

Child Training — Notes from Teachers' Meetings

The following is a compilation of various notes concerning our mind on training children taken during discussions at teachers' meetings in Island Pond in October 1980.

October 2, 1980

If we aren't receiving grace our children won't be. We are raising them in a spirit.

Pr 22:6

Our God has provided the perfect environment for our children to be raised up in. The way they should go is into the kingdom. This is the highest goal possible for a human being. It requires that we receive grace *every day*. Those who train children without a pure conscience endanger the children they train. They train them to function without a pure conscience. We *all* need grace, for we *all* are needed to raise these children, and He will *always* give it.

Eph 4:11,16 (Amplified)

The Body builds itself up in love *when* each member does his part, each individual functioning in his gift.

Our children are going to be selfish; they have moral faults. We discipline them for disobedience and rebellion, not for growing up.

Eph 4:1-2

Our Father isn't discouraged with us. He doesn't say, "Look at you: You're pitiful, you're awful, etc." He is just diligent. We pour our lives into our children the way our Master poured his life into His disciples. They caught glimpses of what He was saying, but they never really "got it" until they received the Spirit. Then all their training came back to them. He was patient, waiting for that day. We can be, too.

TRAIN CHILDREN

- 1) To be touchable — how we touch them has much to do with this

- 2) Not to be foolish — to avoid empty chatter. We therefore must be real with our words when we are in their presence.
- 3) To be still — to channel their energy into something constructive.
- 4) To be covered — instead of us running them down, they must come to us to see what our will is. A child left to his own way will go down to Sheol (Pr 14:12; 16:25).

Mothers are not in the community to get away from being a mother and “serve the Lord,” depending on the single people to care for the children. “Career women” use the day care center for this purpose, and we see the fruit of that. We are here to be trained to be more able and efficient at parenting. We are the ones who will help the orphans and widows and those less able to care for their children. The less able need never feel ashamed, but should have vision passed on to them that they are learning to be better parents.

Pr 1:1-6

OUR CHILDREN NEED INSTRUCTION IN:

- 1) Wise dealings
- 2) The discipline of thoughtfulness
- 3) Righteousness
- 4) Justice
- 5) Integrity

2 Tim 3:16 — Scripture is profitable for teaching, correction, instruction in righteousness. The truth is obscure. Dark sayings — a proverb or parable where the actual meaning is hidden. Do we want wisdom? Look to the proverbs.

2 Tim 3:15 — From *childhood* you have known the sacred writings ... leading to salvation through faith.

The best system of logic is established when the child is young, before he learns to reason independently. Teaching them what “no” means lays the foundation for proper reasoning — training their senses to discern good and evil. Our minds are not capable of reasoning independently. We are built with an inherent need for dependence on God. Discipline opens our eyes to sin and helps us reason rightly that we need Him. Sin does not make sense. It is not reasonable to hate, envy, or destroy.

2 Tim 3:1 — Discipline brings emotional security. It will take inner violence to enter the kingdom in these last days. We must put demands (a little pressure) on our children so that they can rise to the challenge and change. We can't set a standard and expect all children to meet it at the same time. Each must be challenged according to his own current situation.

Root out selfish ambition — the spirit that says, “I'm older than you” — age does not matter.

Fantasy leads to lying. It's the same spirit. Children should be so involved in what we are doing that they won't have time for fantasy. Children with lots of energy need lots of encouragement and direction for that energy.

Scheduling children in the household. Scheduling is foreign. We should not have such a thing. The only purpose for it is order and care, as a stimulus for children developing relationships with others in the household. Even the youngest children should see that they are a vital part of the functioning of the household. Where can their time be used to help supply the needs of the household? The purpose of this is *NOT* to lighten the burden on the parents.

Nothing will be accomplished by scheduling. Each member of the household must have vision and a burden for the children. There is no child labor law to say that a child must not work — or that he must work. It is not work but life that we are striving for. Making them a *vital* part of our life. Caring for them. Building them up in the area of their gifting. Strengthening them in areas of their weaknesses.

The schedule should make itself obsolete. If we aren't dull we should be aware of one another's needs. This is not a crutch for parents or a substitute for their authority. Give children room to breathe, let them get lots of exercise, don't work them or leave them alone with tasks. Communicate and take an interest. Use the time to develop the children's concepts. Everything we talk to them about needs *much* explanation in order to develop their concepts.

No remorse about taking on a child! We must get used to it. In several years we may have several children with us at one time, directing their energies in vital service.

Our children's attention span needs to be lengthened. They must be trained to watch or listen as we work and talk. It is the *cross* to pour ourselves into others, giving up our desires for their benefit. Despite difficulties, it will work out if we have the proper mind.

Every child needs appreciation, knowing and feeling that they are loved. We look at our children, giving them all our attention so that they know what they are saying and doing is important. Looking at them only when they are rebuked will cause them to hate your look.

So also parents, when you help them raise their children, need balanced communication - good points as well as problems. Our children's motivation for obedience is this feeling that they are loved. When this is cut off, they will long to be restored. This is how they learn to love doing Our Father's will more than their own will.

This must be established firmly; suffering draws out of us a desire to seek our own comfort. So they must have a foundation of loving to help their mother with the laundry — because of her love — more than they want to go fishing. Discipline (chastisement, the rod) is only a small part of what needs to be put into our children. When it is the main way that you communicate, it drives their heart away rather than bringing it back. Children raised in this way will grow up and leave the community.

We will not rule in the kingdom if we don't pass on to our children what we are learning.

The seeds of decay are in our children. If we do not deal with things in our children *now* we will be destroyed.

Underdiscipline accomplishes nothing. It is better not to discipline our children at all — “The blueness of the wound drives away all evil.”

FANTASY (pretending) leads to lying — it is the same spirit.

Our children must be so involved in what we are doing that they won't have time for fantasy. Dolls give children a false idea of what caring for a baby is all about, and toy trucks give a false idea of the responsibility of driving a vehicle. It is hard work to produce children who work and are functional. Toys provide an easier, broader way that leads to the destruction of our children's character.

Selfishness is the root of all our frustrations with our children: we don't take the time (away from our own concerns) to deal with them properly.

There was total unity between Abraham, Isaac, and God when Abraham sacrificed Isaac, because Isaac was convinced of his father's love.

We must not force ourselves on our children to make them receive their discipline. We can bring in more authority. The father is greater authority than the mother. If that doesn't do it, get more authority.

ROTE: when we don't uphold our relationship with our children, but try to uphold the Apostolic teaching, then we are disciplining out of principle. We must lead our children into obedience (by our heart being set on them). We can't just expect obedience out of principle.

REASONING — telling a child why they should obey you, trying to establish your authority by a mental process. Our children should obey us because we obey our father, and are full of the Holy Spirit.

REPROOF — explaining how they were disobedient.