

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Parenting

"Before I got married, I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children – and no theories." – Lord Rochester

"The best parents are those who have no children of their own." – Mark Aites

"Religious words have value to the child only as experience in the home gives them meaning." – John Drescher

"If you don't firmly program your children's minds with truth, someone else will do so with half-truth, untruth, and unimportant truth." – Anonymous

"Making the decision to have a child – it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking outside your body." – Elizabeth Stone

My how we love our children, and rightly so. God would have it no other way.

Simply stated, parenting is not easy. Raising children is not for the faint of heart. So much of your time, love, sweat, and tears is required. God places the responsibility for their upbringing into the hands of their parents.

It has often been said that virtually anyone can be responsible for the birth of a child, but it takes a lot more to be a parent. Parents have the charge of imparting God's truths into the hearts of their children (cf. Deut. 6). "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Far too many today want to raise them without discipline of any kind. They think that disciplining their children is not for their betterment, but in fact harmful. Apparently they have not read, "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Heb. 12:5-6). "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Prov. 13:24).

Our children are special because they are a part of us. We love them, provide for them, discipline them when necessary (for their good), protect them, and often make sacrifices for them.

Yes, sometimes they disappoint us. But we must remember they are free will agents just as we are, and they have to learn to make their own decisions. And in turn they must do the same with their own children.

Are we going to make mistakes as parents? Probably. There is no such thing in this world as a perfect parent. Such is a delusion. But God expects us to try to be the best parents we can be. May God help us to make that a reality, and to help our children then to make that a reality for their children.