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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: *Who controls your home: Parent or Child?*

First, the Bible promises blessings to parents who train their children according to God's standards:

**Proverbs 23:24-25**

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

In contrast, the Bible promises curses to parents that refused to train and instruct their children by divine standards:

**Proverbs 10:1**

1 ... a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

**Proverbs 17:21**

21 He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.

**Proverbs 29:15**

15 ... a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

From these passages it is obvious that God holds parents totally responsible for the training of children. Parents who "farm" their children out to schools, day-care centers and baby sitters for training are neglecting their God-given responsibilities.

## **TWO PHASES OF TRAINING**

Next, the Bible clearly teaches there is a specific way to train each and every child. It is not a “hit-or-miss” proposition. There are two phases to child training:

- Control
- Teaching

1) **First, parents must control their children.** They must establish the right of rulership over their children.

2) **AFTER children have been trained to obey, they must be TAUGHT.**

Before receiving instructions from his parents a child must respect his parents’ word. Children will not accept instructions from parents they do not respect. But, before a child will respect his parents’ word, he must first become obedient.

Listen to the following passage of Scripture and see if this is not indeed the Biblical process:

### **Ephesians 6:1-4**

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother,” ...

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Notice three important words in this passage:

verse 1: **obey**

verse 2: **honor**

verse 4: **bring them up**

The divine plan for child training is for children to be taught to obey their parents first. Obedience will teach them honor for their parents' authority and word. Once the child honors his parents' word, parents are then in a position to "bring them up" or teach them proper standards of right and wrong.

## **CONTROLLING**

Let's focus in on the control aspect for a moment. When should parents begin to establish control over children so they will eventually be prepared for teaching? The Bible teaches "the sooner the better"!

### **Proverbs 19:18 (KJV)**

18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

This passage implies that there is an age when children are beyond hope. You allow a child to go too long disrespecting parental authority, and it will be too late.

When a child begins to challenge the parents' right to rule over him, you then have rebellion on your hands! Rebellion comes in two forms:

- **Active**
- **Passive**

**Active rebellion** is when a child defies you; says "NO" to your instructions, or walks away while you are still talking to him. Jesus gives us an example of active rebellion:

### **Matthew 21:28-29**

28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.'

29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' ...

When this son said, "*I will not,*" he was actively rebelling against his father.

**Passive rebellion** is harder to detect, but when a child continually “forgets” what you told him he is rebelling. He is saying basically, “Your word is not worth remembering to me.” Jesus gives an example of this:

**Matthew 21:30**

30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.

When this son delayed his obedience until he simply “forgot” about it, he was passively rebelling against his father.

## **HOW TO HANDLE REBELLION**

What should parents do about rebellion? How can parents “re-establish” their right to rule over their child and direct his affairs?

First, let’s talk about the wrong ways to handle rebellion.

- 1) **It is wrong to negotiate with a rebellious child.** This leaves the child in control of the parents rather than the parents in control of the child. By negotiating, the parents must give in and allow the rebellious child to have his way. If he doesn’t get his way, he merely rebels more until he does.
  
- 2) **It is wrong to bribe a rebellious child.** In doing this, the parent again relinquishes rulership over the child and the child is being paid money to behave himself. If the pay someday isn’t enough, he must have an increase in pay, or he rebels and does what he wants anyway.
  
- 3) **It is wrong to restrict the rebellious child’s privileges.** Rather than driving out rebellion, this merely causes resentment and the child pouts and fumes inside. Restricting privileges is merely adding fuel to the rebellious attitude that is present.

- 4) **It is wrong to re-direct the rebellious child's attention.** Some parents try re-directing the attention of the child to something else that might be better. But this still leaves the child in control of his own life. He is getting his own way. Rather than the parents in control of the child, the child is controlling the parents.

The only solution is to conquer rebellion. It must be crushed. Rebellion cannot be negotiated with, it cannot be bribed, it cannot be restricted. It must be conquered!

According to the Bible, the only way to handle rebellion is “chastise” the rebellious child with a rod.

Chastisement with a rod is not to be used to solve every problem. According to the Bible the rod is to be used only in cases of rebellion.

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**EXAMPLE:** If a child tracks mud in on the carpet, or spills his milk, he is not rebelling against authority and chastening with a rod is totally out of place.

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However, if a child refuses to do work that has been assigned to him, he is rebelling and the only Biblical solution to rebellion is the rod.

**Proverbs 13:24**

24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

**Proverbs 22:15**

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

**Proverbs 23:13-14**

13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

More passages could be given, but this is sufficient to prove the point. Rebellion can be conquered only by a rod.

We will continue with this subject next week.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site [www.WillOfTheLord.com](http://www.WillOfTheLord.com). There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.