

Introduction

Train Up a Child God's Way



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

Proverbs 22:6 KJ2000

How are spiritually reborn Christians to train up a child God's way? Before looking at how to train up children and what to teach them, Christians should be sure that they themselves are diligently striving to trust and obey God in every area of life. This includes continually growing in biblical spiritual maturity—Christlikeness—and viewing all of life through the lens of the Bible. This is an essential starting point for honoring God in how we raise our children. These principles apply also to Christian grandparents and others who are involved in role modeling, teaching, or otherwise influencing a child's values, attitudes, and worldview in a way that honors God.

Much of what children learn from us comes from their observing how we live our lives and whether or not we live what we teach. To the extent that our moment-by-moment living is consistent with the solid biblical teaching we give our children, we are being obedient to God in fulfilling our responsibilities as parents. This, coupled with wise biblical decisions for our families and praying for our children, is the mission God has given to parents and other Christians who have a significant influencing role on children.

Train Up a Child God's Way is designed to support Christian parents and other Christians who desire to train up or help train up children biblically. When my wife Heidi and I were raising our young children, we were new Christians. I wish we had a biblical resource like this to help us as Christian parents. It would also have been valuable in showing me where I needed to grow as a Christian man, husband, and father. This document is also applicable to Christians teaching Sunday school or leading small groups involving youth. May this resource be helpful to you in training up children God's way or in supporting and encouraging those who are.

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Chapter 1

God Calls Parents to Train Up Children His Way



Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18–20 NIV

God desires a perfect relationship with the human beings that He created in His image. Satan chose to worship self rather than His Creator. The devil is totally committed to leading as many people as possible to reject God and His offer for an eternal relationship with Him. This world, nations, churches, families, and each of us individually are involved in the great spiritual war between God and Satan. In this war, one of Satan’s main targets is what children learn and believe before they reach adulthood. Satan and this world are intent on teaching children to reject God and His ways, distrust the Bible, embrace the philosophies and values of this world, exalt personal pleasure, glorify self, and customize one’s own spiritual reality. The success of these efforts is evident as we view our world. God calls Christians to be actively involved in this spiritual war. This is not just for protecting ourselves. God has chosen to involve us in His rescuing and protecting of others, including children, from Satan and the world.

God’s command to make disciples includes making disciples of children. Thus, part of our mission as Christians is to be directly or indirectly involved in training up children God’s way. These children may be your children, your grandchildren, or children who are directly or indirectly within your sphere of influence. The Bible verses that follow show us how important properly training up children is to God. May we be faithful to this mission.

Train Up a Child God's Way

For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

Genesis 18:19 ESV

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 NASB

**“These words,
which I am
commanding you today,
shall be on your heart.
“You shall teach them
diligently to your sons
...**

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.
“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NASB

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NKJV

Chapter 1 God Calls Parents to Train Up Children His Way

O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Psalms 78:1-8 NIV

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

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 13:24 ESV

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

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Proverbs 22:15 ESV

Train Up a Child God's Way

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 23:13-14 NIV

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

Proverbs 29:15 NKJV

Correct your son, and he shall give you rest; yea, he shall give delight unto your soul.

Proverbs 29:17 KJ2000

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

And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV

Chapter 1 God Calls Parents to Train Up Children His Way

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:14-15 NIV

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:6 NKJV

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NASB

**Fathers,
do not provoke
your children to anger,
but bring them up
in the discipline
and instruction
of the Lord.**

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Acts 20:26-27 NKJV

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4 ESV

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Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:18-21 ESV

For you know that 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, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NIV

**Children,
obey your parents
in everything,**

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: . . . in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Titus 2:1, 7-8 NKJV