

# Raising Godly Children

Ted Webb

Rusty, Keith, Justin and Colin's Dad

## Foundation

- Our personal walk  
John 14:21  
1 John 5:11-13
- Our marriage  
Ephesians 5:25-28  
1 Peter 3:7  
Genesis 2:20, 24

## Why are we concerned about raising godly children?

Ephesians 6:4  
1 Corinthians 4:22  
Matthew 28:19-20  
3 John 3-4

## What is Biblical Fathering?

Three levels of fathering

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Proverbs on Discipline

Prov 22:6

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

Prov 13:24

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

Prov 22:15

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

Prov 29:15

15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom,  
But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Prov 10:1

A wise son makes a glad father,  
But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

### Helpful rules on discipline

1. Discipline in the context of a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Communicate the rules \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and make sure they understand them.
3. Make the \_\_\_\_\_ for misbehavior small
4. Allow \_\_\_\_\_ to provide the discipline.

### Stages of child rearing—example of the funnel.

#### Developing trusting relationships

A father must set the spiritual tone for the family.

Ephesians 5:23

Colossians 1:9

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

A father must understand and earn the right to enter his child's private world.

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A father must be the family encourager.

#### **What do we do when we have blown it?**

- The first step is to tell God that we want to change.
  - We need to seek forgiveness not only from our children but also from our wife
  - Work to strengthen your husband-wife relationship.
  - Invite your wife or your children to have the freedom to work on your weaknesses.
- Galatians 6:1

#### Some guiding principles:

1. Teens cannot verbally assault their parents. They must speak honestly and honorably at the same time.
2. Both teens and parents must be in agreement on the particular weakness or weaknesses to be worked on.
3. Teens must come with a desire to help, not accuse; their motives must be right.
4. Teens must be in control of their own attitudes when making an observation or accusation.
5. Struggling teens must want to start over. Their willingness to start over demonstrates their desire to have a relationship with you.

Thursday – In favor with man – socially

1. That they have gracious speech. (Col. 4:6)
2. That they develop a love for righteousness and moral purity (1 John 2:15-16)
3. That they will be caught if they wander into cheating, lies or mischief. (Prov. 20:30)
4. That they develop an attractive lifestyle based on principles of scripture.  
Faithfulness – Prov. 20:6  
Loyal – Prov. 3:4  
Skillful – Prov. 22:29  
Resourceful – Ps. 1:3  
Hard working – Ps 1:3  
Reliable and honest – Lk. 8:15, Titus 3:1  
Of good repute – Prov. 22:1  
wisdom. (Prov. 9:9, 12:1)
5. That they learn to appreciate correction, reproof and wisdom. (Prov. 9:9, 12:1)
6. That they share Christ and lead many to Christ. (Isa:12)

Saturday – For Sons or Son-in-laws (present or future)

1. That God would develop leadership qualities in their lives by giving them a clear vision of His will based on His word, and produce in them honesty, faithfulness, a servant's heart, generosity, humility, loyalty, courage, compassion and skill. (Ps 78:70-72)
2. A holy life above reproach. (1 Tim. 3:2)
3. That they would stay morally pure. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
4. A godly wife. (Prov. 31:10)
5. Knit my heart to their hearts for life. (1 Sam. 18:1)

Friday – For daughters or daughter-in-law (present or future)

1. That they grow to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind and submissive. (Titus 2:5)
2. That they acquire the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit. (1 Peter 3:4)
3. Remove fears and replace them with a quiet confidence. (1 Peter 3:6, Prov. 3:5)
4. Security in Christ, His protection, His provision, His completeness (John 10:28, Heb. 13:6)
5. A godly husband. (Ps. 128:14)
6. That God would knit her heart to mine for life. (1 Sam. 18:1)

### Sunday—In Wisdom—Intellect and Righteousness

1. That my children would develop keenness of mind and clarity of thinking. That they would be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Matt. 10:16)
2. That the Lord would guard their minds from Satanic, worldly and carnal influences. (II Cor. 11:3)
3. That they have a heart to learn from their parents, that they be teachable. Eph. 6:4, Prov. 1:8-9 LB
4. Purity of heart and mind, to be filled with righteousness. (Prov. 4:23)
5. Thank the Lord for the gracious gift of your children and how He is using them in your life to mold you into the image of Christ. (Psalm 127:3-5, Gen. 33:5)

### Tuesday—In Stature—Physically

1. That they be safe from evil and tragedy and from godless people whom God has turned over to a reprobate mind. (Psalm 138:7, 34:7)
2. Our children would stay pure. (Psalm 24:4, Job 17:9)
3. That they be strong and in good health (Prov. 15:30)
4. That they gain godly stature and be mighty of spirit. (I Sam. 10:26—men of valor whose hearts God had touched)
5. That God would enrich their lives with quality and memorable experiences. (Prov. 3:1-2)

### Monday—In Wisdom—Socially and Educationally

1. God would place a protective hedge around our children so strong that Satan cannot enter and lead them into temptation. (Psalm 33:20, Job 1:10)
2. Our children would use godly wisdom in selecting their friends, for friends and peers do make a difference. (Prov. 1:10, Deut. 13:6-8, I Cor. 15:33)
3. They will be alert and thinking as they attend school and take exams and they will be motivated to do the best they are capable of doing. (Col. 3:23, I Cor. 10:31)
4. Pray for your children's teachers (school, church, etc.), coach and principal that God would give them wisdom in teaching, ability to communicate, fairness, patience and a soft heart for God. (Col. 1:9-12)

### Wednesday—In favor with God—Spiritually

1. That Christ would be the Lord of their life. (Luke 6:46, 14:26-27)
2. That God would give them a hunger for His word. (I Peter 2:2)
3. That God would fill their hearts with zeal for Christ and His kingdom. (John 2:17)
4. That they will be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)
5. Their lives will count for God and He will use them as a testimony and witness for His glory. Ask that they exceed us, not materially or educationally, but in their spiritual walk! (Psalm 103:17-18, Isa. 54:13, Psalm 78:1-8)

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### MY DAD!

