

Raising Up Godly Children Part 2

***“6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
(Proverbs 22:6 KJV)***

The Bible is the best guide for us today on how to raise our children in a Godly way. We can learn from the Bible many new beneficial things from several narratives of children being raised as Godly men and women to serve God and live for Him. Godly marriages and preparation for them would be rooted from the age of childhood when children are nurtured, and discipline implemented.

Children’s discipline, we can say about the success of it, can be recognized when it will end up with Godly marriages having Godly children who know God and live for Him.

The father and mother of every family are called by the Lord to implement discipline so that the family could preserve holiness and Godliness in their life, for each family is a local congregation inside the church. A healthy family has rules and discipline, consistent and is derived from the rules and teachings of the church that is based on the Bible.

“4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4 KJV) Many parents and teachers explained wrongly this verse and they say that parents should give to their children what they want and to please them, but that is not correct. Parents should give their children what they need and based on the will of God. Because when you give to your children what they want and not what they need, then when you come to discipline them, then the children are already annoyed. Why? Because the children have no fear of God and no regard for the Word of God because they are used to take what they want; therefore they no longer listen to and obey their parents. *** Listen parents, never give to your children what they want but rather give them what they need. * Before thinking about the frustration of the children, teaching them and training them in the instructions of the Lord should be applied first and foremost, so that the children would have a long and prosperous life as God promised as they will obey their parents: “1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:1-3 KJV)**

Parents to be powerful and effective in the teaching and training children in the Lord’s instructions, they should live Godly lives and not be involved with sin because the consequence of the sins of the parents may transfer to their children. **Parents examine yourself well and repent of your sins so that sins and the curses of such sins shall not transfer into the life of your children.**

There are discussion and questions in the minds of the brethren that goes in this way: Certain children in the Bible, for example, Cain, who had a bad attitude toward his brother Abel, did Adam and Eve did their part in disciplining him? Another example is the bad attitude of Esau toward Jacob, did Isaac and Rebekah disciplined Esau according to the Word of God? Even to Jacob’s sons who have bad attitudes toward one another, did Jacob watched his children and discipline them properly? Because as the Word of God says the purpose of Godly marriage is to raise a Godly offspring from the beginning, but why it happened repeatedly to God’s

servant’s children to have disobedient spirit and came out that bad attitudes from them? Especially that supposed to be the responsibility of the parents to discipline them.

After we read the above observations and the query about them, we can conclude, the importance for us as parents that we need to do our part well in disciplining our children. If we will do our part well, there still may be a possibility of disobedience, but how about if we will not do it? It will be worse. Most likely the above-mentioned parents, Adam and Eve, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, and his wives did their parts. For example, Cain and Abel will not come to worship God if the parents, Adam and Eve, did not do their part and taught them about worshipping God.

But, one more thing; how if the servants of God, will not do their part in disciplining their children? That will be their fault. **That is why we as parents need to continue to teach and follow up with our children and do all that we can to raise them in a Godly manner. Even if we have done our part well, we still need to follow up all over again to avoid as much as we can such bad outcomes for children as we stated in the above-given examples.**

*** Another thing that we need to stress on is that we should not boast. If our children are good, we should think in this way: It is not because we have done our part well but because God is good. We still need to humble down and give glory to God for a good outcome for our children. * But if we have not done our part this is sin. * As well as, if we have done our part and the children are not good, that is not an excuse for us or for others not to persevere in doing God’s instructions in disciplining and training our children.**

So we need to do our part, and in the end, if they will not obey and change they are accountable for themselves. As long as we are alive we need to continue to admonish and teach our children and train them in the way of righteousness.

Let us move now and go forward in our discussion tackling other Scriptures and examples of parents and men and women of God of how they disciplined and dealt with their children.

David was a man after God’s own heart, yet when he sinned his whole family was affected: ***“10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.” (2 Samuel 12:10-13 KJV)*** David truly repented and God forgave him, yet the consequence of his sin was already upon his children. To start with his son born from adultery died, and calamity after calamity happened in his household. ***“1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David’s brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. 4 And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king’s son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom’s sister.***

5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick; and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. 6 So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.” (2 Samuel 13:1-6 KJV) David was obedient to God but he was not a good disciplinarian to his children. He loved God and his children, but he was not a discernor of the evil intent of men. He trusted God but he was not cautious about what God had spoken about his household. David was unaware that the devil’s ambassador was inside the family, his nephew Jonadab, who taught and motivated sin.

