

Train Up a Child

06/06/2021

INTRODUCTION

At our church we have traditionally celebrated our children and youth on the first Sunday of June. And so today, we will take the remaining moments we have to do just that. King Solomon wrote these words in Proverbs 22:6:

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

Proverbs 22:6

Couple observations here:

First of all, we need to understand the nature of Proverbs. These statements are presented as truisms, and not being presented as unequivocal truths. In other words, this is not being presented as a hard and fast, take it to the bank, kind of promise. But rather a general truth. Generally speaking, train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

The second thing I want to highlight is the phrase “train up”. The Hebrew word for “train up” is a difficult one to capture in our English language. Probably the best way to understand this word would be to smooch two English words together. That is, “dedicate” and “disciple”. Dedicate/Disciple your child in the way he should go, even he is old he will not depart from it.

In our Western mindset, we tend to think of training someone in something as teaching them knowledge. But in the Hebrew mindset, it started with dedicating this child to the LORD, and then teaching/training them to follow the LORD, thus the word disciple them.

So... as parents, we are called to dedicate/disciple your children.

We are to DEDICATE Our Children to the LORD (1 Samuel 1:24-28)

²⁴After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull,^[e] an ephah^[f] of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. ²⁵When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, ²⁶and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.” And he worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:24-28

We are to DISCIPLE Our Children (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 5:28-6:9

Couple observations:

- We are called to FEAR and LOVE the LORD our God (vs. 2b, 5)
- To fear and love the LORD means to OBEY His commands (vs. 2, 6; John 14:21)
- God wants us *and our future generations* to know and follow Him (vs. 2a)
- This is going to require:
 - Systematic TRAINING (vs. 7a)
 - Watch for TEACHABLE MOMENTS (vs. 7b)
 - Be a godly EXAMPLE of someone seeking to live in full obedience to God's Word (vs. 8)
 - Make your home a godly ENVIRONMENT (vs. 9)

CONCLUSION

Challenge #1—Parents, let's do this!

Challenge #2—Children/Youth, you have to make this faith your own.

A Blessing (Numbers 6:22-27)

²² *The LORD said to Moses, ²³“Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:*

²⁴ *““The LORD bless you
and keep you;*

²⁵ *the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;*

²⁶ *the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.””*

²⁷ *“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*