about how bad things are? You need to come to the point in your life that you thank God 100 times a day for things in your life and what God has given you.

You should teach your child to thank God for not only the good things in life, but also the bad things.

Character Trait #8 Faith

The biggest mistake the children of Israel did in Exodus through Joshua is that they failed to leave their children a legacy of faith. They never told their children of the great miracles that God did for them while they were in the wilderness, and they grew up as a generation of children that had no faith in God. This is true because the parallels of Israel and the Church; and being a pastor and a parent are so close that this will be the number one issue that we have, which is not letting our children see faith in our lives. Always taking control of circumstances, or losing our temper, always taking on the defensive instead of exercising faith.

Sometimes we define faith as, trusting God by the unseen; however that is not true. Faith in the Bible is never based in the unknown. **Faith is looking behind and seeing what God has already done, and then exercising faith in what he has already done that he will be there for you tomorrow. Faith is that he was there last week, so he will be there for me tomorrow.**

You need to start by being a faithful parent. If you want them to be faithful to God, you need to start by being faithful to them. You don't do your child any favors by not being faithful in disciplining them, or failing to keep your promises to them. Some of your children when they get to be 19 years old,

and they turn to the world...the reason this happened was because you never taught them that they could count on you to never let them step out of the box.

Character Trait #9 Truthfulness

Example of a counseling issue where two children were going up against their parents, and after the father explained what was going on, the daughter said, "I can't hear what you are saying to me, because I keep seeing what you are doing." Translated, "I can't hear what you are telling me to do right, because I keep seeing what you keep doing wrong." In other words, he was saying one thing, but in action he was doing something else.

What being a good parent really comes down to is you getting real with yourself first. You will never be able to change your children, until you change what needs to be done in your life first.

You and your children, at a certain point, should be able to evaluate each other. I have never seen a situation where a life of deception and lies didn't start with the person deceiving themselves first before they ever tried to deceive anybody else second. You should have a time every year that you sit down with your children and be truthful. You should sit them down and show them where they have come during the past year, and then let them tell you how you can become a better parent to them.

This is why Christianity has lost the steel in its backbone. Just like there are 1200 WWII vets dying each day, there will come a time where there are no more truth-telling preachers like Mel Sabaka. Soon the last boys of the Philadelphian church age will be gone, who preached a hell so real that you could feel the heat and smell the smoke, who pitched every ball right across the plate waist high, who never took anything from anybody, and never cared what you thought about it because they looked for the character of men and women that would take whatever they had to come. If you can't take somebody getting in your face that is teaching you the word of God, how in the world are you going to stand out there when the whole world comes after you.

Character Trait #10 Security

In a Christian's life the greatest issue that you have to settle after you are saved is eternal security. If you don't know for sure under any given situation that you are going to heaven when you die, you're not going to stick your neck out for the Lord. You will never step out by faith and take the chance of losing it in the process by doing something stupid...you will always play the safe route. Eternal security is really the backbone of Bible Christianity.

How are you going to tell someone else about how to get saved, if you aren't sure that you are? Or maybe you are today, but you might not be tomorrow.

At the same time in your family, if your children are not secure in who they are they won't do anything for God either. The parallels are unprecedented ...if you are not secure in God you will never do anything for him; and if your child is not secure in your family, they will never do anything within your family to make it better. The job of the church and pastor is to make sure you realize that you are sealed unto the day of redemption, understanding the great doctrine of spiritual circumcision, understanding the concepts that you are in Christ and He is in you, understanding that once you are saved it is no longer a matter if you do right or wrong, it is a question that you are now his child, also understanding the concept of Standing and State.

The way you learn this is by learning one precept at a time to lay on that foundation. This is how you also train your children.

Character Trait #11 Meekness

Meekness is not defined as being a Wimp. **Meekness defined in the Bible is the character of God in your life displayed through the power of God in your life.** Meekness is someone that has not only yielded his personal possessions and his rights to God, but also his spirit to God. **Proverbs 25:28** says, “**He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.**” A meek person is a strong person who is tempered by the Biblical principles to respond and not react to any given

situation. *He earns the right to be heard instead of demanding the right to be heard.*

The greatest example of meekness in the Bible is Paul. Paul was a frail guy, and the Bible says he was frail in stature and contemptible in speech. We think of him as some big guy, who, when he walks by a building, walls fall down...he was in actuality a little, bitty guy in poor health who didn't speak well, but when you read his books you would think you were looking at a bulldozer. Paul was meek but Powerful!!!

Character Trait #12 **Caution**

We live in a world where "Caution is thrown to the wind." Your child is up for grabs, just like we talked about in the first lesson. There are people who want to hurt your child at any chance.

Just like you teach your children not to talk with strangers or walk into the street. You should come to the point in their lives when they are 14-15 years old to help them chose the right kind of friends. Why can you tell them at 4 not to go into the street, but when they are 12-13 you can't say, "You can't play with that person?" The answer is because you have lost the power of parenting in there some where!!!

You need to also teach your children to seek council before they make decisions. They also need to see temptation for what it is. Just like in **2Timothy 2** says to "Flee youthful lusts..." **Proverbs 1:10** says, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." The world will say, "Everybody does it," or "You will know when to stop," or "Don't be a drag, this is what real men and women do." The world is going to say, "Your parents don't know what they are talking about." **PROVERBS 1:10!!!!**

Character Trait #13 **Patience**

You need to teach your child to wait on God. *Time spent waiting on God is never time spent wasted!!*

When your child comes to the point in dating you will be able to tell them to not be in a hurry. Learn this principle in life...*You can't build two intimate*

relationships at the same time. Until you build the right kind of relationship with God, don't get your emotions involved with the opposite sex until you find out where their emotions really are with God. Engagements should be for at least 2-3 years. You should take some time with this, it is for the rest of your life.

Parents that let their daughter dress like they are 30...that parent should be taken out and tied behind somebody's Blazer and drug down the street for a while...YOU ARE INSANE! What are you teaching that young girl (same is true with boys)...they think this is cute, until she comes home pregnant, or he doesn't come home anymore at all. Let them be children, keep them children...PATIENCE!

Walk them through it but don't shove them into a situation that expedites what they have to face before you get the foundation built in their life to deal with it.

Be patient in learning about God, it is a life long process. Be patient in finding a girlfriend or boyfriend. Be patient in leaving your home, it's a safe haven and security. Be patient in getting into life and all the hassles that come with it. A pastor would never send a man or woman out in the ministry until he was 100% sure that he could get the job done. Why would you do that to your children? Why would you send your kids out into the world until you were 100% sure they can handle everything? Why? Because we are not patient.

Sometime, look at **2Timothy 3**, and read what the qualifications for a pastor is. The first thing it says (the most important) "...A bishop must be blameless." There is more interpretation on the word blameless than anything in the world. This is where the Bible becomes a divisive tool in most people's hands. Many take the stand that if you were divorced 20-30 years ago, or even before you were saved that you are no longer blameless.

- First of all (and this comes as bad news to some)...None of us are blameless. You show me a blameless person, and I'll show you Jesus Christ. If I walked around you all day long, I would find as many bad things about you as you would about me. The truth is if you knew what I really knew about Bob Alexander, you would not even come back to church next week.

The same is true, if I knew about you what you know about you, I wouldn't let you come back next week!

- Blameless and how a pastor remains blameless in the Bible is defined when he makes a mistake, he immediately deals with it Biblically, therefore remaining blameless. You can't blame anything on the guy if when he made a mistake he did what the Bible said and instituted the principles to make it right.
- If that is true, and you want to take this approach as true...you know who is then to blame for sin coming into the world? God is, because God allowed Adam and Eve to sin in the garden, therefore God is not BLAMELESS! Do you think that the devil just snuck in while God was on the 18th hole, and messed everything up for God? NO! God allowed sin to come into this world, and the moment that God allowed sin he was responsible for it, and if you want to take that approach then God is not blameless!
- How did God become blameless? He came down and eradicated sin that he allowed to come in by his own death on the cross!!!
- Blameless is not being perfect, none of us are perfect. As a pastor you stay blameless because when you do something stupid you admit it, deal with it, confess it, you get it right with whoever, and then you remain blameless. How do you place blame on somebody who is doing what the Bible says, just like God did?
- PARENTS NEED TO BE BLAMELESS WITH THEIR CHILDREN. This is the point. Just as a pastor has to be blameless toward you by coming to his people when he does something wrong, or his people coming to him when he does not see that he did wrong, they hold each other accountable.
- As a parent the only way to be blameless with your children, is when you make a mistake you do what is right with it. You deal with it. You tell your children that you are going to deal with the problems as they arise no matter what the consequences are.

CHILD TRAINING #10

“How to Discipline Your Child”

(PART 1)

“Repetition is the price of learning” By saying this, we will recap at the beginning of each lesson, so that the reader can know what some important and key points are to remember in this study.

Remember we spoke about the four types of parents, and defined each type:
(Pages 33-34)

1. Autocratic
2. Permissive
3. Neglectful
4. Relational

We also covered: (Page 26)

1. Correct Thinking
2. Correct Teaching
3. Correct Treatment
4. Correct Testimony

In this we learned that you will never correct your child’s behavior until you first correct your own thinking as a parent.

In all these lessons, the whole concept has been wound around two great concepts: (Page 32)

1. Grace
2. Truth

Now we are going to go to the next level based on everything we have looked at up to this point and now enter into probably the most important aspect which is:

DISCIPLINING YOUR CHILD

This discipline is also defined as “Corporal Punishment” (spanking, whipping, etc.) In the Bible, there are more references listed in discipline when it comes to training your child than any other area. Discipline is the key to the whole system, and is basically the key to everything we learned. If you fail in this area, you have failed completely.

A Biblical definition of Discipline for your life and your child’s life is simply...**Submission to Authority**. Discipline is being submissive to the authority of the word of God, or the church, or your pastor, or your job, or your boss, etc. Life is about authority and structure.

Parenting Verse #8

Proverbs 17:6 says, “Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”

This verse does not directly deal with discipline; however, it shows the end result of discipline in a child’s life. The context here is the Judgment Seat of Christ. God has not only begun a good work in you the day you got saved, but he also wants that good work to continue down through your family. Basically your children, if they carry on that legacy of the line of Christ down through the Judgment Seat of Christ become your rewards at that time. “...the crown of old men; and the glory...” These are your crowns and glory at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Parenting Verse #9

Proverbs 20:11 says, “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”

You, as a parent, should know your child. God will isolate your child with you as a parent before the outside influences of the world begin to take hold. This occurs usually for the first five (5) years of his life before he/she goes to school. The dominating force of your child is you. One of the things that needs to happen during this time is that you need to **learn your child**. Each child is different and can’t be treated the same.

Parenting Verse #10

Proverbs 22:15 says, “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

This verse tells you that right from the beginning of life, your child has some issues to deal with. Some parents think that their child doesn't have any issues. Your child has an old sin nature, and they don't get it when they are 15-16. They get this nature the day they were born. Even though they are under grace by the state of innocence, they still struggle with that old sin nature.

Parenting Verse #11

Proverbs 29:15 says, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

There are two concepts found here:

1. The rod, and
2. Reproof

You should not only discipline them with a rod, but you also have to reprove them. You have to talk to them after the discipline and explain what they did wrong. This is the process that we will go through in the next couple of lessons. After we are done with this study, you will be able to lay out the complete absolute process of discipline using these principles.

Parenting Verse #12

Proverbs 23:13-15 says, “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell. My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine”

Parenting Verse #13

Proverbs 20:30 says, “The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.” A “blue wound” is a deep wound. A puncture wound does not bleed, but it is a deep wound. At the top of the puncture wound the skin will be blue (like a dog or snake bite).

This verse goes right along with **Proverbs 23:13** when it says if you beat him with a rod, it will deliver his soul from hell.

A good whippin' is good because it is like the blueness of a wound; it goes down to the inwards of the belly. In other words, if you have ever been in a fight, during the whooping you were taking you thought to yourself, "My, God this really hurts! I wished I would have kept my mouth shut." It makes you think, just like when you get a good wound it makes you think. With this in mind when you whip a child, this is the process that goes through his mind as well, you want him to think about it. It should be hard enough that it gets his attention, but not hard enough that it hurts him.

Parenting Verse #14

Proverbs 19:18 says, "Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

When it is time to discipline the children, you always end up remembering how sweet they were sleeping the night before. It's tough to actually make yourself hurt that child for his own good, and you want to pull back from it. They then start to cry and beg you not to spank them, and they say "Please daddy, I won't do it again." This is just one of those times that you just have to carry through with it. Just like it you have to remember that when we, as Christians, do wrong it probably pains God to have to punish us...but he does!!

Remember you love your kids, you don't want to hurt them, but also remember **Proverbs 19:18** when it is time to discipline. The reason you have to fight through the issue, that they are adorable and you don't want to whack the little sucker, is because there is coming a day in his life were there is no more HOPE for him. If there is anything that you have to stay focused on as a Christian parent, it is disciplining your child.

I'm sure some of you reading this are calling **Department of Family Services** right now, and giving them this book because we are teaching child abuse with words like, "Beating him" or "Rod of correction," but you have to be careful with this teaching today, because the world thinks that corporal punishment is wrong. Most parents are taught you shouldn't use corporal

punishment on your child at all. This is where all the alternatives to spanking comes in...like “time outs”, or 1-2-3; instead of dealing with your child Biblically. The problem is that once the child is grown, and finds out what they did that went against the Bible's teaching, there is no hope left.

What we want to define for you is the Biblical process of discipline when it comes to teaching and training your child. We also want to remember that this is all done with Grace and Truth. We will cover:

1. **Why** we discipline
2. **When** we should discipline, and
3. **How** we should discipline

Remember **Proverbs 19:18** there is coming a time in your child's life that there will be no more hope.

When disciplining your child there are three (3) things that you should always remember. These three things go right along with the Why, When, and How. And remember the definition of Discipline is...Submission to Authority. We also covered in the last lesson what it means Biblically what it means to be blameless in the context of being a pastor (reference: pages 85-86). You have to remember that as a parent you also have to be blameless to your children, and if you do something wrong, you apologize to them for Reacting to them instead of Responding to them...this keeps you blameless with them.

You will never be a perfect parent, but you can be blameless. Are you God's child? YES. Is God your father? YES, HE IS. Is he a perfect father? YES, HE IS. Then why aren't you a perfect child? God is a perfect father, and I am his child, then why am I not a perfect child? The answer is that I am not perfect and when I as his child step out of line, He always remains perfect and blameless by never allowing me to get away with anything. God looks at us as his children, and knows exactly what we are going to do before we do it...you don't have that ability as a parent. The quality that we do have in common with God is that we can remain blameless. You don't allow your children to get away with anything, you hold them accountable, based on the structure and vision that you provide for them.

The reason that some of you will fail with this is because the greatest aspect in all of this with your child is the other great characteristic that God has, that we can also have (but many times don't have) is....CONSISTENCY!!! God never allows me to get away with anything. He may not always whack me for doing wrong, but he will always let me know by grace and truth that what I did was not pleasing to him. This makes me love him more and more each time he is consistent. When we think about doing what we shouldn't or look at what we shouldn't, we should know that God is watching us, and we should be so concerned about losing that fellowship with God for even ten minutes that we refrain from doing what we shouldn't..."GOD CONSCIOUSNESS".

In disciplining your child, you want to follow the same procedure that God follows in your life.

#1 "Breaking of the will, but not breaking of the spirit".

You will always be better off trying to mold the will of your child, than to go back and try to break the will of your child.

Sometimes this is impossible because the child comes out right away with a strong will. You want to mold or break the will of your child if he is strong willed, but you NEVER want to break his SPIRIT.

What is the Biblical definition of will and spirit?

- Spirit is the drive of a person (the life that is in you). The spirit is defined in the Bible as the breath of life. The spirit of man is what drives him to survive under horrible circumstances or normal situations where man wants to achieve something. In a Christian, when something bad happens they don't want to lose their worth to God as a human being, and they rise above the circumstances. Unsaved people also have this same spirit. It is what makes people do incredible things that others may not have the spirit to accomplish.