“7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. 9 And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. 10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. 12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. 13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. 14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. 15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. 16 And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. 17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her. 18 And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. 19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. 20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. 21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth. 22 And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. 23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. 24 And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. 25 And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. 26 Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? 27 But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. 28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and

be valiant. 29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.” (2 Samuel 13:7-29 KJV) One sin that David failed to deal with brought another sin and more destruction over all his family. David did not take disciplinary action against Amnon because he loved him being his son, but finally, he lost him. “37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.” (2 Samuel 13:37 KJV) David failed also to discipline Absalom, but finally he lost him.

Parents should always be watchful and aware that the devil has come to steal, to kill, to rob, and destroy. Being cautious of sins and all its evil consequences, the devil traps and schemes should be avoided by implementing practical and technical rules and disciplines in the family and church consistent with God’s commands and instructions and as the following:

I. Avoid boys and girls mingle together: Boys should be in the company of boys and girls with girls. Giving permission or allowing a man and woman to be in intimacy is the devil’s trick to inject in one or both of their minds and emotions to sin. Opposite gender always attracts each other. Boaz implemented a good rule in his farm that is worthily to be followed today in life and ministry: “8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: 9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.” (Ruth 2:8-9 KJV) Boys should be with boys and girls should be with girls. In addition, let also boy and girls avoid touching each other, “***I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee?***” (Ruth 2:9 KJV)

Job said the following: “***I I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?***” (Job 31:1 KJV) Job made a covenant with his eyes not to watch women; therefore, he did not need to think about watching women. * Let us teach boys not to watch women, and let us teach girls not to watch boys. I teach boys that when women are passing by avoid looking at them but look down. I teach the same for the girls when men are passing by avoid looking at them but look down. * Training on such a thing is beneficial and fruitful in avoiding troubles.

II. Be cautious about previous sins in the family: God forgave every confessed sin, but parents should be mobilized to protect their children from doing the same sin in the family. The prophet Nathan prophesied to David that what he did would be repeated in his household. But, David should not have been passive in restraining his children from doing wrong because he had done the same in the past. Instead, he should be discerning to avoid circumstances that would lead his children to sin. Parents need to teach their children and show them the dangers around them, even from their previous life experience to warn them not to do what had already happened in the past. This would please God, and serve as another expression of repentance, and illustration for the children not to commit the same category of sin. “***6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.***” (1 Corinthians 10:6 KJV)

III. Do not fail to deal with sin: Parents’ failure to discipline children and deal properly with their sin will bring more destruction upon themselves, their family, and the church. When King David heard about what Amnon had done to Tamar he was very wrath, but he did not take any action to deal with Amnon’s sin. Amnon could not marry Tamar because she was his half-

sister but King David did not punish or discipline Amnon according to the law of God: ***“9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover. 29 For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.” (Leviticus 18:9, 29 KJV)*** Parents must exercise justice in their household. Parents should discipline their children according to God’s instructions. King David did not do anything about the crime of Amnon. So Absalom avenged his sister and killed Amnon. Yet, King David did not do anything for the crime done by Absalom. Instead, Absalom gradually was restored to his previous position without being punished. Absalom continued his wickedness as he conspired against his father’s throne and then slept with his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel. Absalom’s sin brought calamity to his father’s household, to the whole kingdom, and finally to his own life as we can read those events in 2 *Samuel Chapters 14-18*.

Parents need to keep the atmosphere of the house away from temptations and wrongdoings that may cause children to stumble and fall into sin. Amnon had communication with his cunning friend and relative Jonadab who triggered him to pursue his evil desire for Tamar. **** Parents should be aware of the great evil influence of worldly people on their children through the Media and all other communication facilities. * Children can be influenced by relatives, friends, and other people who do not fear God and who do not obey God’s Word. Children can be also badly influenced through television programs, internet websites, chatting on Facebook, mobile phones, etc. The parents who allow their children to have access to such communications and media technologies in their homes are inviting evil friends and bad companions into their children’s lives. * And as a result, parents cannot implement discipline in their children anymore. The children become lazy, wild, and disobedient to their parents. When the parents realize that their children are already doing wrong based on what they had learned and were exposed to, and when they discipline and restrain their children from going along with friends or relatives, watching television, surfing the Internet, or using mobile phones, the children rebel against the parents.***

If children are allowed to use and watch such things prematurely it causes them to learn evil words and evil deeds, and the time it is withheld from them, they resent. Media technologies and TV are monsters, demons and idols that take away children from parents’ discipline and instruction. Researchers found that the effects of flickering screens go straight to the mind, so children quickly copy or imitate what they see and hear. Also, children are good imitators but they are unable to differentiate what is wrong from right. ***Children are unable to filter what they see and hear, and they are unable to protect themselves. Parents are responsible to protect their children from the wrong influences of Media.***

