

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO DO THE RIGHT THING
The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable
Proverbs 15:2a

1. REVIEW

- A. "CHILDREN MUST BE **TAUGHT TO OBEY**. THEY DO **NOT** COME **PRESET TO OBEY**... THEY COME **PRESET TO DISOBEY**. **THEREFORE, OBEDIENCE MUST BE TAUGHT.**" - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON
- B. "THE CHALLENGE OF **TEACHING** CHILDREN TO **OBEY** FROM THE **HEART** IS **TO GIVE THEM A NEW HEART.**" - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON
- C. **ALL PARENTS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO OBEY... AND OFTEN!**
1. **YET... SOMETIMES IN OUR QUEST FOR OBEDIENCE WE WILL SETTLE FOR COMPLIANCE.**
 2. **NOTE... THEY ARE NOT THE SAME.**
 - a. **HOWEVER, THEY CAN LOOK LIKE THE SAME THING.**
 3. ***** BUT... OBEDIENCE INCLUDES THE WILLFUL SUBMISSION TO AN AUTHORITY.**
 - a. **CHILDREN CAN BE COMPLIANT FOR REASONS OTHER THAN A DESIRE TO WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO AN AUTHORITY.**
 - 1) **EXAMPLES = FEAR AND REWARD**
- D. **COMPLIANCE** vs **OBEDIENCE**
1. **COMPLIANCE = HAVE TO**
 - a. **OBEDIENCE = WANT TO**
 2. **COMPLIANCE = OUTSIDE IN = COMPULSION**
 - a. **OBEDIENCE = INSIDE OUT = DESIRE**
 3. **COMPLIANCE = OFTEN OUT OF FEAR**
 - a. **OBEDIENCE = OFTEN OUT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION.**
 4. **COMPLIANCE = FORCED MODIFICATION**

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a. OBEDIENCE = HEART ORIENTATION

E. IN EPHESIANS 5:1-3 "CHILDREN" ARE TO:

1. "OBEY" ... THAT IS THE ACTION... AND

2. "HONOR" ... THAT IS THE ATTITUDE BEHIND THE ACTION.

a. IT'S A ONE-TWO PUNCH!

b. NOT, EITHER, OR... BUT BOTH.

c. THE COMMAND IS TO "OBEDIENCE" FROM THE HEART THAT "HONORS" FATHER AND MOTHER.

2. Ephesians 6:4 (NASB) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

A. PAUL KNOWS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A "FATHER" TO BE TOO HEAVY-HANDED, TOO IMPATIENT, TOO OVERBEARING, TOO DEMANDING, TOO SEVERE, AND FOR THE PUNISHMENT TO OUTWEIGH THE CRIME.

1. AND, IF THAT OCCURSS, IT CAN "PROVOKE THE CHILD TO ANGER".

2. IN THOSE SITUATIONS, THE "FATHER" IS ACTUALLY EXASPERATING THE SITUATION WHEN SOME PATIENCE, GENTLENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND "ENCOURAGEMENT" MIGHT "HELP THE MEDICINE GO DOWN".

B. Proverbs 15:2 (NASB) The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

1. IT'S NOT JUST WHAT YOU SAY "FATHERS" ... IT'S HOW YOU SAY IT THAT'S ALSO IMPORTANT.

2. "THE TONGUE OF THE WISE" ... WISE FATHERS HOW TO SAY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID IN A WAY TO GET THEIR POINT ACROSS.

3. Colossians 3:21 (NASB) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

C. "BUT, BRING THEM UP IN THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD"

1. "BRING THEM UP" LITERALLY MEANS "TO FEED THEM"

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2. THE IDEA IS THAT “**FATHERS**” AND “**MOTHERS**” ARE TO **NURTURE THE DEVELOPMENT** OF THEIR “**CHILDREN**”.
 - a. ... AND **NOT LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE**
3. EVEN **JESUS**, IN HIS **HUMANITY**, HAD TO “**BROUGHT UP**”.
 - a. **Luke 2:41-42;45;51-52 (NASB)** Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; ⁴⁵ When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. ⁵¹ And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **He continued in subjection to them**; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. **And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**
 - b. “**WISDOM**” = MENTAL
 - c. “**STATURE**” = PHYSICAL
 - d. “**IN FAVOR WITH GOD**” = SPIRITUAL
 - e. “**IN FAVOR WOTH MEN**” = SOCIAL
 - 1) JESUS DEVELOPED MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY, AND SOCIALLY.
 - 2) ... AND HIS **PARENTS** WERE **A DYNAMIC PART OF THAT PROCESS**.

D. “**DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD**”

1. “**DISCIPLINE**” IS A COMPREHENSIVE WORD AND HERE IT MEANS ALL TEACHING AND TRAINING.
 - a. *** WHICH INCLUDES TEACHING OUR CHILDREN:
 - 1) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,
 - 2) SELF-CONTROL,
 - 3) A WORK ETHIC,
 - 4) SOCIAL SKILLS,
 - 5) PERSONAL DISCIPLINE, AND
 - 6) THE GOSPEL.

