

SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION (Part 3)

Ephesians 6:4 KJV 1900

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This verse points out how parents, particularly fathers, must be careful not to provoke their children (make them angry) unnecessarily. We said to you that one way parents do this is by *overcorrecting* their children. **Overcorrection** is when a parent overreacts and corrects their child way beyond what is necessary. Thus, the way to avoid overcorrection is to be **CONSISTENT** with your correction.

For example, you never want to correct a child more than you encourage them. So, if you tend to be hard on your children when they make a mistake, then be equally complimentary when they do well. If all you see as a parent are your children's flaws and nothing they do that is good, eventually your children will become discouraged.

Colossians 3:21

21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

At the same time, you never want to encourage a child more than you correct them. This can lead to a child refusing to self-correct or accept responsibility for their actions. This is because when you discipline a child you are showing them what happens when they fail to self-correct.

1 Corinthians 11:31

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Therefore, when a parent fails to correct their child they are basically teaching that child not to accept responsibility for their actions.

Show me an adult that does not take responsibility for their actions, and I'll show you someone who probably did not receive consistent correction as a child. In fact, the reason there are so many in our society who are willing to play the victim and who are unwilling to accept responsibility, is because many (if not most) of them were raised without discipline.

This is especially true among men in our society. We're seeing more and more men in our society refusing to accept responsibility. This may be due to the fact that so many of them are being raised by single moms. Mothers tend to be lenient on their sons. They try to encourage their sons into good behavior. However, bad behavior cannot be encouraged out of a child. It must be corrected out of them.

Proverbs 22:15

¹⁵ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

The fact that sin must be corrected out of a child reveals a more serious problem. That is, there are some sins that are passed on to children from parents.

Romans 5:12

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Notice, “all men” were made sinners because of the sin of one man—Adam. (This is proven by the fact that all men are subjected to the curse/death. If men were sinless they would not be subjected to the curse.) The fact that all men are subjected to the curse proves that all men are sinners! Moreover, this fact is the basis for what is commonly known as “generational curses.”

The phrase **generation curse** is the belief that the sins, and the curses, of one generation is passed on to the next generation through the blood. (This by no means excuses children from responsibility. Every person is still responsible for their sins.) It simply reveals that the problem of sin is not just behavioral. It’s ontological and generational!

Now, the thing we need to understand about sin, particularly those sins that are passed on to us by previous generations, is the fact that these sins often need something to unlock them!

Romans 5:13–14

¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

The fact that death reigns over the entire human race (even over those who did not sin the same way Adam did) tells us that there is a principle of sin at work in every human being. However, these sins aren’t *imputed* when there is no law. Meaning, God does not count sin against us when we are unaware of our sin.

So, even though sins are passed on to us by our parents, we do not come under the condemnation (judgment) of these sins until our conscience is aware of them.

1 John 3:20–21 KJV 1900

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

To put it another way, sins that are passed on to us from our parents do not take full effect in our life until our heart is awakened to them. Our hearts can be awakened to sin through knowledge (like from a law or a commandment), OR through offense (like when someone does something wrong to us).

However, once sin is awakened, demons can attach themselves to our sin and build strongholds around them. These strongholds come in the form of feelings of depression, rejection, addictions, unnatural affections and even lust. These strongholds are a sign that sin has been awakened in our heart.

Thus, parents should try to avoid exposing their children to certain images, feelings or trauma for as long as they can. Because once sin is awakened in your child, the effects of that sin will immediately go into effect.

I believe this is why we see abuse so prevalent among children. The devil is trying to unlock curses from previous generations. Moreover, he understands that these “sins” are unlocked through over exposure and/or trauma.

Furthermore, it’s important for parents to be aware of their own struggles and sins. If you are aware and honest about your own sins, then you will be able to recognize them in your children. Moreover, you will also be able to anticipate how the enemy will try and target your children.

Do you struggle with acceptance? Then, chances are, so will your children. Do you struggle with rejection? Then, chances are, so will your children. Do you struggle with narcissism (self-importance and a lack of empathy for others)? Then, chances are, so will your children or even your grandchildren. In fact, every battle you don’t win or refuse to fight you inevitably leave for your children to fight! Thus, as parents we are shaping the next generation in more ways that we think.