**** Children should not be allowed to access and use tablets and laptops, or else they will go to bad websites or computer games that will corrupt and possess their minds. Many school children nowadays cannot read correctly and write properly because of the destructive effect of video games in their young minds. * Surely, children should not be allowed to approach and drive a car. Likewise, it is very dangerous for children to walk along the way or play in the street. * In the same way, allowing children to have free access to computers, television, the internet, websites, mobile phones, money, and other sources of power, is harmful to them physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. * Today, putting limitations and boundaries to children on access to Media technologies is an urgent discipline needed to be***

implemented in the family. Passwords for laptops, computers, and phones to control children and to protect them from exposure to hazards are like locks and bolts on doors of the home so that children could not go to the street alone. Passwords need to be changed every now and then because children are certain time observing parents and can discover the passwords that parents use. Therefore, parents need to persevere to implement discipline in their homes.

To give to the children whatever they ask and allowing them to do whatever they like is releasing to them full authority at a time that they are not yet ready to safely handle life in this world. **** Children cannot face temptations that lead to sin. * The authority to open wallets, cars, laptops, computers, and phones should be released to them gradually as they mature and are ready to face the world.*** A child may be given a small amount of money that he can handle to buy himself a sweet, but no child will be able to handle correctly a large sum of money. If this is given to him and he has freedom and access to purchase what he likes, or to do what he wants, finally he will end up doing something wrong that harms himself, and parents will regret it. ***Parents should not expose their children to worldly passion unless they are able and are trained to face and overcome. Premature and unauthorized romance is when a boy or girl falls in love with somebody. This is non-Scriptural. The Bible describes that man to love his wife after marriage and not before it, “25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it,” (Ephesians 5:25 KJV)*** The Bible also tells that the woman to love her husband after marriage and not before it, ***“4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.” (Titus 2:4 KJV)***

- Parents should be committed to being with their children all along the way until they are trained and spiritually fit to overcome the evil temptations of this modern world.
- Parents should teach their children that they will marry whom God had prepared for them to marry and not to marry whom they love or like.
- Parents should teach their children that love and romance will be after marriage and not before it.
- Parents should be with their children along the way till they are put into Godly marriages to have Godly families

My Dear and Beloved: Come to God pondering on the message that you received that describes your responsibility as parents towards your children how to protect them along the way from various hazards that will cause them to be tempted and fall in sin.

Commit yourselves as parents to implement those principles that expounded in this message in your personal life, in the life of your family and children and in the life of your ministry and in the life of our church.

Let us pray . . .

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me your ways in life of how to live Godly life and how to protect my children and take them away from temptations and the hazards of sins. Lord thank you for all what you had given to me from resources to raise my children in a Godly way and to serve you in holiness and to do what is pleasant to you.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your carelessness and non willingness to take active measures to discipline your children and to protect them from exposure to temptations and sin. Repent of your bad example to others and to your family and children. Repent of spending much time with your friends, and on the Media and had neglected your family and the reading of God's Word and life of prayers and the ministry of God. Renounce your bad stewardship, your laziness, and your worldliness. Repent and renounce all your previous sins and immoralities.

Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____ .

Lord I commit myself to apply all the above protective measures in the life of my family and children and in my ministry so sin will not take place and my children will be protected and the church and the ministry to be clean.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and had committed their lives to apply the principles that we received in this message. Lord give them discernment to see things clearly and open their eyes to the sins and the naughtiness of their children so they will discipline them and will not be fooled by their children. Lord give them patience and perseverance to endure the hardship of applying this discipline on their children and youth and give them the strength to continue to do that. Lord continue to bless their ministry as they continue to do that. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord solve their problems and continue to guide them how to discipline their children so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people, and to teach them your Word. Lord exposed the hidden sins and give us wisdom to deal with them and those who do them that we can restore them to the righteous life that you desire to see them live. Lord help us to continue to train parents and teach them how to discipline their children and raise them in the fear of God. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Raising Up Godly Children Part 2. Proverbs 22:6. Ephesians 6:1-4. 2 Samuel 12:10-13. 2 Samuel 13:1-29. 2 Samuel 13:37. Ruth 2:8-9. Job 31:1. 1 Corinthians 10:6. Leviticus 18:9, 29. Ephesians 5:25. Titus 2:4.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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