

Messenger Of Truth

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

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Who Is In Charge?

"The thing that impresses me most about America is the way parents obey their children." (Edward VIII, Duke of Windsor, Look, 5 Mar 1957) This is amazing when you consider that it was written more than 50 years ago!

In the New Yorker, Daniel Zalewski, in an article entitled, "The Defiant Ones," wrote that, "kids are solidly in charge." Welcome to a stark reality of the 21st century.

Scripture is being rewritten. "Fathers, obey your children in the Lord, for this is right, Children, provoke not your fathers to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Strange, that is not how my copy of the sacred text reads, but it sure is obvious in far too many homes.

Look again at the plain teaching of Scripture: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training (nurture) and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:2-4). The charge with obedience falls upon the children. Their upbringing in the Lord is a charge that falls to fathers, and not the other way around!

Notice in verse 2, that children should obey their parents in the Lord. Why? "For this is right." It is the right and proper thing to do! According to whom? God! Note the parallel: "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord" (Col. 3:20).

The word "training" (NKJV), or "nurture" (KJV), is from the Greek *paideia*, which is an encompassing word that would include discipline, and correction. The ASV renders it "chastening".

The word admonition, is from *nouthesia*, which is literally, "a putting in mind." This term stresses the idea of instruction.

Isn't it amazing that this task falls to the parents, which would seem to signify that the parents are to be the ones in control!

In our culture today we have proverbially "shot ourselves in the foot" by taking discipline out of the raising of children. And we seem to have "shot ourselves in the other foot" by making our instruction of little consequence. How can one raise a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6), if you adopt the philosophy that all truth is relative?

Paul hit the proverbial "nail on the head" when he said "we reap what we sow" (Gal. 6:7-8).