

PARENTING IN THE REAL WORLD

Part 2 – Developing The Plan Proverbs 22:6

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April 14, 2013

*Psalm 127:3 “Children are a **gift** from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.”*

Proverbs 22:6 “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

- I. OUR JOB IS TO DELIBERATELY AND CONSISTENTLY **PREPARE** OUR CHILDREN FOR LIFE.
 - A. The word translated train up actually means, “to prepare for a contest, to **harness power** into a positive direction.”
 - B. Parents are to be the primary **disciplers** of our children about how to connect God to life.
 - C. The first step is determining what will be our **primary goal** as parents.

However it is worded, the central goal for a Christian parent should be to grow a **Christ-centered** child, well-adjusted and prepared to be a responsible adult living by godly principles.

- D. The second step is to determine **a plan** to accomplish your primary goal.
 1. The plan starts with **personally** teaching your children how to live by the Bible’s principles.
 - a. *Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ (You) Impress them on your children. (You) Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

b. Find **creative ways** to build Bible principles into your children's hearts from an early age.

1. Read Christian books as a family.
2. Watch Christian **shows**.
3. Teach principles from God's Word to your children as you experience **real life** situations.
4. **Pray** together.
5. As your children become older teach them Biblical **apologetics**. If you don't do this, you will be making the greatest **mistake** of your parenting. (The Truth Project is an excellent resource.)
6. Have your own **personal time** with God every day.

2. Be a **consistent** example.

3. Pay the price of **consistent** time and energy.

II. **SPECIALIZE** OUR TRAINING ACCORDING TO EACH CHILD.

*Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child **in the way** he should go..."*

Amplified Bible says (Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go (and in keeping with his individual gift or bent), and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Understand your child and discover how your child best learns and grows and then **fashion** your approach to match your child.

III. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE TRAINING IN OUR HOME WILL BE A **FOUNDATIONAL GUIDE** FOR OUR CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE.

A. *Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

B. "A proverb isn't intended to be interpreted as an ironclad guarantee but an expression of what will generally occur." (a summary of comments from a variety of commentators)

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