

I. Introduction and Review.

II. Why do kids turn out the way they do?

A. Does good parenting guarantee good kids? 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

1. How should Proverbs 22:6 be interpreted?

2. Is Proverbs 22:6 an unconditional promise or a maxim?

3. There is no guarantee of success. We are dependent upon God's sovereign grace.

a. None of us is a good enough parent to merit our child's salvation! Heb.

b. Our children are so sinful they would reject all discipline. Ge. 8:21

B. God blesses faithful parents. 22:6

1. Discipline may spare your children from death. 23:13-14

2. Your children will bring you joy.

C. If you neglect discipline you will contribute to your child's ruin and your own misery: A matter of life and death

1. Learn from Eli and David. I Sam. 2:12-17,22-25 3:13 4:11 I Kings 1:5-6

2. Children die of parental neglect. 20:20 30:17 Ex. 21:15,17

a. The death penalty under the Old Covenant.

b. An early death due to the consequences of a life of sin.

c. Many Christians are letting peers and pagans raise their kids.

3. Other parents try hard, but fail because they use the wrong method.

a. Indulgence.

b. Discipline which is inconsistent and angry

c. Parental hypocrisy.

4. Bad patterns established in childhood last a lifetime.

5. Parents suffer grief and shame. 17:21,25 29:15b 19:13 28:7 *The father of a fool has not joy.. A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.*

D. Children are responsible for the choices they make. 20:11 *It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself. If his conduct is pure and right.*

1. Not all rebellion is the fault of the parents.

2. What was the difference between Cain and Abel? Gen. 4:1-9

a. Both were born with the same fallen nature.

b. Both grew up in the same environment.

c. Neither had the wicked influences our kids face.

d. Each was responsible for the choice he made.

3. Israel, like Cain, rejected God's discipline. Jer. 2:30 5:3 7:28 *In vain I have struck your sons. They accepted no chastening... They refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to repent.*

4. If you reject discipline, you will die young. 20:20 30:11,17

5. Foolishness in childhood can last a lifetime.

6. If you respect and obey your parents, you will live and prosper. Ep.6:2 Ex. 20:12

E. You can't save your kids!

III. What should parents do when their children rebel? 19:18

A. First deal with yourself.

1. Confess your own sinful failures. 13:24 23:13-14 Col. 3:21 Mt. 7:1f 5:23-24
2. Recognize the sin of your child for what it is. Pr. 22:15a
3. Seek godly counsel. Pr. 11:14 15:22 20:18
4. Pray and fast. Only God can change a rebellious heart of a child (or a parent).
Matt. 17:21 Mark 9:29

B. Then Deal with your child.

1. Remove bad influences from his life. Prov. 1:10f 13:20 Mt. 5:29-30 I Co. 15:33
2. Establish clear and reasonable expectations.
 - a. Curfew. Pr. 2:13 7:9 I Thess. 5:7
 - b. Entertainment standards: TV, movies, music, computer (internet/games).
Pr. 5:8 Rom. 13:14 Eph. 5:3
 - c. Manner of listening and speaking to parents. Pr. 19:26 20:20 30:17 Ex. 20:12
 - d. Church involvement. Pr. 8:1f Heb. 10:24-25
 - e. Treatment of siblings. Pr. 18:6 12:16 Phil. 2:3-4
 - f. Substance abuse. Pr. 23:29-35 20:1 Eph. 5:18
 - g. Work/school performance. (Not to remain idle). Pr. 6:6-11
 - h. Contribution to family: chores, finances, etc. Pr. 10:5 Eph. 4:28
 - i. Participation in family activities (including family worship). Pr. 1:8 Dt. 6:7
 - j. Companions/use of phone. Pr. 13:20 14:7 22:24 I Co. 15:33
 - k. Dress code. Deut. 22:5
3. Define and enforce consequences. Pr. 23:13-14 19:18
4. Appeal to your child on a heart level. Pr. 22:15 2:2,10 3:1,3 4:23 6:21 11:20 14:14
19:3 28:26 1:7 Mark 7:21f
5. It may be wise to have your child examined by a physician to see if there are physiological elements which are complicating the situation.
6. Don't undermine your own efforts.
 - a. Both parents must be of one mind.
 - b. Don't make empty threats and don't allow yourself to be manipulated!
7. Make it clear that your love is unconditional.
8. This is how the Lord dealt with faithless Israel and Judah.

IV. How you can handle incorrigible kids. 19:18 29:1 Dt. 21:18-21 Ex. 21:15 Lev. 20:9

A. Beware of two extremes.

1. Giving up too soon because of personal hurt feelings, anger and bitterness.
2. Tolerating and enabling sin.

B. Under the Old Covenant, out of control (incorrigible) kids were put to death Pr. 19:18 . Dt. 21:18-21

1. Drastic measures were required to ensure the purity of the covenant community.
2. Principles which remain.
 - a. It is possible for a child to be incorrigible (out of control).
 - b. Children (minors) are held responsible for their sinful choices.
 - c. We are to be concerned about the corrupting influence of an incorrigible child upon the church (and the home).
 - d. We must be prepared to take drastic measures.
3. God finally reaches a point at which He deals with Israel this way. Jer. 3:8 7:28

C. New Covenant applications.

1. Apostates and rebels are no longer executed by the covenant community.
2. Bring them before the church leaders: excommunication. I Cor. 5:1f Mt. 18:15f
3. Bring them before the civil leaders: criminal penalties. Mt. 18:17
 - a. The magistrate doesn't always do his job.
 - b. Parents sometimes wrongfully circumvent the criminal consequences of their children's behavior.
4. Put them out of the house.
 - a. After they are legal adults you can kick them out and, if necessary, get a restraining order.
 - b. If they are still minors, you are still legally required to provide food, shelter, and housing.
 - c. You may, however, send them to a disciplined and controlled environment where they will receive food and shelter.
 - d. Do this in love, not anger.

D. The goals of drastic measures.

1. Protection for those who remain: Pr. 1:10f I Co. 5:6
2. The Lord may even use this hardship, like church discipline, to drive your child to his senses. Pr. 3:11-12 I Co. 5:5

E. When can they come home?

1. Beware of being manipulated and becoming *enablers* of their sinful lifestyle.
2. The child must be repentant. Luke 15:18,21 II Co. 7:10-11
Learn the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow over sin.
3. He/she must be willing to follow the house rules.

V. Concluding Applications.

- A. Both parents and children are responsible. 23:13-16
- B. There is hope for failed parents and rebellious kids. Luke 15:17-20
- C. We are imperfect parents (and children) who desperately need grace.

Discussion Questions for Family Worship.

1. Does good parenting guarantee good kids?
2. What are some reasons why kids rebel?
3. What hope do parents have when they are faithful in training their children?
4. In what ways can foolish choices made in childhood affect your adult life?
5. What should parents do when their kids rebel?
6. How can outsiders help a family with rebellious children?
7. What are the expectations of children in your home in the following areas? (Curfew, entertainment standards, manner of speaking to parents, church involvement, treatment of siblings, work, chores, companions, and dress).
8. How do parents undermine their own standards of discipline?
9. What should parents do about a child who is absolutely incorrigible (out of control)?
10. What hope does the Bible offer for parents of rebellious children?