- Will is what your choosing is. **2Corinthians 7:1** says, “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting the holiness in the fear of God.” This is telling us that you not only have to perfect yourself in the flesh but also in the spirit. This means you recognize that you have a spirit, and you have a free choice of what you do with that spirit. That choosing of what you are going to do with that spirit...is your will. Think of it this way, when you picture a large naval ship or cruise liner, think about how it is turned with a little rudder...that little rudder is your will. *Whatever you choose to turn your will toward, is where your spirit goes.* Seventeen (17) times in the Bible you find a reference to man’s free will. Life is full of choices. We are in the situations we are in (all of us) today, because of the choices we have made...good, bad, or indifferent.

When you take a child for the first five or six years, you are the determining factor in his life. This is the time for you to mold his spirit and shape his will before he/she is sent out into the world, and makes the right choices, or makes the wrong choices. If you can’t mold the will, you have to break the will (we will cover how to do this later).

#2 “Your home is a place that is going to honor the Lord”

The home should not be a place that they can live like the world and live like hell, then come home and flop there at night. They need to understand that this house belongs to the Lord, and we are going to honor Him in it. Joshua says it best in **Joshua 24:15**, “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” There is no option to it. It is your responsibility that you as a parent let your child know that you are going to honor the Lord in your home. Your child should also know that they are welcome there as long as they want to as long as they abide by those rules.

As a parent you don’t see yourself as a drug dealer or a bootlegger, but if you provide a place for them to conduct this kind of behavior, you are aiding and abetting them you are supplying them a place for them to operate their ungodliness. **1Samuel 15:23** says, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

In God's mind rebellion in the home or family is as the sin of witchcraft, because the end results for both are the same...absolute disaster.

You can't allow your child to exercise his own free will in your home of what you're going to do and what they're going to do when it comes to honoring the Lord. Do you know why God equated the sin of witchcraft to the sin of rebellion in the Old Testament? If you study this topic in the Bible you will find that the common link is the spirit that comes from both of them. This verse is talking about Saul, and when he rejects the authority of the word of God. What happens to him next? When Saul received no answers from God, what did he do? He went to the witch at Endor. He didn't get anything from God's spirit, so he went to a wicked, evil, seducing, spirit from a witch. Saul's problem was with rebellion on the authority of the word of God. In both cases, a bad, unclean spirit will destroy, just like the witchcraft destroyed the nation of Israel under Saul; the rebellion in your home will destroy your family under your leadership.

This is why when you have a rebellious son in the Old Testament they took them to the judges to correct the problem, and if this didn't correct the problem...they stoned him!!! First rock concert attended by a young person in the Bible! The reason that the punishment in the Old Testament for witchcraft and rebellion is death, is because God knew when that spirit got into your family, just like it got into the nation of Israel, it will destroy everything it touches.

You have the right, as a parent, to require that your home be honoring to the Lord.

#3 “The longer you wait, the more hopeless it becomes.”

You want the facts of life, these are the facts of life when it comes to the power of parenting. Remember **Proverbs 19:18**, “**Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying.**” Parents wait too long to get help and it is too late. Just like when people wait too long to get help in a bad marriage, or in taking the Bible seriously...we always wait too long. We all wait too long to do what is right, and then wonder later why it didn't work out.

Parents that wait too long will come to the realization that they have lost control of their children, and it will be too late, or will take some radical maneuvers to correct.

These three things are absolute. DO NOT FORGET THEM!!!

The number one problem that most parents and most Christians have is that we just don't want to get honest with ourselves about where we are at.

We just don't want to believe that there is really anything wrong with us. There are two other mistakes we make which are:

1. Not providing a vision of discipline for your child.

- This simply means in the original Koine Greek, “your butt is going to wear out faster than my hand will.”
- How many times as a parent do you want to tell your child to do something before he responds? Two? Four? Ten? Just like a dog, your child associates instructions by the inflexion of your voice. In 20 minutes you can teach a dog how to obey instruction, how much easier should it be for your child because it is all about CONSISTENCY (doing the same thing, every time, the same way).
- **Job 9:4** says, “**He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?**” NOBODY! Here Job is telling us the first thing we need to know about God is that he is stronger and smarter than we are. On your children's level, they need to know that you as a parent are mighty in strength and greater in wisdom than they are. The vision should be, if they harden their heart against your authority will not prosper in their little lives.
- “The brick wall effect” If you were to ask somebody to get you something in another room, and he tries to run through the wall to get it instead of using the door, after about 9-10 times of telling him to use the door, maybe he will understand. This is what your child needs to understand about the vision of the authority structure in your family, “Ouch, this hurts!” “Wow, mom and dad aren't giving an inch!” “Wow, I think I'll find another route.” “Oh, it pays to do what mom and dad says!”

2. You parents need to be absolutely together in your discipline.

- What ends up happening is that your child learns to play both ends against the middle when you are not together on discipline. Your child should find no alternative in doing what is right.
- You need to get your child to understand that a life outside the structure of this home is not going to work.

Everything we have done so far is to get us prepared for this lesson on discipline. You wanted to learn this first, just so you could whack your child, but whacking your child without understanding how, when, and where, is not the best way to do it. You have to have a strategy. You have to understand what you spank for, and what you don't, and consistency is the key. Then, using the above material, changing about yourself what needs to be changed, will produce the right attitude not only in you, but then you have the ability to change it in your child.

Consistency is the place where most parents fail, but let's face it; this is also where most Christians fail.

Remember the concept we talked about several times, about losing fellowship with you as a parent. The fact that they lose that fellowship should be more important to them and painful to them than any whipping you could ever give them. Most children are disciplined out of anger or frustration by parents who have come to the end of their rope; they are tired and fed up or have no answers. So out of love they do it, out of ignorance, out of anger, out of frustration; instead of wisdom and understanding.

Disciplining your child is more than just making them pay for their crime. It should be more that just getting some satisfaction because you were irritated or being distracted from something you wanted to do. During the next few weeks we are going to go through the whole process of discipline and explain everything you need to know about proper discipline.

Parents ask all the time, when do I spank my children? This is a very difficult answer, because the answer is not really so much dependant upon the child, but really on your attitude about it. I am going to give you some

clear guidelines on when to spank but it depends on you and your attitude. If you come home from work and ten minutes after you get home you all of sudden have a discipline problem you have to attend to. You are probably tired, or had a bad day, and all you wanted to do was sit down relax and watch some TV. Now you are confronted with a discipline issue that you don't want to handle or you think your wife should have handled, and then you take that frustration out on your child because you have not disciplined yourself to get ready to be the parent. You're the adult, ACT LIKE IT! This is part of parenting and the responsibility that comes with it.

This all goes back to knowing your child, and having the correct thinking. It goes back to being able to discern between a deliberate acts of rebellion against authority, or is it childish irresponsibility and immaturity. This is the problem; parents have a tough time discerning which is which, because they don't know their child.

- **Willful disobedience**, as the name applies, is a willful act of disobedience. This occurs as early as 6-8 months of age if not before that. It will always be an act against your will and theirs. This is defiance of parental authority and their not being submissive to it. They are doing what every good military tactician does; they are probing your defenses. This willful disobedience and disrespect to authority must be absolutely CRUSHED, while they are little. You can't tolerate it; it is as the sin of witchcraft.

The spirit that comes along with the spirit of disobedience is the same spirit that is found in witchcraft. Did you not understand that? If you allow that to happen, it is like a cancer that will affect everything, even other children in the family.

- **Childish Irresponsibility**, are like accidents that are due to age or lack of understanding. Forgetting things, or spilling stuff, or not paying attention. Not fulfilling tasks all the way, or breaking something. Your children should not be whipped in these situations, unless it is an act of defiance of authority. You should have the discernment and discretion to know your child, and know when he is being willfully disobedient or childish irresponsibility.

The first one (willful disobedience) is that the child knows he is wrong and is simply testing the perimeter and the system at 3-4 years old; then putting a plan together to run the family when he is 18-19 years old. Second coming offenses, just like Christ is going to come back and whack the anti-Christ, you should discipline your child the same way for this behavior.

The second one (childish irresponsibility) he may have been wrong, but simply may have blundered into a situation and made a mistake.

In parenting, it is just as important to know when not to spank, as it is to know when to spank. That same spirit that brought Saul to visit the witch at Endor is the same spirit that will bring your family to its knees...and you have to CRUSH it.

Remember the three things given here today:

1. You want to break your child's will, but not his spirit.
2. Your child should understand that your house belongs to the Lord.
3. The longer you wait the harder it will be to correct (The compounding effect).

CHILD TRAINING #11

“How to Discipline Your Child”

(PART 2)

A lot of times in our Christian lives we talk about being like Christ, and associate this with the things that we do. This is true, however not only should we **do** the things that Christ did, but we should also **think** like Christ. If you begin to think like Christ, you will never have to worry about being in the wrong place. **Philippians 2:15** says, “**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**” When you do this, you will see the Bible as God’s opinion on everything in life.

We choose what we do based on our value system, the devil does not make us do anything. Our value system is based on how we view things. When you get older in the Lord, the mark of a good leader is somebody who can separate their emotions from a situation, not take out your emotions but overriding your emotions with the word of God. **You will then be able to see a situation as it truly is, not as it appears.**

When dealing with people and their problems, I have found that people want to just treat the symptoms not solve the problem. They want to feel better, and feel happy again, and then they can forget God, and move on in life. This is all being said because a lot of what we will talk about in this lesson and the last one, is something that you will not only use in your family but also as a counselor. Most of you will grow to the point, as your discretion grows, that you will turn into great counselors and help people with their problems. As a pastor I am not interested in treating your symptoms, I am interested in solving the problem and the Bible can do this.

Last lesson we covered:

- Knowing your child, and using discernment and discretion in disciplining your child
- Knowing when not to punish your child
- Knowing the purpose of punishing your child

- Providing a vision of discipline for your child
- Knowing the difference between willful disobedience and childish immaturity
- **The three principles:**
 - “Breaking the will, but molding the spirit”
 - “Your home is going to bring honor to the Lord”
 - “The longer you wait the harder it will become”
- Consistency is the key

Most messages are three points and a poem; this one is going to be three whacks and you're out!

One of the points we are going to cover today is how to discipline multiple children from multiple marriages. This is a major issue in today's world and will come up when dealing with people on a counseling opportunity. The divorce rate that we have today began from the lack of Biblical teaching and preaching that started around the turn of the 20th century.

In a broken marriage it is always the kids that pay the price for the parent's mistakes. A lot of parents have a problem dealing with this point, but it is the truth. All this does is become a web of chaos and the parent's become polarized (she hates him, and he hates her). During this process either by design or not, the children always become the pawns in this chess game of hatred. I know each situation is different, and sometimes one or the other partners bear more responsibility for the problems that occur in a marriage, but IT ALWAYS TAKES TWO TO TANGO!!! Most couples wait too long to get help in this situation, but if you can get to them before they are divorced, I will say to both of them... “John, Betty, this situation has gotten totally out of control, and you need to call a truce. John what you have to do is quit worrying about her problems and worry about your own, and focus on what YOU need to change in your life. Betty, quit pointing the finger at him and you work on what YOU need to fix in your life. I don't want to hear next week when you come in who did what, I want to hear, I did this and I did that.” Instead of both of you being the problem, you now both begin to solve the problem.

When you get two people in a marriage to start taking responsibility for what they did wrong (or are doing wrong), I guarantee you if both of them are honest before God, I don't know of a marriage situation that will not correct itself with that kind of mind set. The reason for this is because it is Biblical. **Romans 15:1** says, “**We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**”

Husbands don't tell me how strong you are spiritually and how close you are to God, when you are not bearing your wife's infirmities (if she has problems). The same is true with the wife. If you have two people in a marriage that are having problems, and they begin to bear each other's infirmities...the problems correct themselves. When the marriage breaks up, I use the same kind of philosophy. When a marriage breaks up sometimes it is a necessity, but it is never God's plan...whatever happens you have to keep your children from becoming the pawn between two people.

There is one word that you have got to keep in these situations that will keep you from losing that child, and that word is LATITUDE. When you have multiple parents that don't get along, oh yes, you may be justified in feeling what you are feeling:

- Anger
- Betrayal
- Hostility
- Depression
- Hatred
- Revenge
- Pride

These all get involved when a marriage breaks up. The bottom line is this...You are both so angry at each other and have become so polarized to each other that the child has all the latitude in the middle.

You will also then eventually have the situation where one or both of the parents remarry, and you have another spouse that becomes involved in the

discipline of your child. See how complicated this can become? You may come to the point as a father of children that aren't yours that you may need to discipline that child, but you won't be able to because their other father will turn you in to Department of Family Services for abuse...see how complicated it becomes. Or you will have a spouse that knows it is right to come to church but out of pure spite they are mad at you, so they will let that little child grow up without God and allow him to die and go to hell so they can prove a point on how angry they are at you...GOOD JOB!

The same way you deal with a marriage before it breaks up, is the same way you deal with it (for the child's sake) after it breaks up. The easiest way to fix this is simply forgiveness. One of the parents can go to the other and confess their part in the break-up and both take the blame and not each other; you can get along a lot better than the alternative way. Study **Hebrews 12:15** which covers the eight points of bitterness when it finally gets to that point. When your anger, frustration, the feeling of betrayal, and all the flood of emotions come in, when they finally seed in your heart and they become a boiling pot of unforgiveness that comes to the point of bitterness, there are eight things that happen to you in your life, and they will come right down into your child's life. The worst thing that you can provide for that child is latitude. That child will see the difference between the two of you so fast, your head will spin.

Even in situations where the child has both biological parents, latitude is worst thing you can do. Because, what they will do is play both ends against the middle. Latitude for us is also the thing that gets us in trouble.

Latitude is defined as:

- **Ephesians 4:27** says, “**Neither give place to the devil.**” This means giving no latitude to the devil in your life.
- **Latitude is the distance between what the Bible says to do, and what you actually do.**
- “Give the devil an inch...and he will become the ruler!”

Even in a good home, your children will learn to play the two parents against each other so fast that your head will spin. That old sin nature before they are saved, even under innocence, will raise its ugly head and they will learn how to create the latitude so they can do what they want to do.

Here is another problem that you will deal with when it comes to counseling and problems dealing with people's children...a divorce where two religions come into play. I guarantee that if you have a child involved in a divorce and one of the parents are involved in a cult religion such as Jehovah Witness or the Roman Catholic Church, they will come after that child faster than you can teach them otherwise. I guarantee the devil will not miss this trick, and will sneak right down that latitude because of your prideful life and because the two parents will not call a cease fire, and get something working because that kid will pay the price for your pride.

You will never hurt the other parent by not doing what is right and working out your problems. You aren't hurting him, he is in Mexico surfing, or driving a new car, while your child is the one caught in the middle saying, "Mommy, Mommy...Daddy, Daddy, why didn't you do what is right with me, I'M IN HELL!!!" That's who gets hurt, that is the reality! That's not treating the symptom, it is fixing the problem!!!

Your children are at stake, and your child is the most important thing you have in your life. You have got to understand that if you are having marital problems in your life and not getting along, GET THEM FIXED! Let somebody help you who can fix the problem, not just treat the symptoms. You have this child who did not ask to be brought into this world, through your irresponsibility...take care of them.

A man once placed an add in the paper that read, "Half of the politicians in this town are crooks." The whole town got mad and demanded that he print a retraction, so he wrote, "I'm sorry, half the politicians in this town are not crooks." This is what you get in to when dealing with marriages...you're all crooks!

You need to learn to forgive the other parent and absolve them of what they did wrong to you for your child's sake. Over the years I know some of you have said bad things about me that were not true, but I don't get mad about it, I just forgive you and forget it because I just look back and think about all the bad things that I have said about God, and he has forgiven me and forgotten it. You have to come to the point that you start living by the principles, and shut down the latitude in YOUR OWN life, THEN, in the lives of your children. In these divorce situations, the latitude gets huge, and sometimes you just need help from a third party to help you work it out.

Now we have talked in prior lessons about the four stages of growth your child will go through, and how important they would be throughout these lessons. The first one was the Discipline stage or the Foundational stage, and it goes from birth to about 4 years old. This is where we mold and shape their will for character and integrity. We also spoke about how in this time you must form a vision of God in their lives, but you also need to form a vision of discipline for them. The first two stages in the Discipline and the Relationship stage we are going to look at a totally different way. Before we introduced them to you, now we are going to show you how they work.