By Charles R. Swindoll

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, unless it is something he sees the father doing." John 5:19*

My dad died last night.

He left as he had lived, quietly, graciously, and with dignity. Without demands or harsh words or even a frown, he surrendered himself – a tired, frail, humble gentleman, into the waiting arms of his Savior. Death, selfish and cursed enemy of man, won another battle.

As I stroked the hair from his forehead and kissed him good-bye, **a hundred boyhood memories played around in my head:** when I learned to ride a bike, he was there; when I wrestled with the multiplication table, his quick wit erased the hassle; when I discovered the adventure of driving a car, he was near, encouraging me; when I got my first job (delivering newspapers), he informed me how to increase my subscriptions and win the prize; when I mentioned a young woman I had fallen in love with, he pulled me aside and talked straight about being responsible for her welfare and happiness; when I did a hitch in the marine Corps, the discipline I had learned from him made the transition easier.

Last night I realized I had him to thank for my deep love for America, for knowing how to tenderly care for my wife and for laughing at impossibilities. I thank him for some of the habits I picked up like: approaching people with a positive spirit rather than a negative one, staying with a task until it is finished, taking good care of my personal belongings, keeping my shoes shined, speaking up rather than mumbling, respecting authority, and standing alone (if necessary) in support of my personal convictions rather than giving in to more popular opinions. For these things I am deeply indebted to the man who raised me.

Admittedly, much of my dad's instruction was indirect, by model rather than by explicit statement. I do not recall his overt declarations of love as clearly as I do his demonstrations of it. **His life revolved around my mother, the darling and delight of his life.** Of that I am sure. When she died, over nine years ago, something of him died as well. And so, to her he has been joined and **they are together, with our Lord, in the closest possible companionship one can imagine.**

This week thank God for your father on earth, and if you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, *thank God for adopting you.* John 1:12

This week is also a good week to thank your earthly father for all he has done for you.

**SAVE THIS DATE! JANUARY 28 - 29**  
**MEN LEADING THE CHARGE**  
**GOD'S GAME PLAN FOR A MAN AND HIS FAMILY**  
**DR. STEVE FARRAR**

CBMC is a Charter Member, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability



Dads, want to ruin you kids? Here are seven sure fire ways to do it

#1 Don't inconvenience yourself with managing the home. Rather, leave it to your wife. That will pretty well insure a shrill atmosphere as she carries the emotional burden of running the household. Don't let her rely upon you as a back up in discipline or in setting a positive tone. In time she will burn out and grow resentful but you will be free to continue an adolescent lifestyle of self-indulgence through your adult years. *He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.* (1 Tim 3:4)

#2 Don't bother to encourage your kids. As one old man told me, "When I was growing up there weren't enough 'atta boy's." When the kid gets a "B" on his report card, jump on him: when your boy strikes out in Little League, let him know he should have done better (never mind the fact that he hit .333 for the day). *Fathers, do not exasperate your children...* (Eph. 6:4a) (See Gen. 31:14,15; 1 Sam. 20:30-34; Col. 3:21)

#3 Choose not to get personally involved in their lives. That is, give directives. Be the boss. Keep your distance emotionally. Never say, "I'm sorry." Stay at the office longer and miss their ball games and concerts. Bring your work home with you. Don't bother to tuck them in at night or tell them stories. Be a perfectionist. Scold them when they spill their milk. Be sparse in handing out affirmation or compliments. ... *We dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God...* (1 Thess. 2:11b,12b) (See Matt. 7:9,10)

#4 Don't worry about modeling the values you claim to embrace. Ignore the fact that your kids desperately need a dad who is genuinely authentic. *I will be careful to lead a blameless life... I will walk in my house with blameless heart.* (Psa. 101:2a,c)

#5 Absolve yourself from the responsibility of instructing your children in spiritual matters. Leave it up to your wife or the church. That will pretty much guarantee the fact that the boys will view Christianity as a weak proposition. Your daughters, in all likelihood will look for men like their father: Spiritually insipid. *Fathers... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* (Eph. 6:4a,c) (See Gen. 18:19)

#6 Stunt their development by exercising such a standard of control and perfection that a lack of trust is communicated. Could a father's actions here reflect his lack of confidence in how he raised them? *(Love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* (1 Cor. 13:7) (See Rom. 15:1)

#7 Criticize and undermine your wife especially in front of the children. Never demonstrate affection toward her in their presence. Allow the kids to drive a wedge between the two of you. Argue a lot and be sure to always "win." *Husbands... be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect... and do not be harsh with them.* (1 Pet. 3:7a,c; Col. 3:19b) (See Ecc. 9:9; Prov. 5:18,19; Eph. 5:25, 28,29)

The "Facts of the Matter" is also available through the Internet: <http://www.factsofthematter.org>

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