

# Parenting

## “Building Your Child’s Character: Discipline, Consequences, and Responsibility” – Ephesians 6:4 – January 13, 2008

### Overview of Our Study

NEW YEAR’S SERMON SERIES ON PARENTING		
Date	Title	Subject Matter
Jan 6	Building Your Child’s Self-Esteem	Having Fun with Your Kids
Jan 13	Building Your Child’s Character	Discipline, Consequences, and Responsibility
Jan 20	Building Your Child’s Morality	Talking to Your Child about Sex
Jan 27	Building Your Child’s Adulthood	The Power of Rites of Passage
Feb 3	Building Your Child’s Identity	The Impact of Your Marriage on Your Kids
Feb 10	Building Your Child’s Faith	The Ultimate Goal of Parenting

### Some Thoughts on the Applicability of These Sermons to Those in Different Seasons of Life (see last week’s message)

#### The Biblical Command to Love Has Two Sides

- \_\_\_\_\_ love = hugs, affectionate words, encouragements (i.e. last week’s message)
- \_\_\_\_\_ love = discipline, consequences, tough talks, confronting (i.e. today’s message)
- Smalley and Trent: “It is essential that we learn to balance love’s hard and soft sides every day if we want to communicate to others the deepest, most meaningful kind of love.”

#### The Context of Today’s Bible Passage (Ephesians 6:4)

- Ephesians 5:21-6:9 is all about submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. What are our roles in the family and in the work place?
- Children’s job = to obey their parents (6:1-3)
- Parents’ job = to train their children without exasperating them (6:4)

#### Ephesians 6:4 in Three Words

\_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_

#### What Does It Look Like to Train Our Children (Ephesians 6:4)

##### 1. To \_\_\_\_\_ them (v.4)

- “training” = *paideia* = tutorage; education by training and teaching
- It is the word used in “Star Wars” to describe an older Jedi training a younger Jedi

- Word Picture: Teacher and Consultant
- Three Types of Parents (Cline and Fay):
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent** – This parent hovers over their children and rescues them from the hostile world in which they live. The primary parenting function is to rescue.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent** – This parent commands and directs the lives of their children like a Marine drill sergeant. The primary parenting function is to command.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent** – This parent provides guidance, training, and consultant services for their children. The primary parenting function is to teach and guide.
- Application #1 – If you were to honestly evaluate your parenting style, would you say that you are currently acting as a Helicopter Parent, Drill Sergeant Parent, or Consultant Parent? \_\_\_\_\_
- Teach them what? What am I supposed to teach my child?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ – Basic life skills to be a hard worker
    - Ownership of own life (suggested tool = allow to fail)
    - Work ethic (suggested tool = chores)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ – Basic life skills to relate well to other people
    - How they treat you, siblings, and others
    - Your family is a laboratory where your children get to practice how to treat other people.
    - This is caught more than it is taught.
    - Application #2 – If my children were to grow up treating other people the way I treat my spouse, would I/God be happy with that? \_\_\_\_ What steps do I need to take to better model positive relationships for my children? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ – Basic life skills to relate well to God
    - **Matthew 6:33** – *Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
    - The basics include: (1) beginning a personal relationship with God by inviting Christ into your life; (2) having a daily quiet time to listen to God [Word] and talk to God [prayer]; (3) yoking with other believers to grow together [church].
    - This is caught more than it is taught.
    - Application #3 – What is my next step for growing in my relationship with God and leading my family spiritually? \_\_\_\_\_
- Raising kids for true greatness (Psalm 127:4)(Tim Kimmel book)

##### 2. To \_\_\_\_\_ them (v.4)

- “training” = *paideia* = disciplinary correction; chastening
- This word is used four times in Hebrews 12 in discussing God disciplining and chastening us.
- Word Picture: Pain is a good thing (Paul Brand’s study of leprosy)