THE DISCIPLINE STAGE

As patterns of life are being formed, discipline comes into his life. If forms structure, boundaries, and limitations, all these are established during this time. This is not only where the vision is established, but also enforced. This is why by God's design you are the only person in his life that he allows to be the only real influence.

THE RELATIONSHIP STAGE

This is where communication becomes the key, and you build principles into him one by one. Here is where you develop the attitude based on what you have already done based on the molding and the shaping of his spirit and his will. This is where you will engage him in the principles to live by. This is where we saw in the very first lesson about Daniel, where his circle of influence begins to widen, and you are no longer the only leading influence in their lives. This is where it is that your child, like Daniel, begins to get his daily portion of the king's meat.

These first two stages are where you begin to see rebellion against authority, and His will against Your will begins to surface. This is also because of the rebellion, that corporal punishment becomes very important (In a minute, I am going to walk you down the whole process of corporal punishment). If you make it to the Fellowship stage without instilling corporal punishment with your children, you are handing over the deed of the family to that child, allowing your child to run the family, and will have some major issues.

When you get into the Discipline Stage (0-5), you are beginning to set down the discipline and the structure for your child.

When you enter into the Relationship Stage (5-10), you have the ability to communicate with that child, and you are really developing his attitude. When you are setting the boundaries and limitations in the Discipline Stage, now when they reach the Relationship Stage, they are old enough to communicate with them, now you are modeling in their lives what their attitude in life is going to be about certain things. In the Fellowship Stage, (10-15) this is where you see the action of their attitude you developed in the Relationship Stage. This is where the principle of “Attitude vs. Action” comes in.

- “Attitude vs. Action”: What we do (Action) is based on our attitude (What we think of). When you take that child and develop or don’t develop that attitude, whatever his action will be when he gets in this Fellowship Stage will be based on what you did with his attitude in the first two stages, and how you corrected and disciplined them.

THE FELLOWSHIP STAGE

In the Fellowship Stage, if you have failed to do your work in the first two, spanking will do no good. This is where parents take the path of least resistance, because they don’t want a knock down drag out brawl with their children at the age of 14-15. When that child is 15-16 years of age as long as they aren’t killing or shooting anyone, the parents allow them to do whatever they want. What are you going to do when you wake them up on Sunday and tell them it is time for church, and they say “No, I don’t want to go,” what will you do when they are 6’4”, 250 pounds, go get a baseball bat? This stage is where the world really takes over if you failed in the first two stages. This is where they get into drugs, sex, worldly music, smoking, etc. This is where the world widens along with his friends, and you have no say over anything. Somewhere in this stage or maybe even the Relationship Stage is where your child needs to get saved (we will talk about this point later).

THE RESPONSIBILITY STAGE

In the Responsibility Stage, (15-adult) if you have done your job in the earlier stages, your child should now need less restrictions, not more. Your

child is not going to be perfect, but you have built a trusting relationship with them and is trustworthy. He should also realize that he is part of a family which is a ministry, and he is a crucial part of that. **Good or bad at this point, you have basically reproduced yourself in that child.** You have basically done with your child, what I as a pastor try to do with the Bible, which is try to reproduce what I know into your life.

Stages one and two are really the keys to it all, and without this foundation, you as a parent, are really in trouble.

THE ACTION OF PUNISHMENT

With this all in mind now, how do you discipline your child? Years ago I had a couple and their child, who was about 16-17 years old, came into my office for counseling, because they were having trouble with their son. This boy was a decent child, and was loving and affectionate, until you caught him on an issue he did not want to deal with. These people had been coming to Bible study, and were now having difficulty getting their son to come to church. This couple then asked me what was wrong, and I told them that the real problem was that they hated their son. Well, of course, mom began to get emotional and said that she did not hate her son, but I reminded her that God does not define things like we do. I then took her over to **Proverbs 13:24** which says, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” What you define as love for your child, God defines as hatred. **Isaiah 55:11** says God doesn’t look at things the way we look at it. Your “loving your child” is in direct violation of what you should be doing in dealing with that child...you think you love him when in actuality, you hate him. I then went down and helped her through this concept by operating through the principles of the Bible. Here was a couple that “loved” their child, but their “love” for him was sending him to hell faster than a pig slipping off of greased ball bearings.

These parents never learned the principle that you can do something good under love the wrong way, and send people to hell. Love is not the answer in the Christian world, and it is not the answer in your child’s life. I’m not saying it isn’t important, I’m just saying it isn’t the answer...

Truth is the answer.

The real model for disciplining your child is so easy and basic...which is the model of God disciplining me and you as his children. The reality of dealing with your child, when you may not want to deal with them this way is all summed up in **Hebrews 12:5-11**. This is the greatest passage in the Bible of how God deals with us when we get out of line with Him. There are five points in here that you learn from your relationship with God, that you carry these five points into disciplining your child. **Hebrews 12:5-11** says, “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, (Yes, Lord, we have! forgive us, Lord!) My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence (see the relationship here to your earthly father?): shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Throughout here you find all the examples of how God deals with you and I when he has to give us a whipping. You find five (5) things that you also have to do every time you give your child a whipping. This takes time, maybe 20-30 minutes. This is not just something you do when you are driving down the road, or because you have to get somewhere for a party, or your softball league is starting...there is no short route to this. In fact, the short route to this mounts with the problem of consistency.

1. Communication
2. Application
3. Explanation
4. Execution (This is not the literal sense of lethal injection or the electric chair...although many times you'd like to do this)
5. Restoration

COMMUNICATION

When God deals with me for something I have done wrong, it starts with the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God doesn't yell at me or call me stupid. The Bible even says when God talks to an unsaved person, he says, **Isaiah 1:18**, "Come now, and let us reason together..." He doesn't even yell at an unsaved person who is dying and going to hell and wants to reason with him, how much more will he reason with me as his son. If you are saved, and you do something wrong, the honest fact is that you know it was wrong the moment you committed that sin. You knew, the second you did it, that the Holy Spirit wasn't pleased with you.

In your child's life, when he does wrong, it takes talking with them. If an offence occurs, you don't yell at them or react out of anger. You don't tell them how dumb or stupid they are, **you have to stay in control**. Just like God lovingly deals with you, you also have to understand that you have to take control of that situation knowing now that you are faced with a challenge of your authority.

You will communicate more with the disappointment in your face than you could ever could with the anger that comes out of your mouth. You have to communicate what they did wrong and, you have to say "Hey look, I'm disappointed in you. This is not what I wanted you to do. This is not how I have trained you. Now you know I love you and you know that you're mine and part of this family. How many times have we told you that you are the most important thing that God ever gave us...you and your brother? We love you to death...my heart really hurts right now. I'm not angry at you, I love you, but I want you to know that I am profoundly disappointed in you. You know what, I am disappointed in you, just like God gets disappointed in me if I am not a good father. And because I need to be a good father, we need to deal with this situation." You see this may take 5-10 minutes of dialogue. You don't just throw up a principle then run them by the refrigerator, and say look at all those verses, and then whack them. You have to take time...COMMUNICATE.

APPLICATION

Application is telling them that YOU did this thing wrong, and don't blame it on somebody else. You are responsible for what you do wrong. If you don't instill this in them now, when they get to be 16-17 years old, it will always be somebody else's fault. ***You have to apply what they did wrong to their offense, and make them understand that they have to take full responsibility for what they did wrong.***

EXPLANATION

Explanation is simply telling them, "I'm not going to allow you to make bad choices." I have a responsibility to God, and I am going to fulfill that responsibility. The fact that you are a disobedient child to me, doesn't mean that I am going to be a disobedient child to God. Tell them, "I have some structure that I have to work within, and you need to understand, "I LOVE YOU", but I didn't choose to be in this situation. I would rather us be in constant fellowship, but you chose a bad choice and it is a situation that I am not going to allow you to live like this. I have told you several times, this is God's house, and you will not bring disobedience into this house. You don't tell your mother, "No!", or smack your brother, you don't throw the cat in the microwave...you don't be rebellious to authority, or throw a temper tantrum. I love you, and I am not going to allow you to live in this house and to not live by the same rules that mom and dad live by. I love you and will always love you, but this is not about me loving you, this is about the one who loves us more and knows what is best for us, and this kind of choice will lead to a bad lifestyle." See what you are doing here?

EXECUTION

READY...AIM...FIRE..., and at this point you have to punish them. Here are a few ways to do this:

1. It needs to hurt (not to the point it leaves marks on them or you have to take them to the emergency room, but at the same time it doesn't do any good if it doesn't hurt.) It needs to be painful enough that the child thinks, "I don't think this is worth it!" Just like there were times in our lives when God took us to the wood shed and we said "You know what I don't think I'm going to do that again."

2. I suggest it be done on their bare bottoms
3. Use a neutral object. Some child psychologists have said that you should not use your hand, but many times in the Bible God chastised the Nation of Israel by his hand, but you have to be careful.

RESTORATION

This is where it says in **Hebrews 12:11**, “Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness...” God doesn’t punish us because he gets angry at us. God is never angry with you, although he gets disappointed with us. When he takes us to the wood shed, it is not because he is looking to vent the wrath of God, if that were the case we would be obliterated on the spot. He punishes us out of love, compassion, grace and truth. He does it for our profit, “that we might be partakers of his holiness.” When your child gets old enough to understand this, it needs to be a passage that you explain to him.

Restoration is done last to bring him back into fellowship, and explain to him that you did not punish him because you were angry at him. You have to reinforce that...you hold them, you hug them, you love them, you wipe away their tears, you kiss away their tears, you pull them close to you; but you also tell them that we will be back here again same time same place if you do it again. Because discipline is not an option, it will happen.

Two other things that need to go along with this process is:

1. You need to take your time
2. You need to be consistent in doing this. If you aren’t going to be consistent, don’t even start. It will cause more damage than if you did nothing at all.

There also needs to come a time after the completion of this lesson that you sit your child down and explain to them (in their own level of understanding) this concept.

Now if your children are older, and you can’t have this kind of meeting with them, you need to take them to **Luke 15**, and explain to them, the “Prodigal Son.” You can show them that his child wasted his substance with riotous

living. You can tell them, “Look son, we love you, we would do anything for you. But not dealing with your problem...and I realize that I take full responsibility. I know that growing up we did not always deal with things the way we should have. We probably should have changed some things a long time ago, but we didn’t. But we now have gotten into the Bible, and found out some truths, and where we didn’t do what was right before we are going to start to do right now.”

He needs to understand that you are not going to just drop the hammer because there is a new sheriff in town. You need to take responsibility for what is done, and take that responsibility and start dealing with this older child. It is a situation where you say, “You know what, this is God’s house, God’s food, God’s heat, he provides for us everything because we are God’s children and this family belongs to the Lord. It is wrong for us to take the things that God has given, to help you go out and live like the world and the devil. In fact, I am going to tell you something, the prodigal son found out a great lesson in life...and this is what you need to learn. What you want to do is to live your life like you’re an adult, but you don’t want to pick up any of the responsibilities that comes with being an adult. You want somebody else to do everything for you and provide a place for you to live, but just like the prodigal son learned this lesson, you should too...If that worldly lifestyle and devil that you like to run with, talk like, act like, be like...if the devil takes such good of care of you, don’t take the things of God and mix them with the things of the devil. Just let the devil take care of you. See all that we have, God gave it to us...come back in a year and show me how the devil took care of you this good. Tell me how that the cardboard box under I-435 is better than this nice house. Tell me how that those needle marks up your arm are better than the principles of the word of God. Tell me how that all the alcohol and sex and smoking are better at age 45-50 when you go to the doctor, and have all the problems you will have...instead of serving God and his book.” You have to get into their world to explain this principle.

I have never told a parent to kick their child out of the house. I always like to leave it for the child to decide. I would never tell my child to get out of my house, you are never coming back; but I would say,

“these are the principles...YOU make the choice.”

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE SHALL SERVE THE LORD!!!

CHILD TRAINING #12

“Dealing with a Strong Willed Child”

The last two lessons we spoke about “Corporal Punishment” where you have to use the physical side of discipline, instead of being able to explain what they did wrong. This would cover times where there is a clear act of rebellion.

We are going to pick up this time where we left off last time in **Hebrews 12** where it shows that the model for disciplining your children in the “Corporal” sense is modeled after our relationship with God...Him being our father, and us as His children. The Bible is clear that we are not perfect, and from time to time God is going to have to deal with us. This does not mean that we should not strive to do everything right, because the hand of chastisement is not a pleasant thing and can bring some terrible consequences that will effect you for the rest of your life.

Hebrews 12:5 says, “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:” This passage is great for when you have to deal with your children, and have to resort to more than explaining what they did wrong. First of all, this passage starts with, “And ye have forgotten.” Most parents have forgotten that their real model is the parent’s relationship with God, not just based on discipline.

Remember last week, we discussed the five points in **Hebrews 12:5-11**, which is referred to as the “Five Points of Action:”

1. Communication
2. Application
3. Explanation = **CONSISTENCY**
4. Execution
5. Restoration

When you physically chastise your child, you need to implement these five principles into the process every time. **Communication**, your child must understand the offense. **Application**, he not only needs to know what the

offense was, but how it applies to him and has to take responsibility for his own actions. **Explanation**, how you as a parent you are not going to allow this type of offense to take place. **Execution**, carrying out the act of punishment. **Restoration**, restoring fellowship with your child.

We also again covered the four (4) stages, which are of the utmost importance for knowing the growth of your child:

1. Discipline (The foundation stage)
2. Relationship (Where you begin to form his attitude)
3. Fellowship (Where you begin to see the action now develop based on his attitude)
4. Responsibility (You now are placing less restrictions on them not more)

We also covered the fact that the first two stages is where you take this child and it is crucial that you either mold his will or in some cases break it, but keep his spirit alive. These first two stages then prepare you for the next stage which is the Fellowship stage which is where his action comes out. In these first two stages you form their attitude of right and wrong, and give them a base line to know where that line is. The next two you begin to build on what you have done during the first two stages. You now begin to see that since you built the right attitude in that child it will begin to produce the right action. Then the right action will lead right into the Fellowship stage which produces a right lifestyle that he will have the rest of his life.

These same stages are not only important to place into your child for the right kind of action it is the same process that we should have in our own personal relationship with Christ, and growing spiritually, so God can trust you with responsibility. Young children are like sponges, they absorb everything you tell them. The same is true with young Christians they will absorb everything you teach them spiritually. The idea is that if you take that sponge it will only absorb to a certain point because gets full, then you have to ring it out to be able to soak up more. The way we do that is when we learn something through the word of God, we share that with others, and in the process we grow and are able to learn more and gain more responsibility.

At the end of the day, my goal for you should be the same as the goal you have for your child (even though I know that many of you will never reach this goal, just like many of your children won't reach the goals you set for them) and the goal is...**to take responsibility for ministry**. The Bible teaches that, If you are faithful over a few things, I'll make you ruler over many. (Matthew 25:21)

Learn how to build a good relationship in your own life with God, then you will have the ability to transfer that to your child's life. God always uses these five "Points of Action" when dealing with us, and his last is always Restoration. If you haven't figured it out yet we will cover this next lesson in a great way....but, remember in lesson one, we covered the "Evil Day" that is coming in your child's life. We then went to Daniel 1 and explained how Daniel was a picture of your own children, and there came a time that Daniel left the comfort of his own home. We also saw how someone took the time to train that young man, and showed him the principles of God and installed them into his life. Daniel had the character and proper relationship with God, that he simply said, "No" to the world when confronted with the things of this world. There will come a day when your child will come up against the opposition of the entire world, and your job as a parent, who already has the time where nobody else has more influence in their lives than you do, is preparing them for that day! If you failed to take advantage of that time, and know your child is out there, and the winds begin to howl, and the snow begins to blow in their little lives with issues that they face...you will see that "Evil Day!" Every day from that point on, the devil will have a daily portion that he will give them, and you working in their lives with these principles will be the only thing that determines whether they say, "No thanks," or "Can I have a second helping." The thing you might not have thought about is that the "Evil Day" is only one of two days that your child is up against, the second one, we really haven't covered but will, is the "Day of his Salvation."

