

TRAIN UP A CHILD

(Proverbs 22.6)

Central Idea: *Christian parents are called to interrupt the natural, wayward course of their children's lives and influence them toward godliness.*

Proverbs:

Better to be safe than to punch a 5th grader

Strike while the bug is close

Don't bite the hand that looks dirty

You can't teach an old dog math

A penny saved is not much

Children should be seen and not spanked or grounded

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and you have to blow your nose

Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Famous verse

Difficult one to interpret

Esp important because parents cling to it as a promise or even as a general principle – dealing with our children so it is vitally important to us

I. A Common Understanding of Proverbs 22.6

All of our English translations

Common inter – promise – if you do your job as a parent right, your children will turn out alright

So the verse would be teaching ... Children make many mistakes in the course of life but those raised in a godly home will be inclined toward righteousness.

Problem if this verse is understood as a promise: it doesn't always work out that work – godly parents have children that don't follow in their footsteps; and God, our perfect heavenly father, would have to have failed as a parent (Isa 11.2- children have I reared but they have rebelled against me)

So, the common manner of dealing with that is to understand that the proverbs aren't promises but principles

II. A Better Interpretation of Proverbs 22.6

A better interpretation The verse is not a promise or a principle but a warning

A better translation of this verse would be ... dedicate a child according to his way ... or train an adolescent in his own way and when he is old he won't depart from it

It is picturing a parent who willingly surrenders a child over to his own sinful ways and warns that the child will continue to live in that lifestyle if you do this as a parent

22.15

29.15

A. train up
ha noak
dedicate or initiate but probably train

B. child
na are
adolescent; unmarried young man or young adult; late teen and early 20s
Bruce Waltke points out that this word is used of those who ...
Act foolishly - What they try to get away with is not good stuff
Gullible
Lacks sense
Folly in his heart
Dishonest
In need of correction
Disgraces his parents

C. the way he should go
according to his own way

Richard Clifford paraphrases the verse this way: let a boy do what he wants; he'll grow up to be a self-willed adult, incapable of change

Here's what's likely to happen that you won't like unless you give your child proper parental guidance

don't give them their own way at the time when they are powerfully starting to demand their own way
music lessons
church
school

III. Parenting in Light of Proverbs 22.6

1 Christian parents are called to interrupt the natural, wayward course of their children's lives and influence them toward godliness.

The heart of a child isn't good or even neutral, but it is sinful to the core
But with wise, persistent, biblical, parental intervention, God works

Can't force your child to change – need more than parental intervention, they need divine intervention –

People do not automatically follow Christ because of their upbringing

Speak to your children (teach)

Discipline

Warn

Pray

2 Guard against having a judgmental attitude toward parents whose children are struggling.

assuming they have failed as parents

God doesn't promise that good child rearing will automatically produce good adult children (nor is the converse true – we should not give up on those who were raised by parents who passed very little if anything onto them in a spiritual sense)

The job description certainly changes, but we don't ever stop being a parent.

Two extremes: insert yourself into your adult children lives unwisely
Stop seeing yourself as the parent of your children (Our parenting role isn't over when our children turn 16 or 18 or graduate from college)

FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Consider the home you grew up in. What kind of a spiritual example did your parents leave for you?
2. What are the greatest challenges parents (or grandparents or those who minister to children) face today in raising children in our culture?
3. What are you doing to proactively train your children to choose the right path?
4. How does the role of a parent change as a child grows? Why is this important to recognize?
5. Make a list of different ways to pray for children. Keep it in your Bible and pray daily for them.

Community Bible Church
Rev. Charles Tschetter, Lead Pastor

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *Train Up a Child* is the first message in a series on Proverbs: Wise Living in a Foolish World. This message can be listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org. You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from itunes or google play.



WISE LIVING IN A FOOLISH WORLD

PROVERBS

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Proverbs: Wise Living in a Foolish World

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- A Better Interpretation of Proverbs 22.6
- Parenting in Light of Proverbs 22.6

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- ❑ Guard against having a judgmental attitude toward parents whose children are struggling.

Parenting in Light of Proverbs 22.6

- Christian parents are called to interrupt the natural, wayward course of their children's lives and influence them toward godliness.
- Guard against having a judgmental attitude toward parents whose children are struggling.
- Parenthood is a lifelong role.