- The Proverbs on Disciplining Our Children:
  - **Proverbs 12:1** – *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.*
  - **Proverbs 13:24** – *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*
  - **Proverbs 13:24** (NLT) – *If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them; if you love your children, you will be prompt to discipline them.*
  - **Proverbs 19:18** (NLT) – *Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.*
  - **Proverbs 22:15** – *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*
  - **Proverbs 22:15** (The Message) – *Young people are prone to foolishness and fads; the cure comes through tough-minded discipline.*
  - **Proverbs 29:15** – *The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.*
  - **Proverbs 29:15,17** (The Message) – *Wise discipline imparts wisdom; spoiled adolescents embarrass their parents. Discipline your children; you'll be glad you did – they'll turn out delightful to live with.*
  - **Proverbs 30:17** – *The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.*
- Jim's Thoughts on Different Methods of Discipline for Different Ages:
  - BABY YEARS
    - Letting the child cry
  - TODDLER THROUGH YOUNG ELEMENTARY YEARS
    - Trapeziee squeeze, spanking, time out, remove privileges, natural consequences, extra chores
  - OLDER ELEMENTARY THROUGH SENIOR HIGH YEARS
    - Remove privileges, extra chores, pay money, acts of service, grounding, restitution, natural consequences
- Application #4 – Schedule a date with your spouse to discuss and agree upon discipline and consequences. What is my next step in training my child well through discipline? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. To \_\_\_\_\_ them (v.4)

- "instruction" = *nouthesia* = calling attention to; warning; admonition
- This word is used in 1 Corinthians 10:11 to state that the negative examples of the Old Testament were recorded as warnings to keep us from making the same sinful mistakes.
- Word Picture: Traffic signs (versus helicopter or drill sergeant)
- Some Traffic Sign Warnings to Give Our Children:
  1. "Danger Ahead" (alcohol and drugs)
  2. "Falling Rocks" (bad company)
  3. "Stop" (sex before marriage)

4. "Dead End" (life without Lordship relationship with God)

5. "Icy Roads" (legalism; judgmentalism)

- Application #5 – How can I best coach and consult and warn my children concerning dangers ahead that they cannot see with their young eyes yet? \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Without \_\_\_\_\_ them (v.4)

- "exasperate" = *parorgizo* = to provoke to wrath; to enrage; to provoke resentment
- Andrew Lincoln: "This involves avoiding attitudes, words, and actions which would drive a child to angry exasperation or resentment and thus rules out excessively severe discipline, unreasonably harsh demands, abuse of authority, arbitrariness, unfairness, constant nagging and condemnation, subjecting a child to humiliation, and all forms of gross insensitivity to a child's needs and sensibilities."
- Helpful suggestions in not exasperating your children:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ **base** – We are to discipline our children out of a solid relationship base foundation (see last week)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ **with their pain** – Do not discipline in anger. Rather discipline with empathy. (The Kanakuk practice.)
  3. **Practice** \_\_\_\_\_ **-based parenting** – Treat your children as the Lord has treated you.
- Application #6 – What steps do I need to take to not provoke resentment in my children? \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. And to do all of this... " \_\_\_\_\_ " (v.4)

- Train them in the Lord. Discipline them in obedience to the Lord. Warn them using God's Word. Have grace like the Lord. Don't blame the Lord... follow Him.

### Some Recommended Resources

- Tim Kimmel's Grace-Based Parenting and Raising Kids For True Greatness
- James Dobson's Dare to Discipline
- Smalley and Trent's The Two Sides of Love
- Cline and Fay's Parenting with Love and Logic

### Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. When you were growing up, did you have any chores or responsibilities? What were they? Did you complain about them? How did it go?
2. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and discuss its meaning.
3. What was God saying to you from this message? What was one thing that impacted you most? (Share any Bible passages associated with that.)
4. Go back through and read the Proverbs passages from these notes. Discuss their meaning and application.
5. What is the most important application for you? How can we pray for you on that? (Pray for each other.)