This "Day of Salvation" is coming just like the "Evil Day" and the tragedy is that in 99.999% of the time the "Evil Day" comes along before the "Day of Salvation" comes. If you aren't paying attention, and in touch with reality, and you're not laying a foundation toward that second day in their life, then you will have some problems when it comes to this point. We will cover in the upcoming lessons, "How to lead your child to Christ", and every aspect and bad teaching that has been taught on it, and how to not miss this unbelievably important day.

Today we are going to continue dealing with Discipline, but more specifically dealing with a Strong Willed Child.

During the four stages with a child like this you should be molding or even breaking the will of this child. This is why God gave you the time together to accomplish this plan. You really need to catch this problem in the first stage, if you wait until the second stage, you're playing catch-up. You have to get this done, while life is still uncomplicated, and there are no other influences in his life. This kind of child is someone that you have to reach out to while you have their undivided attention, while no one else is able to get their attention. This is why God has given you this time long before you have to drop them off for the bus and send them to school. By the time this kind of child reaches adolescence (12-14 years old) this will be without a doubt the hardest times of his life. The most destructive things in his life will happen during this time period if you as a parent aren't paying attention. This is where they are changing, and going through a total metamorphous...emotionally, physically, and spiritually. This time is when their bodies are moving faster than their emotions are, and every aspect is being pulled apart, twisted, and developed. **You have got to break this strong willed child before you get to this point.**

This age of adolescence will be where your child will face his greatest challenges. This is where in reality your child is no longer a child, but they are also not an adult; they are in limbo. They struggle with their own identity, and are thrown into a mix of other children who are their age, and set their own rules for life in an age where they're all screwed up about who they are. This is why you get so many goofy fads that happen with kids. Kids are trying to find their own identification and who they are, but the parents have not provided for this. So what do children do...they wear all the goofy clothing, pierce their bodies all over, etc. What possesses children to make their ears look like the rear ends of a trash can (Making the wholes huge and deformed)? Or put a bolt through his nose? We all had the rebellious things we did throughout our different eras, but nothing this radical! Maybe we rolled our cigarettes in our shirt sleeve, or got a tattoo that read, "Born to raise Hell" or something like that, but my goodness, the things these kids are doing today are unreal! Don't you know this is a serious problem? This is a serious social defect in a child!

There is something wrong when a CHILD becomes this unhappy so soon (or ever) with the way God made them, where they alter their appearance to almost alien proportions. There has to be a huge issue there somewhere. The thing that bothers me most is when a child who is 8 or 9 is allowed by parents to dress like they are 20 years old. You want to keep them at the age they are at, because the pressure is already there.

The whole unsaved world we know is not happy with who they are. Daniel 1 teaches us that they are trying to be somebody else. So what do they do? God gave the three Hebrew children names, so the first thing Nebuchadnezzar, (type of the devil), does is change their names. That is what this world wants to do, change who your child is. The first thing in this daily portion that the devil gives is that he wants to change who your child is, then suddenly your child wants to be somebody other than the person God made them. What would possess a man to paint his toe nails and dye his hair rust colored, if he wasn't looking for something else in life? (I don't want to know what he is looking for!) There is a tremendous pressure toward your child to conform to these things.

There are few things in life that get my righteous indignation up more than seeing a vulnerable little child thrust from the hand of the Creator in the morning of their life walking around after a period of time saying to themselves, "I HATE MYSELF, I WISH I WAS NEVER BORN," and looking for their identity. I guarantee you that the devil will be more than happy to help them find an identity, but it won't be the one that God wanted them to have. Once again, God gave you those five precious years to deal with these issues before that "Evil Day", to mold and shape that temperament, and when you have a strong willed child, to deal with it until it becomes a non-issue with that child. I am telling you, that in the 13-14th year of their lives, it will be the hardest time in their lives in many ways.

These children will need constant reassurance, because they will go to school and not know who they are. They will be told by their friends to be a certain way, and they have what they were taught by their parents, and they will begin to struggle. Then to top it all off, their emotions start to kick in. A young man will begin to enter puberty, and will notice that his body is changing, and will begin to feel sexual desires but has no release for them. He will begin to look at girls differently, where they were once fun to play

with, they now become seen in a whole different light...but has no understanding of it.

Girls will begin their menstrual cycle and their bodies also change. Their emotions are pulling them and feelings for guys begin to change. Where before, they thought guys were “yucky” and all the things they did were gross, now all they can think about is guys. You need to get a handle on this before your children get to this point. If you throw into the mix of all this a strong willed child...you have some serious issues.

The real tragedy is that you have parents going through all this unsuspected, and all of a sudden...BANG! “What happened to my little girl or little guy?” **It is during this period of self-doubt that the personality can be so assaulted and so damaged that sometimes it can't ever be repaired.** Do you know why I believe with all my heart, that there are some kids the age of 18-20 that you will never reach, and will go the way of the world (and they may be saved or not, but will go the way of the world)? Is because the damage is already done at this point, and in some cases is irreparable. You can try all you want, but the bottom line is that it is not coming back and not getting fixed. There is only so much damage you can allow to be done. You can only wreck your car so many times and ways before it just doesn't run anymore. The same is true in your little child that you allow to bend, twist, and break without any foundation in their life.

When they begin to feel this way, your child will find no place that has been securely moored for them, or no anchor chain to come back to. There will be nothing for them to know that your body is just the way God intended, and you don't need that in your nose, or your bellybutton pierced. The way God made you is exactly the way he wanted you!

I have said all that to basically say this....In dealing with a strong willed child there are thousands of books on the subjects, but in most of them they miss the point because they don't have the Bible to shed light on the subject. Most of these books tackle the problem by trying to find out where these different types of personalities come from, but I know where it comes from, I just need to know how to deal with it.

Child experts have said for years that the temperament of a child is set within the first few months to a year of the birth of a child, but as a Bible believer, I don't necessarily believe that. I can go to Genesis 25 and show you where Rebecca has two twins in her womb, and their temperaments are already set. The Bible says before they were born that they were not going to get along, and one was going to have an infinity for God, and the other for the world. One winds up being a picture of a child of God, and the other a picture of an unsaved man...IN THE WOMB! Now 6000 years have past and child psychologists have caught up with the Bible, and have found that children do have specific personality traits when they are born, developed in the womb. Out of the gate, parents need to know what their child is like, and how to deal with them right away.

The reason that these different temperaments are developed at such an early time in that child's life, is because God has a plan for that child, just as he has one for you. And God gives him everything that he needs to accomplish what God wants them to accomplish. By doing this, God was betting that we as parents would take the word of God, and discern our children (because he is known by his doings), and recognize that temperament as parents because we were in the Bible, that it doesn't really matter where he got that certain temperament.

A strong willed child is only a bad thing, IF you don't deal with it and get it under control. That strong willed child may turn out to be another J. Frank Norris. Someone who could take on the entire Southern Baptist Convention and Liberalism probably was not a quiet child. He probably came out with a cane and a hat, with a Bible under his arm and said, "Let's get this show on the road!" You don't want to break this kind of a strong will, you just need to get it under control, and channel this energy to the things of God not to the things of this world. This is the parent's responsibility. The deciding factor is not the child, it is you the parent. By the time your child is 5-6 years old, the decision is already made. Most parents, bless their hearts, are chasing after their child to get them back to where they should have gotten ahead of the game, and kept from their child getting away from them to begin with.

Not all parents whose children have turned out bad are necessarily bad parents. We covered the four (4) types of parents already. I believe there

are parents who don't do what is right with their children. But there are also a lot of natural things as a parent that they do not understand, however; most have to do with bad teaching. The number one problem that gets a parent in trouble with a strong willed child is that they don't understand their child.

As a mother you can't carry a child for nine months, and not have a special sense of who that child is when he is born. If you capitalize on this and add the Bible and God into the equation, you will have the discernment and discretion to know who they are. One problem that parents make with these strong willed children is that they think that all children are alike...BIG MISTAKE!!! Example given is of shooting competitively and shooting a tight pattern time after time. The problem is during every shoot, you get a "Flyer" which is a round that does not go where you aimed for whatever reason. This is the same principle that happens to most parents. They will have multiple children and one will be a "Flyer" for whatever reason. They will have three that have great temperaments and the fourth will "fly" out of the group. What happens to most parents in these situations (Which are natural mistakes by parents) is they treat them all the same. Raising one child is great, two is tough, three is almost impossible, but four children...I don't know how you do it. But the problem is that by the time you get to this fourth child you have fought every battle there is, and are combat weary from raising these kids. What happens is the first three are great, but here comes the fourth and he is outside the group, and here comes Fidel Castro into your life! The parents now become overconfident, and think to themselves that everything will be alright because we have done this three times now, and we have this down. So they "take their finger off the trigger" and relax with the last one or strong willed one because they are tired, but they are confident and satisfied that they have parenting down. What happens is the "flyer" spoils the tight grouping.

Some children just seem to be born with an easy temperament and hardly cry, smile, laugh, goo-goo at everyone, sleep through the night...just a perfect baby. When they get older, they will do their chores and are polite. They are able to balance everything out by getting a job, and still able to maintain their grades in school, and seem to just glide through life.

Then there are some from the second they exit the womb they literally come out armed for combat. He will shout out orders, born in the delivery room

with a cigar in their mouth yelling at the doctor that it is too hot in here...complaining about the incompetent nursing staff, and saying that the administrator of the hospital is a buffoon. They will expect their meals on time, and demand **all** of your time, and will tell you when to beat it when they are done with you. They will spit up at the most inconvenient time, and sit and laugh while you scramble to clean it up before you get into the church parking lot. When they enter into the “Terrible Two’s” you are looking on their body for “666” while they sleep at night. This child will be defiant their entire life and will fight you on every issue. When they get older, the winds of disobedience now turn into a 200 MPH gale force tornado. How does this happen? How are the two different, and how does this take place?

When you come through the Bible and you realize that a strong will is not a bad thing...Go back and study the life of Samuel before he was born. Go back and look at **Jeremiah 1**, and look what God said about John the Baptist in **Mark 1** and **Luke 1**; God had plans for these people. God told you what kind of temperament, personality, and mindset John the Baptist would have before he was born. John the Baptist was going to be a wild man that would take on the entire Nation of Israel and the Roman Empire (who eventually cut off his head) and every other religious leader that was in apostasy. He literally takes on everyone and says, “Repent the kingdom of God is at hand.” I promise you he was not some mealy-mouthed, weak-spirited guy, and God gave him the personality that he would need to get this job done. I’m sure he was hard-headed and strong willed, and the thing that got him in trouble was telling off the king, not to marry your brother’s wife. This either means he was slow with no sense or he just didn’t give a flip what anyone thought...either way, this was not a mild mannered person. Somebody did their work and saw that God saw the kind of prophet that he needed...like Jeremiah.

Jeremiah went up against the whole nation of Israel in the Old Testament They took him one time and tied a rope under his arms and lowered him down into a dung pit. God had to give these men and women what they needed to get the job done. I’m not saying a strong will is bad. You should not go around saying, “Well, I have a strong willed child, what am I going to do?” I’ll tell you what you should do...**understand that God may have given him that for what he needs to do down the line!!!** Get it under control and get ahead of the game.

Two things that have taught me more about a strong willed child is the Bible and shopping. The example is of when I go shopping and have a great time selecting all the items I want and having fun while I do it, but one time there was a cart that had a bad wheel and I had to fight that thing the entire time I was shopping. By the time I was finished shopping this time, I was tired and embarrassed (because of the little old woman I ran into while she was picking up something). You are now asking what this has to do with a strong willed child, and what the difference is.

- The first cart had straight wheels, was well oiled, and very well maintained
- The second cart had broken wheels, un-oiled, and not very well maintained
- Both carts had the same manufacturer, and was delivered on the same day, but one was well maintained and the other was neglected. One was a breeze to shop with, and the other was a shopping cart from hell. I realized very quickly that the key was proper maintenance...there was nothing wrong with the cart, it was just that one was taken care of, and the other was not.

The real issue is not if your child is strong willed or not, because they all come from the same manufacturer...the issue is your maintenance of them. You will turn your child out with straight, well oiled wheels that will glide through life, or you will turn them out with broken wheels that will fight you every inch of the way. Strong willed children need more maintenance to keep their wheels straight. Parents are the real issue by how well and with what consistency they maintain their children.

You now know that you have to identify a strong willed child, because they are known by their doings. You also know by **Job 5:7** “Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” You know that a child will grow up to have issues. You also know that if you have a strong willed child they will need heavy maintenance. It is in the first and second stages that you build a relationship and you maintain and fix your child...whatever your child’s temperament may be. If you realize that you have a strong willed child, then your maintenance schedule it double of someone who doesn’t. You don’t look at that as a bad thing, you see that as something that God gave him and that is the way he is. You don’t want to break that spirit, but you want to take that will and conform it to God’s will, and let that spirit

that he has carry him to ware God wants him to go. Who knows what God wants from that little child!!!

As a parent, you have to attack that problem by crushing his will without crushing his spirit. You have to provide for this type of child, zero latitude and be an absolute, brick wall with no room to breath and absolute supreme control. All this needs to be built around grace and truth. You praise what he does right, but when he steps out of line with that defiant will of disobedience that is when you crush it. You let him know that this kind of lifestyle is not going to work before he reaches the age of three. You let him know that his wheels will not be crooked, they will be straight and well oiled, and he will be well maintained. If you have ever been in boot camp, you know from the first day that fun and games in life was now over. Most Marines adapt to it pretty quickly, but just like a strong willed child, they have special “motivation platoons” that help with the ones who have trouble with authority issues. If mommy and daddy didn’t catch it at two or three, Sgt. Rucker will. If you think you can beat the system, Sgt. Rucker will meet you at every turn, every morning, every step of the way...you will know 24/7 that it is their way, not yours. You will know that your life, the way you did things, according to the USMC is now over. THIS IS WHAT A STRONG WILLED CHILD NEEDS.

There was a man one time that had a strong willed child that needed discipline, and he took that child nine times up to his room and spanked him. Every time that child would not allow him to go through the five points of discipline, so the man told his child “You know we are going to come up here 100 times if we need to, to get this settled. We are going to find out who is in charge, and whose will is stronger.” That boy got to thinking about it, and finally said to himself, “I think I’ll stop, this hurts.” This is a lot like breaking a horse, you want to break him to the point you can ride him, but you don’t want to hurt the spirit. A rancher told me once that most horses will break in a matter of minutes, but every now and again, you will find one that will take a few days. He said the way you break him is to just keep riding him, we don’t let him rest, or breath. You see, he is just one horse, but I have nine riders over here. We will ride him into the ground, and the horse will finally say, “If I don’t stop being a wild animal they’re going to kill me...that last guy weighed 600 pounds, they’re getting heavier...I’m going to be a good horse!” If a horse can figure it out that if

you ride him into the ground (I'm not saying you do this with your children, but you understand the point), you stay on that kid, and do it right every time. You should dedicate yourself to this cause.

You want to channel the energy that this strong willed child has and turn it to his family, his school work, the ministry, God...you are in charge of that process.

When a parent refuses to accept their child's defiant challenge (for whatever reason), something changes in that relationship at that point. Your child whether you believe it or not, expects you to be the parent. That is the way God designed it. When they get past you because of your passiveness or lack of discipline in your own life, they look at you differently now. He now looks at you as the role of a parent with disrespect. He may never say it, but now they look at you and you have failed them. Now as much as they want to get away with whatever they are doing wrong, they are bothered by the fact that you allowed them to get away with it. You are now no longer worthy of their loyalties, and they will find someplace else or someone else to give that to.

Strong willed children are always tagged as the "children from hell." I know they can be a handful and have their problems, but you can deal with it once you recognize it for what it is. Every great man in the Bible that had the spirit and tenacity and power to get a job done (in the human sense, not the spiritual)...I'm talking about looking eyeball to eyeball with 400 people that wanted to kill you...I'm talking about long before they were ever born, God making them the man he should be, to send to his people, because God could count on him. The strong will is only a bad thing if you don't channel it for God. The way you get a handle on it is by absolutely making it your life mission to break that will, but mold the spirit.

