

Teaching: Here Is Something Right for Parents to Do

Teaching on Biblical Parenting and the Power of Encouragement

Main Texts: Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21

Introduction

Most parents are familiar with the verses that instruct children to obey and honor their parents. Scripture clearly teaches:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." (Ephesians 6:1)

"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."
(Colossians 3:20)

While children have responsibilities, God also gives parents responsibilities. The Bible does not simply tell children what to do; it also teaches parents how to raise their children in a way that reflects God's heart.

Today we will focus on **"Here are some things right for parents to do."**

I. Parents Must Diligently Teach God's Word

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"You shall teach them diligently to your children..."

God never intended for parents to delegate the spiritual development of their children entirely to schools, churches, or youth programs. Parents are the primary teachers.

Notice the consistency:

- When you sit in your house
- When you walk along the way
- When you lie down
- When you rise up

Teaching is not merely a weekly event; it is a lifestyle.

Application

Children learn more from daily conversations than occasional lectures.

Ask yourself:

- What am I teaching my children through my words?
- What am I teaching them through my actions?
- What am I teaching them through my priorities?

II. Parents Must Avoid Provoking Their Children

Ephesians 6:4

"Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger..."

Colossians 3:21

"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

God never intended discipline to crush a child's spirit.

There is a difference between:

Godly Correction Harmful Annoyance

Builds character	Creates resentment
Gives hope	Produces discouragement
Restores	Tears down
Motivated by love	Motivated by frustration

A discouraged child often becomes a defeated child. Parents must correct while preserving hope.

III. Avoid "Parental Delinquency"

Many people talk about juvenile delinquency, but perhaps a greater issue is parental delinquency. Children cannot be expected to behave properly if they have never been given proper tools, guidance, and biblical instruction. Parents must intentionally equip their children for success.

Questions to Consider

- Have I taught my child how to make godly decisions?
- Have I taught them how to respond to pressure?
- Have I taught them God's truth concerning their identity?

Children need training, not merely correction.

IV. Parents Must Frame Their Children With God's Word

Genesis 1:1

God created the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 11:3

"The worlds were framed by the word of God."

God used words to create and shape His creation. We are made in His image; therefore, our words have creative influence.

Genesis 1:26

"Let Us make man in Our image..."

Parents have the privilege of helping shape the identity of their children.

Practical Examples

Instead of saying:

- "You'll never learn."
- "What's wrong with you?"
- "You always mess up."

Say:

- "God has a great plan for your life."
- "You can do all things through Christ."
- "You are growing and learning."
- "God will help you succeed."

Children often become what they continually hear.

V. Speak Words of Life

Proverbs 18:21

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Words can either:

- Build faith
- Build fear
- Create confidence
- Create insecurity
- Inspire hope
- Produce discouragement

Parents are constantly planting seeds with their words. Eventually those seeds produce a harvest.

Ask Yourself

What harvest am I planting in my child's life?

VI. Encouragement Prevents a Hard Heart

Hebrews 3:12-13

"Exhort one another every day..."

The Bible teaches that encouragement protects people from becoming hardened.

Encouragement:

- Creates hope
- Strengthens faith
- Builds confidence
- Opens hearts
- Makes correction easier to receive

If parents desire to win the hearts of their children, encouragement must become a daily practice.

VII. Encourage More Than You Correct

A valuable parenting principle is:

90% Encouragement and 10% Correction

Children should not hear more criticism than encouragement.

Correction is necessary.

Discipline is necessary.

Training is necessary.

But encouragement should be the atmosphere in which correction takes place.

When children know they are loved and valued, they become more receptive to instruction.

VIII. Encouragement Is Oxygen to the Soul

One powerful statement is:

"Encouragement is oxygen to the soul."

Just as the body cannot survive without oxygen, children struggle emotionally and spiritually without encouragement.

Every parent faces a daily choice:

- Encourage
- Or discourage
- Build up
- Or tear down
- Inspire
- Or suffocate

Wise parents choose encouragement.

IX. Love Must Be Demonstrated

1 John 3:18

"Let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth."

Children need more than verbal affirmation.

They need:

- Loving words
- Loving actions
- Loving attitudes

They should be able to see, hear, and feel the love of God through their parents.

Conclusion: Goals for Every Parent

God's Word gives parents a clear mission:

1. Teach God's Word diligently.
2. Raise children in the training and instruction of the Lord.
3. Avoid parental delinquency.
4. Help children discover who they are in Christ.
5. Frame their lives with God's Word.
6. Use uplifting and life-giving words.
7. Imitate God's example.
8. Speak life into every child.
9. Create hope.
10. Prevent hardness of heart through daily encouragement.
11. Win their hearts through love and encouragement.
12. Maintain balance between correction and encouragement.
13. Provide daily "oxygen" through encouragement.
14. Encourage through words, actions, and attitudes.
15. Teach God's Word so they reflect Jesus Christ to the world.

Key Thought

If parents desire their children to move in the right direction, the right words, the right example, and the right encouragement will be needed.

Godly parenting is not merely controlling behavior—it is shaping hearts for a lifetime of walking with Jesus.

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