E. “**INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD**”

1. THE GREEK WORD FOR “**INSTRUCTION**” IS “**NOUTHESIA**”

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- a. IT MEANS TO PUT INTO THE MIND AN ADMONITION REGARDING IMPROPER CONDUCT... A CONFRONTATION OVER IMPROPER CONDUCT.
 - 1) THERE WILL BE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR WRONG DECISIONS.
2. "OF THE LORD"
 - a. THE IDEA IS THAT THE "INSTRUCTION" THAT THE "FATHER" (AND MOTHER) ARE GIVING IS FROM THE LORD = TRUTH THAT IS COMING DOWN FROM THE LORD HIMSELF.
 - b. "INSTRUCTION" MUST BE MORE THAN, "BECAUSE I SAID SO".
 - c. "IT IS ONLY BY MAKING GOD THE TEACHER ON WHOSE AUTHORITY EVERYTHING IS TO BE BELIEVED... AND IN OBEDIENCE TO WHOSE WILL EVERYTHING IS TO BE DONE." - CHARLES HODGE
 - d. IN THAT SCENARIO THE PARENT IS MERELY THE MOUTHPIECE AND MEDIATOR OF GOD'S WORD.
3. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS GATHERED BY A TEAM OF SOCIOLOGISTS ATTEMPTING TO CALCULATE THE INFLUENCE OF A "FATHER" (AND A MOTHER) ON THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN BACK TO THE 18TH CENTURY.
 - A. MAX JUKES... WAS AN UNBELIEVER WHO MARRIED AN UNBELIEVER AND AMONG THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WERE:
 1. OVER 440 LIVES OF OUTRIGHT DEBAUCHERY IN SENSUAL PLEASURES.
 2. OVER 190 PUBLIC PROSTITUTES.
 3. ABOUT 100 ALCOHOLICS.
 4. OVER 130 CONVICTED CRIMINALS.
 5. OVE 60 HABITUAL THIEVES.
 6. 7 MURDERERS.
 7. NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM MADE ANY IDENTIFIABLE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.
 8. IN TOTAL, THEY COST THE STATE OF NEW YORK AN ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IN PRISON EXPENSES, LEGAL EXPENSES, HOSPITAL EXPENSES, REHABILITATION EXPENSES, AND POLICE COSTS.

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- B. **JONATHAN EDWARDS**... WAS A NOTED PASTOR AND THEOLOGIAN. HE WAS A BELIEVER WHO GREW UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME AND MARRIED A WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY FAITH WHO ALSO CAME FROM A CHRISTIAN FAMILY. AMONG THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN THERE WERE:
1. OVER 300 MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES, AND THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORS.
 2. ABOUT 110 ATTORNEYS.
 3. OVER 60 PHYSICIANS.
 4. 30 JUDGES.
 5. OVER 120 COLLEGE PROFESSORS.
 6. 14 UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS.
 7. NUMEROUS GIANTS OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY (IT WAS SAID THAT THERE WAS NO MAJOR INDUSTRY IN EARLY AMERICA THAT WAS NOT FOUNDED BY A DESCENDANT OF JONATHAN EDWARDS)
 8. 3 UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN.
 9. 1 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
- C. OF COURSE, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS:
1. OUT OF AN UNGODLY HOME CAN COME GODLINESS.
 2. AND, OUT OF A CHRISTIAN HOME CAN COME TOTAL FAILURES.
- D. BUT... ON A BROAD SCALE, THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL PARENTING IS "THE LORD"
1. Joshua 24:15 (NASB) "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
 2. Psalms 127:1a (NASB) Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;
 3. WHETHER YOU ARE A MOTHER, A FATHER, OR A CHILD... YOU NEED THE LORD... FAMILIES NEED "THE LORD"!
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- A. **Proverbs 15:2 (NASB)** The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, **But** the mouth of fools spouts folly.
1. A **MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS** THAN “**PROVOKING CHILDREN TO ANGER**” AND “**EXASPERATING**” THEM, IS TO **ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS**.
- B. **ANDREW FRIMPONG’S EXPERIENCE** CATCHING HENRY DOING THE RIGHT THING.
- C. OUR CHILDREN **WILL** GO THROUGH **TIMES** WHEN IT **SEEMS LIKE** THEY ARE **NEVER GOING TO DO THE RIGHT THING**.
1. WE GIVE THEM **CONSEQUENCES...** BUT, STILL **NO CHANGE**.
 2. IF YOU HAVE **CONSISTENTLY** USED MANY FORMS OF **CONSEQUENCES** WITH YOUR CHILDREN, **BUT** SEE **LITTLE TO NO DIFFERENCE** IN THEIR **BEHAVIOR...** PERHAPS IT’S **TIME TO CONSIDER ANOTHER APPROACH**.
 3. **MAYBE** IT’S TIME TO **TRY “ENCOURAGEMENT”** INSTEAD.
 - a. **“ENCOURAGEMENT”** MEANS **“TO GIVE COURAGE TO”**.
 4. **IF** YOUR CHILDREN ARE STRUGGLING IN A PARTICULAR AREA, **MAYBE** **THEY NEED COURAGE TO DO THE RIGHT THING**.
 - a. ... AND **“MOTHERS”** AND **“FATHERS”** ARE **IN THE VERY BEST POSITION TO EFFECTIVELY GIVE COURAGE TO THEIR CHILDREN!**
 5. MORE ABOUT **“ENCOURAGEMENT”** NEXT WEEK.