You must define the boundaries in the strong willed child over and over again. You don't leave it to his imagination of what needs to be done, because he will tell you, "Oh, I forgot." You must clearly define for him all the time what the boundaries are before you enforce them.

You must be able to identify this nature in your child right away, just like I was able to identify the problem shopping cart right away. When defiantly

challenged, you respond with confident, absolute power and force. You need to land on him, (I don't mean physically hurting him), but I mean you need to squelch that will out of him, and never let it grow. He needs to realize that his strong willed disobedience, (or any disobedience), will not have a place in this family.

You need to realize that this type of enforcement will take both parents. When it is time to utilize discipline, the five points must be your example: **(Hebrews 12:5)**

- Communication
- Application
- Explanation
- Execution
- Restoration

You always need to have grace and truth be the balancing factor when dealing with your child. You need to put a plan together, and sit down and understand what your course of action is going to be. You don't get 10 shots at this, **only 1!**

There is no magic way of dealing with your child when it comes to disciplining your child. There is no catch-all verse when it comes to this. Training up your children when it comes to all these aspects in life, is hard work, a lot of long hours, and constant watching.

There is one thing that sets the ministry apart from all the other vocations, is that the job is never done. Most people go to work from 9-5, and for the most part you can leave it when you go home. But in the ministry, the job is never done. In the same respect, it is the same with your children. That is why the Bible says, if you are not good at doing the first ministry (family), you have no business being in the second ministry or God's ministry. If you can't hold your child accountable (while they are in your home) and can't deal with them on their issues, then you won't be able to do it when it comes to the church. There is always something to be done when it comes to the ministry and your family.

A great verse for both ministry and family is found in **Isaiah 21:8** which says, “**And he cried, A lion: My Lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights.**”

- In the Old Testament the cities had walls around them, and Jerusalem likewise had walls around it.
- On the walls they had watchtowers (which were manned by Jehovah’s Witnesses...just kidding!) and there were 7 of them for the walls of Jerusalem. What they did was to stand his watch in the tower, and looked on the outside of the city so others could sleep safely. The watchman’s job was simply to watch and sound the alarm if something dangerous was happening. This watch stood 24/7.
- Isaiah was a watchman. He didn’t stand on the towers, but he went out through the people telling them what God wanted them to know about where they were spiritually.

This is what it takes both for the ministry and for your family. Children are a lot like ordering chicken wings...they can be mild, spicy, hot, or nuclear, but the key is your total vigilance and your watch on the wall. When you see that child and recognize what they are, and see that there is nothing wrong with that strong will as long as it is maintained properly. The issue is not how or when they got that strong will, like most doctors want to find out...but, that is immaterial. God has given you and that child these things for what he wants to do down the line...Our job is to maintenance it.

Everything we have talked about with a strong willed child HAS TO BE incorporated within the first two stages. You can’t wait until he is in the later stages in life, because it’s too late by then.

CHILD TRAINING #13

“How to Lead Your Child to Christ”

(Part 1)

So far, throughout our parenting classes, we have covered lots of material, and today as a parent will be possibly the most important day in your life, outside of the day you got saved yourself. This is the main reason we started these lessons was to get to the day of salvation for your child’s life. Once again even if you don’t have any children the parallels between this material and your own personal life will be great.

Recall for a moment that we briefly spoke about the two days in your child’s life:

- **“The Evil Day”**
- **“The Day of Salvation”**

The Evil Day is guaranteed and The Day of Salvation is not guaranteed. (Recall lesson #1 about Daniel and The Evil Day.) Not every child is guaranteed to go to heaven, not because of God’s grace and mercy, the problem quite simply is the parents. It is inconceivable to me that a parent will get saved, and then allow their child to step into eternity without knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal savior (Believe me it happens all the time.)

In my ministry, there are two stories that make up the most tragic situations that I have ever dealt with personally. The first one I won’t bore you with, but several years ago I ran a Monday night Bible study that ran 300 people at its peak. At the end of the Bible study, I would always give an invitation. During this time, a man started coming and would always arrive after Bible study began, and would sit in the back of this gymnasium. This man always brought a Bible with him, and would sit and listen to what I would have to say. Every night I would give the invitation and he would raise his hand to be saved, but every time I offered him with the opportunity to be saved he would put his head down, and was visibly moved and shaken. He would then get up and walk out of the Bible study. Every night he would come in

late and leave early, so I was never able speak with him. One night I became so concerned with this situation because I didn't know what was going on that I had somebody else give the invitation while I slipped out to speak with him. When he then got up to leave I asked him, (without ever even knowing his name), if I could speak with him. This man was weeping and broken, but was more than glad to speak with me. I then took him to my office, and apologized for handling the situation the way I did, but I needed to know what the deal was because I watched him raise his hand every night at the end of Bible study and watched him leave several times weeping. I thought that maybe there was a sin in his life that he was dealing with, or that he thought he had done something terrible that he could not be saved from, but he began to tell me the most tragic and unbelievable story that I have ever heard. To this day I have nightmares about this man and his situation.

He told me the reason he wouldn't get saved is because five or six years ago he met a young girl and they loved each other and eventually got married. They then began their lives together and had good jobs. Then somebody at her work began to witness to her and told her about the Bible. She came home and wanted to go to church (in fact it was our church at the time), but wanted to go together. She thought that they really needed to have that in their relationship and marriage. He told her that he did not need church or God, and really didn't want to have anything to do with God. He stated that this went on for nearly three years, where she tried to get him to go to church with her. One night they were coming home from some event they were at, and became involved in a very serious car accident, where his wife was killed. As far as he knew, his wife stepped out into eternity without Christ and without God. He then told me that as well as he knew he was standing there, that his wife that wanted to come to church was now in Hell. Now tears are welling up in his eyes and streaming down his face, and told me again how she wanted to come to church and have God in her life, but was not going to come without me. He then went on to say that he wanted me to know that his wife, who he would have done anything for, because of his indifference died and went to Hell. He then told me that if I thought for one second that he was now going to get saved and go to heaven when he know his wife was is in Hell...he just couldn't do that. He then got up and walked out of my office. I never saw him again.

After that I still can't conceive the fact that there is a man who knows he is going to Hell, and knows there is a way, and knows enough to get saved, but simply won't because of his indifference, and that his wife died and is spending eternity in the Lake of Fire. He now was willing (as of that time, I don't know what has happened since) to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire because of what he did. This was a time in my ministry that I just could not put myself into his position. Normally when dealing with people if you want to empathize with them, you have to put yourself in their shoes, but I did not know what to do in that particular situation.

Just as that was inconceivable to me, and I still can't conceive that...I can't imagine some of God's people getting saved themselves and then getting so caught up in their own life that they get the free ticket to Heaven, but their children die and spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Now let me explain...obviously, I don't want you to get the idea that if your child is 4, 5, or 6 years old (even maybe up to 9 years, we will talk more about this in a minute) that when they die, they go to Hell. We know that there is a period of time that God covers them. We also know however that if you don't reach your child by the time they are 14-17 years old I guarantee you there will be more serious situations to deal with to win them to Christ. (Recall now the second lesson dealing with Lot and Jephthah.)

Lot is a picture of a saved man who loses his whole family in Sodom and Gomorra (the Lake of Fire), other than his wife and two daughters. But even the remnant of his family are so absolutely messed up with the world that his wife, even though she escaped Sodom, she couldn't forget and turned into a pillar of salt. His two daughters (when they are in a cave wind up getting him drunk and have sex with their own father) produce two races that give Israel problems the rest of their existence. Yet in the New Testament context, Lot is a picture of you and me as a saved individual.

Jephthah is just the opposite of Lot. Jephthah would never think of going to a place like Sodom and Gomorra and all the filthy things that Lot was involved in. While when the homosexuals showed up at Lot's door in **Genesis 19**, Lot goes out to them he calls them, "Brethren!" NOT JEPHTHAH! Jephthah is a church deacon and a Sunday school teacher who is so proud and out of touch with the reality of God, that because of his own

selfishness he loses his own daughter. Jephthah is one of those guys who is big-time and shoots off his own mouth about politics in Israel, and is an exact picture of what you find in most churches. Jephthah doesn't care about the word of God; he is only in it for what he can get out of it. Jephthah finally ends up losing his daughter because he doesn't remember the principles of the word of God that he PRETENDED to love so much.

There are three days in the Bible that you had better pay close attention to:

1. The day of salvation
2. The day of Jesus Christ (the Rapture of the church)
3. The day of the Lord (the Second Coming of Christ)

Everything on the chart is signifying that from the “day of birth” to the “day of salvation,” everything you do between that time is in preparation for the day your child gets saved. Then everything you do between the “day of salvation” to the “day of Jesus Christ” gets them ready for the Judgment Seat of Christ.

As a parent you have two basic responsibilities:

1. Get them ready for the Day of Salvation (This is what we are covering in these lessons)
2. Getting them ready to meet Christ at the rapture of the church, where they have to stand alone at the “Day of Jesus Christ” or the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for what they have done in their life.

The responsibility of winning your child's soul for Christ is yours as a parent and yours alone! God designed this for you and your spouse to do. This never ceases to amaze me. We have a lot of holes here today, basically, because there are a lot of sick children, and quite frankly some people have found a better deal, but this is how the devil works...Of all the messages I have preached in this series, everything we have done so far, was to bring us up to this lesson; and what a great day for half of the kids in our church to get sick (for the devil) to keep the parents out. This responsibility for winning your child to Christ is not your pastors, or your grandparents, or anyone else's, it is yours.

God designed that you and your wife would enter into the unity called marriage (I don't care what the world does with it or what they think of it, marriage was ONLY designed for Christians.) God gave the institution of marriage, not society. The first marriage is found in **Genesis 1-3** with Adam and Eve. This was something that in God's timing would bring about the unified body (the body of Christ) and to show the relationship between you, me, and Christ in the husband and wife relationship (it is not for unsaved people). Now, I don't care if unsaved people get married, but I guarantee you that God cares even less than I care about it because God does not recognize the marriage of unsaved people because marriage was not given to them. Let me say it again, "Marriage was designed by God for God's people."

You and your spouse then conceive children and give birth to them and sustain them through life, because that is what God designed it to do. Remember **Psalms 127:3-4** where it says, "**Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.**" Children are the unending process that God wants us as parents to carry out by having them, raising them up, and then winning them to Christ to carry the legacy and heritage of God until his return. This is the same process designed into churches for a young man to grow up in the church, and carry out the word of God in that church. You build into the church now the replacement and leadership, so when the day comes for you to step down, the church is strong enough and the process never ends. The same thing is true in your personal life, where Paul tells Timothy that the same things that I am committing to you, you take and commit to faithful men. It is an undying process!!!

Just like you take care of your children, raise them up, and go to every event in their life, because that is your job as a parent. You also help them in everything they do such as school, homework, sports, etc. Then you are there when they graduate, and when they are married, you wouldn't farm out those responsibilities for anything. Why? Because YOU are their parents, and you would just not give up those jobs as a loving parent. This is where it becomes inconceivable to me that you would gladly be there for all these events in their lives as your child, EXCEPT FOR SALVATION! If you need any proof that there is a devil out there in this world, I'm about to give it to you. You would never think of missing any social or sporting event in your child's life, but for when it comes to the "Day of Salvation" in your

child's life, then you are willing to let someone else deal with it?

I am about to tell you something based on the authority of the Word of God and many years in the ministry... "Hell is going to be chuck full of men and women who had parents (the best you could ask for and were there for everything in their life), but because of their own selfishness, a Jephthah or a Lot, or just a good saved or unsaved man or woman...that child wound up in the lake of fire as an adult because of the fact that that day (the Day of Salvation) is lost."

My biggest stick with today's pastors is that they want your body, they want your money, but when it comes to dealing with a problem that you have in your life (if you can even get in to see the pastor) he will tell you he does not council people, and will farm you out so someone else to deal with. Parents do the same thing with their children. Parents farm their kids out to Christian Schools, a Sunday School teacher, Awanas, they will let someone else get into that child's world that has absolutely no business being in that child's world when it comes to the Day of Salvation.

I have won children to the Lord of both, parents that were in the church, and parents who were not in the church, but the truth of the matter is that I don't like being in that situation at all. I feel like I am not the right person. God sometimes makes me the right man, but I don't like it because I know (maybe some of you won't understand this), **but I know that I am in a situation where God's first choice is not me, God's first choice is you the parent.** But since you have subcontracted your child out because you are a Lot or a Jephthah and of all the great big things that you have going, the job falls to me or someone else. It is a despicable thing to me, and it is something that really bothers me.

Churches back in the 70's like the one that I was a youth pastor in cared about getting people save, but didn't care about what they did after they were saved. They had every conceivable gimmick and plan you could think of to get a crowd to come to church like "Heaven Sunday" or "Bring a Friend Day" or "Grandparents Day." These are the days when a pastor would drive a motorcycle down the aisle so everyone could see it or skydivers dropping into the parking lot just to get people to come. They just wanted people to come, and didn't care about what to do with them once

they got there, we just wanted to get them and count them so we could beat another church in a competition. Then if someone did get saved, he would say, “Bless God brother you just got saved, you need to get into the bus ministry.” No discipleship, no one-on-one, and nobody caring about your growth...These people burned out quick!

The first camp we had we took the kids to the Ozarks somewhere away from the world, away from mom and dad, and brought in some hell fire and brimstone preacher to take the paint off the walls (Mel Sabaka, the only one I know who could do that). The first night Mel told me that he thought it was a tough camp from just feeling the spirit of the kids there...So we prayed about it. The second night again, Mel told me it's still tough. The third night (usually camps break open on the third day...I don't know why) but that night we must have had 25 kids saved, and 20 the next night. It was unbelievable how many got saved. Now that is good! Amen? No, it's wasn't! All those kids that got saved were children of the deacons, the finance committee, the great leaders of the church, and one was the pastor's child. I was dumb back then and was praising the Lord, if I would have been smart I would have just gotten back on the bus with Mel; because I was thinking that all these people were going to be excited that all their children got saved. That next week we had 35 kids get baptized, and not a one of them was a bus kid or a kid off the street, every one of them was a child of someone prominent in the church, who were Jephthahs and Lots, and their own kids 13-15 were dying and going to hell because they never heard a good dose of Bible teaching and preaching.

It was absolutely incredible when I came back and got home, it started Saturday night when we got back. I was thinking on the way back that everything was starting to turn around. I thought I now had some kids to work with to turn them into a Core, and had the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart (before I learned this principle). I thought to myself after I saw the change in those kids how they were hugging and getting into little groups, and praising God about how they can start working for God...I was going to write a book, I was going to make a movie...I was pumped!!! Boy, did my dreams come shattering down about four hours later when we got back and my phone started ringing... “What did you do to my kid?” “Do you know how embarrassing this is going to be?” “Don't you know who I am in this church?” “Don't you know he was saved all along, and you confused him?”

I even had one guy say, “You’re trying to destroy my ministry!” I felt like telling him, “No, no, no, you are doing a good enough job of that yourself,” but I couldn’t say that then or even now...now, I would just lay him out!

Then I got the honor to baptize them all, and boy did I get some looks. Even some of the women are weeping, and they aren’t weeping because their kids just got saved, they were weeping because their political position in that church was weakened because their child got saved. Some of those parents to this day hate my guts, and they hate my guts because the bottom line is that I got their child pulled from the lake of fire and it embarrassed them. What a terrible thing it will be to trade your child’s soul for a position in the church or for a career, or money...Or in some cases for drugs or booze...In some cases for a big boat or a cabin at the lake or a new house or hot car. All these things that we put an emphasis on, and while we are busy with that the devil sneaks in the back door, either in Lots case or Jephthahs case, where it appears they got it all together; but what happens? The devil sneaks in the back door and destroys them.

Now I want to help you with that day as your pastor and you as a parent. Now I know that 99% of you want to do what is right, but I know in a crowd of any size these days, I know some will just not want to do what is right. Another thing that I can’t understand is that you have some people who are saved and on their way to heaven, but they can’t take two steps in front of the other walking for the Lord. The same is true about parents, unless you move in and spend the rest of your life with them, they just won’t get it together. I just don’t understand it, because they are saved, and have the same Holy Spirit of God and the same word of God. The only answer that can be is that they have so many issues in their life that they are not working on in their own lives, that they are just never going to get there.

