

Home Builder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 10: Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 2

- I. You are in charge. Ephesians 6:3-4,
 - A. We live in an anti-authority culture.
 1. There is confusion about the nature of parental authority.
 - a. What gives a parent a right to have authority?
 2. Yet, the Bible is clear that parental authority comes from God.
 - a. Romans 14 clearly teaches all authority is from God.
 - b. Our culture thinks that authority comes from consent or overwhelming force.
 3. True liberty is found in obedience.
 - B. God has called parents to be in charge. (Ephesians 6:4)
 1. You have authority because God calls you to be an authority in your child's life.
 2. Your authority, therefore, is ultimately from God.
 - a. You are acting on His behalf, not yours.
 3. Deuteronomy 6 clearly shows us that God intended for parents to pass His commands down to their children.
 4. Ephesians 6:4 instructs fathers to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - a. This is clearly teaching us to rear our children in the ways of the Lord.
 - b. We are His agents in the lives of our children.
 5. Therefore, it is the parental duty to train their children in the ways of the Lord.
 - a. Note: we DO NOT have a right to our own agendas.
 - b. Unholy emotions and actions in parenting will always lead to unholy outcomes.
 - c. Discipline must be about correcting sinful behaviors and not the ease and comfort of the parent.
 - C. God has called children to obey their parents. (Ephesians 6:3)
 1. Remember, when disciplining your children, you are acting as God's agent.
 2. He has placed your children in your care.
 3. God has not merely given you the role of advisor—you must train your children!
 - D. God has called you to shepherd your children on His behalf.
 1. You cannot reduce parenting down to providing care—it is much more than that.
 2. Parents must provide life direction for their children.
 3. This should produce humility in you as a parent.
 4. God's call on parents frees you from being tentative and overbearing.
 - E. Discipline is corrective not merely punitive.
 1. We must not allow ourselves to correct out of anger. (James 1:19:20)
 2. Discipline is an expression of love.
 - a. Discipline is not unloving. (Proverbs 13:24)
 3. Your object in discipline is to move toward your child, not against them.
- II. Discarding unbiblical methods.
 - A. Unbiblical methods originate with human ingenuity. Some examples are:
 1. *I Didn't Turn Out So Bad*
 - a. This method belongs to the parent who blindly follows their own experience without considering if their experience is biblical.

- b. “My dad yelled at me and I’m fine.”
 - c. This method could result in abusive behavior and/or permissive behavior.
 - 2. *Bribery*
 - a. This approach appeals to your child’s self-interest through bribery or other schemes.
 - b. “I will give you \$5 if you clean your room”.
 - c. Your child is taught to only look out for their own self-interests.
 - d. Your child learns nothing of integrity or responsibility.
 - 3. *Behavior Modification*
 - a. This method seeks to reward good behavior with something tangible and either ignores or punishes bad behavior.
 - b. While praising good behavior or a job well-done is good and needful, the idea that children should be praised/rewarded for fulfilling normal responsibilities should be rejected.
 - c. That which modifies the behavior will inevitably train the heart; the child’s heart will be trained towards self-interest and reward.
 - d. You cannot appeal to your children’s greed without it affecting their hearts.
 - e. Note: The Bible does teach us that God blesses obedience. These blessings, however, are not ends to pursue. They are outcomes of obedience.
 - 4. *Emotionalism*
 - a. This method plays on a child’s fears or emotional well-being.
 - b. This may take the form of a threat or appeal to some sense of shame.
 - c. “If you don’t obey, I will stop this car and make you walk home”. (threat)
 - d. “When you act that way, you make daddy look bad”. (shame)
 - e. This may also take the form of punishing a child with isolation or withholding affection from them.
 - 5. *Punitive Correction*
 - a. This method uses the threat of punishment to try to control a child’s behavior.
 - a. “If you disobey me, I will knock you out!”
 - b. Grounding is a common example of punitive punishment.
 - i. Grounding often fails to address the child’s heart—it merely punishes for a specific timeframe.
- B. Unbiblical methods fail to address the heart.
1. Biblical discipline must always address the heart.
 - a. For example: Suzie is yelling at her brother Jimmy and threatening to beat him up. Suzie’s mom quickly jumps in and warns, “Suzie, if you don’t stop yelling at Jimmy, I will send you to your room for a time out”. Suzie stopped yelling and storms out of the room. How does this parenting style fail? It merely stopped bad behavior with the threat of punishment. It did not teach Suzie anything about her anger or bitterness. It has failed to address the heart.
 2. Biblical discipline points to the cross of Christ.
 - a. As sinners against God, we need “new hearts”.
 - b. God produces change from the inside-out through His saving grace.
 3. Unbiblical discipline always results in distance between parent and child.
 - a. Unbiblical methods will lead to resentment.

Next Week:

Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 3
Embracing Biblical Methods