When it comes to winning your child to Christ there are three things that you have to overcome, and this will be your biggest problem. You are going to face three issues and you better understand these and see how this thing works.

ISSUE #1 YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME A LACK OF FAITH

You may be able to trust God in everything else in life, but I am talking

about specifically with your children. If you want to see a parent fall flat on their face when it comes to faith, just watch him when it comes to his child.

ISSUE #2 YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME A LACK OF ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHERE YOUR CHILD IS AT

Parents come to the point where they are just oblivious and get so busy doing their own thing that their children get lost in the shuffle.

ISSUE #3 YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME A LACK OF PATIENCE

Along with these issues I want you to remember some things about your child regarding the day of their salvation, and your child getting saved.

1. Your child will want to get saved based solely on the fact that you want him to.
2. Your child will want to get saved basically to please you.
3. Your child will want to get saved because he heard the Sunday school teacher talking about it in class.
4. Your child will want to get saved because he is scared. They will hear something about hell, and they will be scared of that and want to get saved.
5. Your child will want to get saved because of the rapture. You will talk about the rapture or they will hear about it somewhere, and when they hear mom and dad say, "Boy I wish the rapture would come today and we'll be out of this place." Your child will hear this, and think mommy and daddy are going to leave, I want to go too.
6. Your child will want to get saved because a friend will get saved or a sibling will get saved.
7. Your child will want to get saved because of child evangelism.

There is a preacher in town that specializes in child evangelism. In my mind, what this man has done to children over the years, he should be on the pedophile list because, "spiritually", he is worse than that. What he does is prey on your children and gets big conversion results, so he can get a paycheck. He will get kids saved who are 3 and 4 years old...it doesn't

matter to him. He has never been successful in ministry and could not preach his way out of a wet paper bag with the end blown out. He could never do anything for God, and has failed in everything he has ever done, so he finally found something that he is kind of good at, and goes around from church to church and holds a child evangelism meeting. He will get 200 children together and he tells a little story, then he gets them to raise their hands up in MASS, and they go home thinking their children are saved. Now instead of having 58 kids saved, you will have 58 kids who are now confused, and if somebody doesn't get in and undo what this spiritual child molester has done, they are going to wind up in Hell. **You don't deal with children in MASS.** Did you ever notice there is no child evangelism in the Bible? Did that ever bother you? In the New Testament, did you know there is not one record of one child getting saved anywhere? Did that ever bother you? Did you ever look at that clown and wonder, Hmmm, I wonder where the child evangelist is in the Bible? My Bible says over in the book of Acts, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved AND THY HOUSE!" It comes through the father!!! Not some child evangelist!!!

We used to say in the ministry, if you got the mom and the kids coming to Church, you had half the family. If you had the dad coming without the mom and kids, you had the whole family. Do you know why? Because in the Bible, dad is the key; if you have a dad who is plugged into the word of God, I will show you how the whole family will come in time, if he does what's right.

There was a friend of mine that has two children and goes to another church where they have a program for the kids. I told him before they even started with this not to let his kids go because it was not based on the word of God (but who ever listens to me, I don't know what I am talking about). But, he let them go, and he called me up late one night, and told me that he had a problem. He stated that his little girl was in this group thing they had, and afterwards the guy that was leading the group asked how many kids wanted to be saved and half of the kids raised their hands. Now these kids are only four to six years old, and the way he phrased it was, "How many want to go to heaven with mommy and daddy?" Well who in the world doesn't want to go to heaven with mommy and daddy? But you see when you make your bucks off of your numbers...that is the kind of child molestation that you employ (spiritually speaking).

Now the church can get up and say that they had 500 of their kids saved last week because of the preaching of such-and-such, and the place goes crazy. Then you have the parents who think, “Whew, I’m glad that is over, I don’t have to worry about it now!” And the devil sneaks right in the back door, my friend.

8. Your child will want to get saved because of Christian schools. Don’t get me started on that one!
9. Your child will want to get saved to get a reward. I have known guys that because they were in a competition of some kind, would pay kids \$.50 to ride the bus. If you start to teach kids that God is about financial rewards...you will have some problems.

Now let me say this...**If your child gets saved for one or any of these things, your child is dying and going to Hell.** You don’t get saved because of these things.

I had a man one time that came to me, and he and his wife were having some problems. He was unsaved, but she was saved. God was working in their lives and things were kind of shaky for a few weeks, but he came in to see me. He told me that he appreciated coming to church, and what I had done, and he wanted to get saved. Now we have been praying for him for a long time, and my first reaction should have been...don’t screw this up, praise God, lets get him saved, come on kneel down and get to it...That is your first reaction. This was not how I handled this particular matter; my first reaction was “Why do you want to get saved?” His answer was what I knew it would be which was, “I need to get saved because I need to put my marriage back together.” You don’t get saved to put your marriage back together, you get saved because you are a sinner and you have personal sin debt in your life that has nothing to do with your marriage. You may get saved tonight, and your marriage may never get back together or it might, but you don’t get saved to fix anything but your broken soul, and your personal sin debt before God. I would rather you be faced with the issue, and you say, “No thanks”, than to pretend that if you get saved, it will fix your marriage.

Salvation is not about you fixing something in life. It is about you as an individual having a **personal sin debt**. You don't come to God, and say, "I'm going to get saved because of my marriage!" God is going to answer "What about your SIN!" What we do so many times because we are not diligent, and lack discernment and understanding...let's face it we are driven by results, everything that we do is driven by results, and in churches today it is all about results. You've got to have so many saved, or you've got to have this or that; and parents they don't want to deal with it because they are out of the word of God themselves, just like most churches. They will be in everything in their child's life, but when it comes to salvation, they will subcontract it out to one of these 9 points listed above.

I have dealt with many a kid, that, by the time he was 20-25 years old, he was so confused about who he is and if he is saved or not, because he was told all his life that he is because of some stupid decision that he made that had nothing to do with salvation. I had a woman one time tell me she was saved at the age of four. I just looked at her, and said, "Well praise the Lord, you are the miracle baby of the world." I didn't say that to her, I said that to myself. Now I'm not going to say that there is an outside chance that a four year old could be saved, but brother if that is true and you are saved at four, you better be graduating from high school when you are 9 and college at 12. You better be way ahead of the game, because an average 4 year old does not comprehend the need for a personal savior. This will give you a terrible false sense of security.

What happens is that parents get so caught up and preoccupied and they want their child saved so badly that they fail in these three things:

1. Lack of Faith

You have got to trust the promises of God. There is something that I live by in my Christian life when I don't know the outcome is clear or how something is going to turn out...I say to myself, "Bob, go with what you know to be true and you know that it works. Don't worry about what you can't see, you have been around here a while. Go with what you know is true. Get a hold of those promises of God and stay true to them."

Now here is the problem, you want your child saved, but you forget that God wants them saved more than you do. Then the parent is in such a hurry to get them saved that the moment they rush in and say they want to get saved they say, “Oh, praise God, I’ve got this day past!” A parent would never stop and say to that child, “You know what I don’t think so...not today.” The very thought of if you refused your child salvation...what if they then turn into an atheist! What if they go out of that kitchen after you said “NO” and they become Charles Manson, or some great communist leader, or something else...what will I do then? **GO WITH WHAT YOU KNOW!!!**

There is a series of questions that you put that child through and use discernment, understanding, and discretion to know where that child needs to be. You don’t just jump in because the kid comes in and says, “I want to be saved.” He could have heard it from someone else, and has the whole concept wrong, and now you’re going to sit down with that child at 5 or 6 years old and explain to him the doctrine of salvation? And the reason parents do this is because they do not have discernment and know where their child is at. You should be able to read your child and know where they are at, and be absolutely in tune with that child...especially when you know they are coming into that time period where they can understand salvation. You should be on them like “Ugly on an ape.” (Not a good choice of words, but you know what I am saying.)

Kids come to you with this idea today, and another one tomorrow. When they really want salvation, they will have the idea today, tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day, and the next day. That child plays with 10 different toys. He breaks one and then picks up the next one forgetting all about the first one. Don’t let that be the same way with salvation...But that is SCARY!!! Because you don’t want him to turn out to be an Einstein atheist. You are afraid that if he walks out of the kitchen and does not get saved right there on the spot that he is lost. “Oh, what happens if he dies in his bed tonight,” “Oh, what happens if he crosses the street and gets killed?” **GO WITH WHAT YOU KNOW!!! GOD WANTS HIM SAVED MORE THAN YOU DO!!!**

2. Lack of discernment and understanding

There are some things that have to be in place in your child's life before they are ready to be saved (we will look at that in the next lesson). You don't just jump on it the moment they come, that is how the spiritual pedophile operates. They take the innocence of the child and the stupidity of the parents and the pastor, and make a living off of sending your child to Hell and you pick up the tab.

It is absolutely despicable when it comes to your child's soul to let anyone else anytime, anyplace, anywhere take away from you the Day of Salvation in your child's life. When my children were growing up, there were standing orders in the Sunday school, that if they came to them for salvation they were to tell me about it, and I would take care of it. God help the first person in this Sunday school that wants to put another notch on their pistol grip by winning my kid to Christ. It isn't going to happen that is my job, not yours.

3. Lack of Patience

Next week we are going to walk through the complete process of leading your child to Christ. I am going to tell you,

what to look for

how to look for them

how to implement them when it comes time

I will give you examples, and take you to the definitive passage in the Bible that defines the three ingredients you need to have to be saved.

CHILD TRAINING #14

“How to Lead Your Child to Christ”

(Part 2)

Last week we began to speak about the three days in the Bible that are very key for your child (and everyone else for that matter):

1. The Day of Salvation
2. The Day of Jesus Christ (The rapture of the church, when Christ comes back for his bride)
3. The Day of the Lord (Second Coming of Christ)

Remember last week, I said that if you wanted to chart your child's life on a graph, or even your own life, everything would be geared toward these days. The Day of Salvation will be the main point of this lesson. Everything in your child's life needs to be geared toward, looking to, and training them for that Day. After the day of Salvation for your child, everything then should be geared toward the Day of Jesus Christ or the Judgment Seat of Christ.

We also spoke in length about how it is the parent's responsibility to lead your children to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and nobody else's. It is really simple, God wants you and your child in heaven. The devil wants you and your children's soul in hell, it is that simple. If your child or you then accept God then it is also very simple. The devil will then do everything in his power to keep you or your child from serving God.

The real tragedy is parents that are saved, but their children wind up going to hell because they get the Day of Salvation in their own life, but never take it to their own child. The lake of fire is a real place, and the real tragedy is that there will be children that grow up and wind up there because the parents fail to see the Day of Salvation for their children.

We then went on to talk about the three areas of confusion in a parent's life:

1. Lack of Faith
2. Lack of Understanding and Discernment (knowing where your child is spiritually)

3. Lack of Patience

When your child comes to you and wants to accept Christ, the first thing you think is, “Let’s get it done, let’s do it.” And the problem with that is parents don’t want to tell their children “No” because they think now if they don’t do it, later on in life we will have to send them to hell at the Great White Throne. This is the number one thing the devil uses (as we will see today) because many times that child is not ready to trust Christ. Not knowing where your child is spiritually, having a lack of faith, and no patience is the real problem. There are three elements that a child needs before he can get saved, and we will discuss these in detail in a minute.

We also discussed that you have to, “Stay with what you know” in times when you don’t know what is going on! Remember God wants them saved more than we do!!! You have to have all three of these things in the back of your mind when dealing with the issue of the Day of Salvation with your child. There is a book that everyone with children should read, and it doesn’t even have anything to do with raising children, but it is titled “Under His Wing.” The author, Bernie May, was a Christian and a pilot who relates flying a plane to our life as a Christian. One time on a flight, the air traffic controller re-routed him on a flight several miles out of his way, and the author became very irritated. He thought that because he was a smaller plane and there were other bigger planes to worry about that he was getting pushed to the back of the list, and was mad at the FAA for making a 1½ hour trip into a 3 hour trip. It wasn’t until he reached his destination that he was headed to one of the worst thunderstorms with wind shears that would have torn the wings off of his plane. The person in the air traffic controller’s room saw what he could not see, and took him in a diverted route that inconvenienced him way out of the way, but brought him home safely. He then makes the parallel of how many times God inconveniences us by taking us way out of the way to show us something in our Christian life.

Another parallel he makes was that during his landing, he had to use only his instruments to make the landing because the weather was so bad that he could not see what he was doing. He stated that it was absolutely maddening to listen to this person try to tell him every move he was to make in order to land the plane safely. The same thing is true with our trust in God. This air traffic controller knew the best way to land the plane, but no,

no, no we think that we know better than he does. When this author was landing he wrote that he just wanted to take charge himself because he thought he knew better, but he knew that he had to trust the voice on the other end of the radio and he landed safely.

With your children you must remember this great illustration, that in times like these (where you don't know what is going to happen) that you want to do something and something needs to be done; your always better to wait on the Lord, and let him direct you and bring you to the right time, at the right moment when it comes to directing that child to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Lack of Faith, Lack of Understanding and Discernment, and Lack of Patience...You go with what you know to be true!

In the book of Acts and really in **1Corinthians 3:6** there are found three aspects to soul winning (these are not the three aspects that your child needs). **1Corinthians 3:6** says, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." These three aspects are:

1. Sowing ("I have planted...")
2. Watering ("Apollos watered...")
3. Reaping ("But God gave the increase.")

I don't fall under the trap that I try to win everybody to Christ that I meet. I try to present the Lord Jesus Christ through my body, my life, and my actions as best as I can, and let the Holy Spirit of God do the rest. God places people in your life that he did not mean for you to save. He did not bring them into your life for that purpose. He will want you to sow, or maybe to water (which means to pray for them). Then there will be people that God has had somebody else do the sowing and the watering, and God will want you to do the reaping. You must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God in those aspects. This, again, is why you don't find any child evangelism in the New Testament and the proof text is in the book of Acts where it says that the father leads the way (**Acts 16:31**).

This is where we left off last lesson. Winning a child to Christ before he is ready, is worse than not leading him to Christ at all. There is a false sense of security today even with pastors who have come up in the system of winning children to Christ at an early age, and now these kids are pastors,

leading churches and some of them aren't even saved themselves. Now I'm not saying this to pass judgment or trying to look into someone's heart, but I know what the Bible says, and I'll let that be the judge. There is many a Baptist preacher in the world today that has this false sense of security because they thought they were saved at the age of four, and now are in the ministry. I have talked to them and even won some to Christ, because they were betrayed by a system outside of Biblical teaching due to a false sense of security. The reason is because they failed to know these three absolute concepts that you as a parent have to know if your children are going to be saved. These concepts are some of the best things I have ever come across in my life, and yet so easy to understand.

Years ago I read a book and, to this day I can't remember the name of it, but I got a line out of it that has set my whole course in life... "The job of every Christian whatever age or disposition they live in is to discern what is the prevailing spirit of that age, and then to use all their wisdom and understanding from God to go against that prevailing spirit." I took that and then understood that through every age and dispensation down through the church there was a spirit of the antichrist or the devil against the things of God, and it predominantly overran the world. The job of you and I, as a Christian, is to define and discern that spirit and then use everything that we have to go against that spirit. It doesn't take much of an IQ or knowledge of the Bible to understand that we are living in the end times. We are living in a time period right before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the spirit of our age that we are up against is so clear. The spirit that we are up against is the spirit of DECEPTION. Babylon means deception and the devil wants to deceive you. How many times do we find this point... Revelation 12:9, 2Thessalonians 2:10, Luke 21:8, Mark 13:5, "Take heed that no man deceive you."

This is why 99.999999999999% of the Baptist churches (I'll pick on them since I'm Baptist) in this world are absolutely and totally in the dark. The first deception that the devil pulled off was to take the word of God out of their life and replace it with something that was totally inadequate. There are conspiracies about everything JFK, Lincoln, Elvis, etc... Did you know that when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 ten years later they were still saying he wasn't dead. They dug him up to make sure he was dead. Twenty years later they dug him up again. Why? Because the

conspiracies were floating around that he wasn't dead. They then dug him up a third time around the turn of the century and the family said that was enough and they buried him in concrete. The conspiracy around JFK...Oh, my goodness! Of course, if you want the real truth about who killed JFK you can get my tapes, and really figure it out, but conspiracies are incredible. Then there is a conspiracy of how Marilyn Monroe died, how Anna Nichole Smith died, who shot Bobby Kennedy. You should hear all the conspiracies about Amelia Earhart. There are conspiracies about the Masons...There are even conspiracies about ME! The bottom line is this, if you want real conspiracy...Revelation 17 and 18 is the place you want to go.

I have news for you there is a conspiracy that goes all down through this world, but it has nothing to do with the theories of the conspiracies that go on. There is a conspiracy that goes on, but it has nothing to do with JFK, Jimmy Hoffa, or Marilyn Monroe...it's a conspiracy of deceiving you and the world into what it believes. This same spirit of deception has crept into Bible Christianity. **2Corinthians 11:3** says, **“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”**

- The word “Beguiled” here goes along with the same word in the Old Testament which indicates deception.

Let me tell you where I am at here with this, and I will bring this back around because this same deception ends up in your children.

I believe there are a lot of professions of faith in churches today, but I do not believe there are many conversions of faith in churches today. (This is my own personal belief, you can disagree or not, I don't care. If you want to sit down with me or ask me on Thursday night and find out my reasoning's behind it that's fine.) I don't believe, because of the spirit of deception, that most of the people that “profess” to get saved, truly have a born again experience. I believe that pastors have been deceived as to their people, and I believe that parents have been deceived when it comes to their children. The Bible says very clearly in **Matthew 7:22**, **“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?”** Verse 23 **“and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:**

depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Once the devil got rid of truth in the world, the deception was so easy to pull off. **Genesis 6** says that Noah preached for 120 years (the same time that Noah was building the ark). The Bible says that Noah was preaching God’s righteousness and the coming judgment for 120 years, and yet nobody got saved! Yet the Bible also says in **Matthew 24:37** **“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”** This tells me that we are living in the same kind of time as Noah, and points me to a couple of things:

1. If Noah’s day is like my day, then there is a lot of religion going on in Noah’s day just like there is today (If that is true, and I believe it to be, then)
2. There are also a lot of professions of faith going on in his time, but no salvation and no real conversions.

I have found that the time that I am now living that 99.9999999% of the conversions are phony today is because in reality the three basic elements that you have to have and understand are missing. Now, salvation is easy, it is not hard, but there three basic elements that you have to understand and have in your life at the day of your salvation. I have yet to find anywhere in my life (and as soon as I say that, someplace there probably is) a four, five year old, a six year old, and in many cases a seven, eight, or nine year old that understood these things. That is why I say that a four year old if he has the mind set to accept Christ as his personal savior, then he should be graduating college at twelve.

We are living in a day and age that the spirit of deception has prevailed so much that parents don’t know what to look for in their own children’s lives, anymore than pastor’s know what to look for in the people they are dealing with...and the devil goes out the door laughing. I will tell you how I know this. Sometime between the dates of 1970 and 2007 sin was eradicated off of planet Earth. Did you know that? Now there is hardly anything that is considered sin anymore. I mean, unmarried Christian couples can live together, have sex together, even have children together and it isn’t sin anymore. There are Christians who do drugs, then they look at me like “Don’t you know it is alright for me to do this?” We are living in a time where God’s people don’t see sin in their lives anymore, and everything is O.K. Now that tells me *proof positive* that somebody has been deceived. *The same God who held the same kind of sin accountable 300 years ago is*

the same God who is holding it accountable today. If you have lost sight of that or don't care about that, and you think you can blunder into the sinful lifestyle you want to live and thumb your nose at it...SOMETHING IS WRONG SOMEWHERE IN YOUR LIFE. You have been deceived...the deception has taken over somewhere in your life! You now buy into the fact that you can be a Christian and live your life any way you want, fornicate as much as you want to, drink, smoke, chew, and go with the girls that do, all you want to, and it is O.K.! You think you can be a great Christian doing those things. YOU MY FRIEND HAVE BEEN DECEIVED!!! This same deception falls down right to the parents.

Let me say this (please don't take this the wrong way because it sounds very arrogant and egotistic but it is not meant to be, it is that I just understand this more than some other guys. I have said this many, many times, I'm not the smartest guy in the world; I'm just the fastest one in the slow class), but if you got saved under my ministry you have a very good chance of going to heaven. That sounds terrible, doesn't it? Terrible, but the truth hurts, I don't know what to tell you! Do you know why? Because I don't make it easy for you to get saved. Now, do I have more of the Holy Ghost than anyone else? No, certainly not. Do I know the Bible better than anyone else? No, certainly not. But I do know that I'm not going to allow you (in the spirit of deception) to get saved just so I can put another notch on my pistol. Some people are going to think that I am just really hard on people...NO, I'm just telling you the facts of life...you need to learn this. Listen to me, or I'll slap you along the side of the head...I'm not mad at anybody. (Now I forgot what I was going to say, you guys do that to me all the time).

I know pastors who get into a church service like this and at the end they have everybody bow their heads. Then they will say, "Now if you are here today and need to be saved, raise your hand", and someone will raise their hand. Then they will say, "Now if you want to be saved pray this prayer," and he will lead them to the sinner's prayer from the pulpit. Then he will tell them they are saved. What a disastrous thing to do!!! That is about as absolutely, ridiculous as anything I have ever heard in my life. No, you can't long-distance win somebody to Christ; you can't win somebody to Christ without some kind of idea where they are at in their mind and heart...you can't do that. You have got to have the ability to talk to that person and make them understand that there are three elements that you have

to have in your life, if you are going to get saved. Now sitting up here and making you bow your head and raise your hand is an easy conversion. I'll tell you why these preachers do this, because if you do it my way, you don't get as many people saved. Well, I have news for you I am not interested in getting anybody saved; I'm interested in preaching the truth, and letting the truth get you saved! It's not my job to get you saved; my job is to preach the truth. It is your job to receive that truth and do what is right with the truth and then take it from there.

When you get saved in my ministry, I have you bow your head, and if you raise your hand, I will pray for you. Then I will say, "With every head bowed, and every eye closed, if you want to get saved...stand up." I will get somebody to take you out to another room to show you how to be saved. I want to look into your eyeballs and hear what you have to say; I want to know where you are coming from, and I want to know if you have some screwy concept about salvation. I had a guy tell me once that he wanted salvation because some aliens abducted him and did some terrible things to him, and he now wanted salvation. *[Laughter]* You see, that's funny, but if I would have just allowed him to raise his hand...

There is a spirit of deception in this world today, and when it comes to salvation I have a message that I preach called "Be not deceived, Be not disarmed, and Be not discouraged." You have to understand that you are living in a world where there is a spirit of deception and people make choices. Who can't read **Matthew 13:1-8** and find the three things there that counter the three absolute things you need to have to be saved.

People come to this church, or any church, and need help because they lost control of their lives from a bad marriage, bad kids, alcohol, drugs, and the moment they come in they say, "I'll do whatever I need to do!" Three weeks later they are telling you what they WILL do and what they WON'T do. That is a "profession of faith" not a real conversion of faith.

Now, I'm not saying that a child can't be saved, but as a parent you better not be deceived. You need to understand that there has to be three elements there for a true conversion, and need to realize the reality of salvation in those three elements. You need to be in tune with the Holy Spirit of God,

and in tune with your child. You need to have a working knowledge of the promises of the word of God. You need to remember to have faith, discernment and understanding, and patience. You then need to RESPOND to your child not REACT. You need to make sure where your child is at, is where they need to be, and that the Day of Salvation is the true day, not a deception.

Our text this morning will be out of **Romans 7**. There is a strategy to where Romans is placed in the Bible. Matthew to Acts form the historical branch, but Romans takes on a completely new countenance. In Romans, we find the absolute beginning of the church age, and Paul writes what I call the “Constitution of Christianity.” The constitution of the United States basically declares to the reader what this country is all about. Our church has also laid out a constitution to define and describe what this church is all about. Romans is a book on the constitution of a Christian’s faith. This book breaks down and defines everything that is different from the New Testament to the Old Testament

In Romans 7, we are going to find these three elements but we first have to define a few things. Every chapter has a breakdown, and here is the breakdown of Romans 7. Romans 7 covers, “The death of the Christian in relation to the Old Testament law.”

- We are not talking about the physical death of the Christian. Romans takes the position that once Christ died and resurrected, every man and woman that trusts Christ as their own personal savior from then on is dead in Christ, and to the world. That is what he is talking about, the death of a Christian to the world. You are now dead to this world because you are hid in Christ.
- In this chapter, he is covering that now that we are dead as a Christian, how do we relate to the Old Testament law; or better how does the Old Testament law relate to us.

Romans 7:9-18 he begins to cover the defining passage of how to win your child to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I would caution you that if you don’t understand this after today to get with me and I will explain it further or clarify it. **Romans 7:9-18** says, “**For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the**

commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me, Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- V.15 (“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.”) is the great verse after you are saved on the two natures (Old and New). Paul is saying here that he struggles with the same things that you and I do. He says the things that I shouldn’t do, those are the things I do. The things that I don’t want to do, I do them, and the things I should do, I don’t do.
- V.17 (“Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”) is describing a saved man. A saved man has an old sin nature and a new saved nature. What you are seeing in V.15 is that he has one too. He struggles back and forth with it just like we do. The real proof of you being saved is that you have that struggle. Someone who just ho-hums his way through life and just doesn’t care about the sin they are in, lives their lifestyle any way they want to, and just yawns about it with no conviction...that is a pretty clear indication that you have never been truly converted. That you have bought into a system of terms that really never made a real true change in your life. For you to have the change, (Let’s face it, brother, we all sin), but when you do something wrong, it should be like someone dropping the hammer on you. Then the closer you get to God, the worse it should get for the smaller infractions you do.

If you take a guy that just got saved, and he leads a life of fornication...he stops that sucker RIGHT NOW! Does that mean he no longer struggles with it? NO! But when he does struggle with it he doesn’t think, “Oh, man that’s

just the way it was, let's do it again next Friday night!" NO, IT BREAKS HIM IN HALF!!! It brings them to the point where they think "Oh God, I hate myself for letting myself falling back into that!" That is the difference between a professing Christian and a converted Christian. Now the older you get, you get the same kind of conviction when you don't get your Bible reading in. Do you want to know how you can tell when you have grown spiritually? When you first got saved, the sin in your life that was a big deal, that you wanted to get rid of, it broke your heart when you fell back into it. Now you have been saved 5-10 years and you have no big graphic sins in your life, but your sins now are sins of omission. You don't read your Bible; don't pray enough...**THAT IS A SURE SIGN THAT YOU ARE GROWING!** I don't know if I'm getting through to you!!!

- V.18 says, "I want to do what is right, but I struggle." Everybody struggles. I don't have a problem with you struggling in sin, I have a problem when you get back into sin, you try to hide it, and lie about it; and after a while it just doesn't bother you anymore.

All right, lets put this back into context here:

- V.9, you have all heard about "the age of accountability." Growing up someone told Dawn Stephens that the age of accountability was 13! I grew up hearing it was 12! When she grew up she had it in her mind so bad that she felt like she could do anything she wanted up to 13, and was heart sick when she turned 13 because she would have to give account for everything. This is exactly what human nature will do; you will make that your rattling point, and will be able to do whatever you want until that age. Let me say this, **THERE IS NO SET AGE TO THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**. Every child is different...every child because of their environment or where they come up, everybody deals with it at a different time. That is one of the things that makes it so tough. If it were just a certain age we could just cookie-cut them at 11 years old. This is why a parent has to be in touch and in tune with their child.
- The age of accountability by definition is this...
 - There IS an age that your child is going to come to where they will become accountable for their sins

- Every child IS different
- Before they reach the age of accountability God does not put any sin to their charge. From birth to that time, if they die, they get a free ticket to heaven...they are under the blood.
- The key to understanding this concept is the word “Imputed” in the Bible.
 - **Romans 4:8** says, “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”
 - **Genesis 15:6** defines the word “impute.” This is the story of Abraham and the day he got saved, in the Old Testament sense. Abraham and God are talking and it says, “And he believed in the Lord: and he **counted** it to him for righteousness.”
 - **Galatians 3:6** says, “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was **accounted** to him for righteousness.” This is the same story as in the Old Testament except he now uses the word “Accounted” instead of “Counted.”
 - **James 2:23** says, “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was **imputed** unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.” Same story as in Genesis 15 and Galatians 3 but now he uses the word “Imputed!”
 - “Imputed” then means (not on Bob Alexander’s definition, but the Bibles definition): to be put on someone’s account! While a child is under the age of accountability, no sin is imputed to him. He lives in a state of innocence. You find this all the way back in the Old Testament in **Deuteronomy 1:39** where the children of Israel were going to go into the land and he says, “Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, **which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil**, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.” Paraphrased, “The moms and dad are not going into the promise land. We are going to wander for

about 40 years until you all die off. The only ones that are going to go into the promise land are the little children, who in the day that their mom and dad sinned and disobeyed God, did not know right from wrong (The Bible says good from evil).” So they get to go in. Do you know why? Because God didn’t impute to them what He did to their parents.

When your child is born they live to the day of salvation, and up to that point the age of accountability (from that point, back to when they were born) God does not impute sin to your child. Your child has no sin on his account, and does not know right from wrong. He cannot make a conscious choice between right and wrong...Oh, dear God, help us understand this...IF HE CAN’T MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG IN A CONSCIOUS STATE, HOW IN THE WORLD CAN HE MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE TO TRUST CHRIST AS HIS OWN PERSONAL SAVIOR!!!

He can’t, He can’t! And he will grow up with a false sense of security, thinking that he is saved when he is not. He will find a dead end at everything he tries to do spiritually, from reading his Bible to pastoring a church. Nobody is going to stop and say, “Tell me about the day you got saved.”

When it comes to your kids, it is not my job to convince you that you are not saved, that’s God’s job. My job is to keep putting out the truth and let the Holy Spirit of God tap you on the shoulder and say, “There isn’t something matching up here!” That’s his job, not mine, you will take it a lot better from Him than you will from me anyways. Then, if you get mad, you can get mad at Him, not me!

“Imputed” means to be placed on an account. A little child who does not know right from wrong has no sin on his account...it is not “imputed” to him. Now look at the last part of **verse 9**:

- “For I was alive without the law once: (AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY) but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.” This is referring to the day now that he knows right from wrong. That child grows up and there comes a day in his life (every child is different) and suddenly he

knows right from wrong, he makes a conscious choice to do wrong, sin revives, and he dies. Now he is dead in the trespasses of sin and he needs to be saved. Your child is now a sinner, and is past that day of accountability, and now needs to trust Christ as his own personal savior.

- **V.10-11** He is saying here that you grew up in innocence, you grew up under the age of accountability with no sin imputed to you, and there came a time in your life, where you came to the point, that consciously you were not in innocence anymore. Consciously you knew right from wrong. You didn't do things just because you were a dumb, stupid, little kid that didn't know any better...now you calculated and know there is a difference between right and wrong. It wasn't automatic before, now it is coming to the point where the law has deceived you. **James 2:10** says, "**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**" Now that you have past that point of the age of accountability, the commandment (the Old Testament law) has come back in your life, sin has revived, and now you sin, and have fallen into the trespasses of sin and need salvation.

I am going to say it again, THERE IS NO EXACT YEAR (9, 12, 13, etc.) EVERY CHILD IS DIFFERENT!!!

- **V.12** Now here is what you have to understand about the law. The law does two things: (Remember he has put this into a chapter where he is explaining it to us as a New Testament Christian how the law affects us now that we are saved.) He is showing us, as a Christian, that we are dead to the law once we are saved. The ten commandments don't mean anything to me now, because I am under the blood of Christ. I keep them, but not to be saved, I keep them because I am saved. But then he says from the time you are born to the age of accountability you were without the law (no sin is imputed), but the day you become accountable and you know right from wrong, the law now has slain you and now you are a sinner. Don't think that the law is now bad. No, there are two aspects to the law to the church age. After you are saved the law has no affect, but before you are saved the law has two components for our lives:

- The first aspect of the law is to make you a sinner. You can't stay in innocence forever. Adam and Eve sinned, you're going to sin. You have an old sin nature, and when you grow up, naturally, you're going to sin, and the moment you sin, the law (the commandment) has slain you. That is the down side of the law.
- The good side, and second aspect is found in **Galatians 3:24** which says, "**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**" That same law that deceived you, slew you, and took innocence from you, and made you a sinner; now the Bible says that same law becomes your schoolmaster who brings you to Christ.

Up to the age of accountability...NO LAW; on that day that law revives, it slays you, and you are now a sinner. But the law that people think is bad is really good because now that same law that just killed you spiritually is going to become your schoolteacher and point you toward Christ, who can save you and pay for your sin debt.

Now here is the key to it all...

- **V.13** here is the really problem and where we find how to get to salvation with your child. This is absolutely key for you children to see, and then for you as a parent to discern. "**Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.**"

Here is found the three aspects that your child must have before they can get saved, and I'll make it real easy for you. Your child has to have it in his:

1. Heart
2. Head, and
3. Feet (Repentance)

Let's talk about it from the Bible's perspective. **Romans 10:9-10** says, "**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt**

believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- There are two elements found in this verse that you must have before you can get saved:
 - Believing it in your heart, and
 - Confessing with your mouth
- When you deal with your child for salvation, that child has to understand these three basic elements...it goes back to **Romans 7:13**, lets put it all together...

Romans 7:13 “...But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.” Do you know what your child needs? The day your child is ready to get saved is the day your child understand that he is not getting saved because their brother or sister did, or because they are afraid, or because of the rapture, they understand that they as an individual have a **personal sin debt to God** that has to be paid for. That their sin to them has become “...**Exceeding sinful.**” They see it as their sin debt not just because they want to go to heaven.

Like the man that we talked about last week that came in, and said he wanted to get saved to put his marriage back together...no, you will get saved under false pretenses and die and go straight to hell. You don't get saved for any other reason other than your sin has to become exceedingly sinful and you know that you need a personal savior to eradicate your personal sin debt. **ANY OTHER WAY YOU COME TO GOD IS A GAMBOL! YOU'RE ROLLING THE DICE!**

You have to have it in your **head** that he died for you that you understand what you're getting into. You need to know in your **heart** that you are a sinner and your sin is personal, that you are exceedingly sinful, that sin might appear sin. As a little child they might talk about sin, you might whip him for what he does wrong, and he might even know how to spell the word sin; but his sin has not been personalized. His sin has not become exceedingly sinful to him; there is no personal aspect to it. It is the general concept of sin. Getting saved with a general concept of sin will send you

straight to hell in a handbag. YOU AND I HAVE A PERSONAL DEBT OF SIN THAT NEEDS TO BE ERADICATED!!!

This is why we call Jesus Christ, our “Personal Savior.” Not savior in a general sense. But in a child, sin has to appear sin first, then it has to become exceedingly sinful. He has to see sin as it is, then he has to see sin as HIS!!! Now can your four year old do that?

Then comes the third element...you have to have it in your head, and in your heart, but **2Peter 3:9** says, “...not willing that any should perish, **BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.**” What is repentance? You quit going the way you were going, and go another way!!!

These three elements are missing in preaching today...well, preaching is missing in preaching today. We heard an interview on 60 minutes the other day with Joel Osteen, why he doesn't preach the way others do, and he said that he doesn't want his ministry to be a condemning ministry; “I want my ministry to be UPLIFTING!” Well, that is the difference between me and him. I want to preach the ministry of destructive criticism...if you don't get a handle on your sin debt, I can uplift you, down lift you, facelift you, whatever you want...you are still going to die and go to hell, you and your sin. You have a sin debt that is YOUR sin debt, and our savior died on the cross to eradicate it and that is the only way you will get to heaven.

This idea that you can have it in your head, and in your heart, but not in your feet...This idea that you can get saved and do whatever you want to, and live however you want, go wherever you want to go, violate the principles up one side and down the other...I have some news for you young man, sister, mom and dad...IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!!! We are living in a world of absolute deception today.

When it comes to your child they have to understand that this sin is theirs, and they don't get saved for any other reason (several listed above). You have to be smarter than that folks, you have to be patient and wait them out.

When my daughter was little, she came to me and asked if she could get saved. I told her fine, I'll be home at 2:30 this after noon, we will talk then. Some people would say, “Oh, how callused, you are going to lose your

child.” Really? 2:30 when I got home, she was watching cartoons. A few months passed and she asked again about getting saved. I told her that would be fine, I would be back at 4:00, you get your Bible, come get me, and I’ll show you. What happened? Nothing I got home she was doing something else. A year goes by; Barb is sweating bullets, and is ready to divorce me because our children are going to hell because I said, “No thanks see me tonight!” We had to learn just like everyone, I was walking around thinking, “Boy, God I hope I’m right.” I was thinking just like Noah when he was preaching about rain, but no one ever had seen it before. You know he was thinking, as he was nailing the boards to the ark, “Boy, God, I’m doing what you want, but I hope you know what you are doing!” Or like the pilot we talked about who had to trust God to take the controls so he wouldn’t crash. The third time she came I told her too see me tonight at 4:00...nothing. Another year passed and one morning she came and wanted to talk about salvation, and I told her that I would be home at 4:00 and we could talk then. When I came home that night she was sitting in the living room with a Bible on her lap. Now I have something!!!

You have to have faith, discernment, understanding, and PATIENCE!!!

Child Training #15

“The Difference between Boys and Girls”

In this lesson, we will finish up with what has been come to be known as “The Power of Parenting.” During this time we have covered a lot of material, and covered several principles dealing with this topic.

RECAP

The last two lessons, we spoke about leading your child to Christ, and we covered the three most important days in the Bible:

1. The Day of Christ (Rapture)
2. The Day of the Lord (The Second Coming)
3. The Day of Salvation

We also looked at Romans 7 and covered the “Age of Accountability” in your child’s life. We then covered not only knowing how to win your child to Christ, but also when to do it. We also saw the three necessary ingredients that have to come into play when leading not only your child to Christ, but anyone who wants the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior. In today’s church period, there are a lot of professions of faith, but not very many true conversions based on these three issues.

1. Head
2. Heart, and
3. Feet

When we started we talked in the first lesson about “The Evil Day,” and we saw how the life of Daniel was a picture of your child (or you). How Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon had a daily provision of ungodliness for these three Hebrew children, just like the world has the same daily provision for your child today. Just as somebody had built in a value system into Daniel, that is how you need to look at your child and family.

In lesson two, (by design to shock you) I talked about why most of your children will die and go to Hell. We spoke about two men who represent two types of Christians that you find:

1. Lot - a picture of a saved man who vexed his soul with the filthy conversation of this world.
2. Jephthah - a picture of most pastors and deacons in churches today. He represents the religious leaders with their head up so proud because of all the great spiritual positions they hold and all the great titles, but inside they are empty.

In Lesson three, we spoke about providing a vision for your child. We then saw how without a vision the people perish, and the verse before setting the context for your child.

We also spoke about the four types of parents:

1. Autocratic
2. Permissive
3. Neglectful
4. Relational

We also talked about:

1. Correct Thinking
2. Correct Teaching
3. Correct Treatment
4. Correct Testimony

We learned about the four stages that your child is going to go through:

1. Discipline Stage
2. Relationship Stage
3. Fellowship Stage
4. Responsibility Stage

By doing this, we also laid out how to build a church through the people in the church, using these same principles. This is the formula for you young men who are going to be pastors on how to be a successful parent and pastor.

We talked about the main issue in **John 1:17**...Grace and Truth. Then we went on and covered the “Six Absolute Principles of Parenting,” and how these principles fall under Grace and Truth:

1. Authority
2. Accountability
3. Affection
4. Availability
5. Appreciation
6. Acceptance

We then spoke about the number one key in all this really comes down to one word...CONSISTENCY!!!

Now you have the tools to understanding how to be the right kind of parents, however; this was a lot of material that we just recapped on that took us several weeks sometimes for 1½ hours trying to lay them out so we can understand them. The thing that you need to remember is that “The price of learning is Repetition.” Just because we went over it does not mean that you are going to remember everything that we covered. **You need to go over it and over it until you are able to use these principles without even thinking about it.**

Remember this point, there is no such thing as a perfect parent. I have seen several parents beat themselves up because they have a bad view of themselves or because they hold themselves to too high of standards. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t have standards or things that we hold ourselves accountable for, but sometimes parents have unrealistic goals about themselves and they beat themselves up. I know I have spoken with some of you throughout this course, and told you to chill out a little bit because, you ARE going to make mistakes. Then you have other parents that I have dealt with down through life that their ego gets involved, and this has its

own set of problems. But you are going to make mistakes. Remember the name of the game is CONSISTENCY!!!

I really don't care what you have done in life or what mistakes you have made, whether in your family or just in life in general. This has never been an issue with me, we all make mistakes and have all blown it in life...The grace of God is good for me just as it is for you. Pastors who have grown up in an ivory palace someplace and cast their judgment down on the rest of the world don't get very far in dealing with people. I also never fault parents for making mistakes with their children, because we have all failed, we are all human.

I know as soon as I say something in a group as big as ours, someone won't like something that I have said. Being a pastor and telling the truth sometimes is hard. I am going to let you in on a little insight...I don't like everything that I have to say sometimes either. Everything I preach to you, I preach to myself first. When I'm preaching, I'm preaching to myself first and you second; because that keeps me in order and in line. But if you think that I enjoy preaching all the hard things I have to say sometimes, I don't. You show me a pastor that enjoys that, and I'll show you someone who probably pulls his fingernails out at night and enjoys pain...you shouldn't like to do it.

I'm going to share with you my greatest characteristic, and I'm not bragging, but I need to share this with you. My greatest characteristic is not my understanding of the Bible, my greatest characteristic is Consistency. You can go back to 1976 or 1977, and you can find tapes that I preached, and I am teaching the same thing now than I was 30 some years ago. I have never moved from what I believed. I know a couple of pastors that every time something new comes out, they want to get it, they think it is the answer. I know one guy out there that every time someone gets a crowd, and tells him, "This is how you do it", he is off trying to do it. I guess God was just good to me in the way I was brought up and trained in the ministry. You won't see a lot of fang-dangled things around here, and if we become a large church, you still won't see a lot of big, sparkly things. No steeple, or fountains...we won't even have a lot of grass; we will just pave the whole thing and paint it green! I'd do that to my yard if I could get away with it! I have my problems, but consistency about the word of God is not one of

them. I still believe that you build a church just by preaching the Bible. I still believe that when Jesus said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” I believe the same thing today as when I first got saved, and I’m not going to change even twenty years from now. I believe that sin is still sin, and wrong is still wrong, and that the bottom line is if you want to reach people, God has to do it through you. When you allow the mechanics do it for you, that is when you get into trouble.

Changing yourself to change your child, and admitting your failures, and correcting them is tough. Not only do I still believe the same things that I believed thirty years ago, I know why I believe them. I didn’t get them out of some other book; I got them out of this book (**THE KING JAMES 1611 AUTHORIZED VERSION!!!**). You have to be consistent and unchanging when it comes to parenting. You guys that are planning to go into the ministry, you will have to be unchanging. There are still some people in this ever-changing world that want something that is unchanged; that will be good tomorrow just like it was good 400 years ago. Let me tell you something, you will never improve on something that God gave us 2000 years ago when he gave us that book.

It will improve us, but we won’t improve on it!

We have now covered this material thoroughly and in depth, and now you should be ready to put it into action. Whatever age your child is, or whatever stage your child is in, you now have the tools to deal with what you have. Remember that just because I go to Sears and buy you a set of mechanic’s tools; that does not make you an auto mechanic. You have got to USE the materials given.

I think (if you haven’t already done it) that you should call a family meeting, and begin to lay out the vision for your child or children. The time is now ready for you to begin to use those tools in the lessons above. This is for children that are in your home, not if they are already gone...at that point there is nothing you can do about it. This is only for those who are in your home and under your control.

FATHERS: You need to begin the concept of pastoring your family. You have to begin to take that role model. You will never be a leader in this church or pastor in this church in some capacity until you understand this concept. You can't pastor the church of God, if you can't pastor your own family. This does not mean that your family is problem free; it means that you are dealing with the issues as they come up. There is no family that is problem free, just like there is no church that is problem free. The way you do this is by:

1. Correct Thinking
2. Correct Teaching
3. Correct Treatment, and
4. Correct Testimony

Now there is one more thing that needs to be covered before this issue is fully dealt with on the level that we have been covering, and that is "The difference between boys and girls." Let me ask you a question; of all the verses that we covered during these lessons (and there were a lot of them) what is the number one thing that is consistent between all of them, which should have jumped out at you early on? They are all in the male gender. There is not one verse given to your children that is written to a female. Now I understand, doctrinally, why this is...all these verses inspirationally are dealing with Israel as God's son. But there is another reason why all these verses that deal with our children, are targeted to a male gender. Why is that? It is because the man is to be the leader!!!

With this information in the back of your mind when training up your children you want to remember if you are dealing with boys the key is training them to make good choices as LEADERS. That boy needs to understand several things by the time he is 8-10, but one of the first things I would teach him would be to be respectful to women. Teaching him the little things like holding a door open for women along with other things like saying, "Yes Ma'am", and "Yes Sir." You never allow that boy to call your mother, the "Old Lady", or his father, "Old Man". That's just disrespectful. This is something that is missing in society today. The bottom line is this...he needs to understand that he needs to grow up to be a leader. Maybe not a leader in the sense of being a pastor, but maybe just as simple as being a leader to his peers growing up and later on in life leading is family.

Parents, it is your responsibility to train up this child to be the right kind of leader and it starts out with the basic things like the ones listed above.

If you have a girl, then you teach her to make the right choices in life (The same as a boy except with the concept of being a good FOLLOWER). The boy has to make choices in life with the concept in mind that his body is to be used by God as a good leader in life, and she has to make choices based on the fact that her body belongs to God, to be submissive to the things that God wants her to do. When God gets a man and a woman later on in life that have the right submissive mind set; this is what God calls in Genesis 1 and 2, a help meet, not a help mate (that is what an animal gets, a mate). The difference is that animals don't have a plan that God wants them to accomplish, but God has a plan for you and me as human beings and wants the man to be the LEADER, and the wife the one that works with him in SUBMISSION (Ladies, don't get nervous on me. This does not mean the woman is to be a door mat. This also doesn't mean that the woman has no say in anything). Guys, if you haven't figured out yet that your wife knows a lot of things better than you do, you're in trouble!!! **The quicker you figure this principle out, the smarter you're going to look!** You don't stand up as a husband and yell, "Follow Me!" you lead them to follow you. Yes, you are the leader and the one that is ultimately responsible, but she is to be the help meet. She helps to meet your needs that together you can fulfill what God wants you to do.

Genesis 24 is the perfect scenario of a husband trying to find a wife or a wife finding a husband. This doesn't mean that there will never be any problems in a marriage there is no such thing as a perfect relationship, but there is such a thing as a perfect God with perfect principles. Remember pastoring a church hold the same principles as pastoring your family, and it is never too late to do right with your family, even if, at this point in your life, your child is unreachable. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN DO!!! The power of prayer, the power of the word of God, the power of simply doing what's right, and the power of a parent being blameless goes a long way. Being blameless is never being perfect, no one is perfect. Being a blameless parent is simply admitting when you are wrong and taking responsibility, so that no one can hold you responsible. Blameless is when you're wrong, you're wrong. It's all right. Say you're

sorry and you blew it. When you do that nobody can come back later and say, “You’re not blameless!” You can respond “What do you mean, I asked for forgiveness, I made it right the best that I could, so therefore I’m blameless.”

Your boys should be trained as LEADERS

Your girls should be trained to be SUBMISSIVE.

When it comes to training up your child, remember don’t be prideful. Get all the GOOD help that you can.

THE END