

New Testament Parenting

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Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

1. New Testament parents (N.T.P.) know the importance of their children’s obedience.
2. N.T.P. understand their job is to prepare their children for a godly life.

Romans 1:29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

2 Timothy 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

3. N.T.P. give commands to be obeyed, not suggestions to be considered.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

4. N.T.P. fill their home with affectionate love.

1 Thessalonians 2:11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

5. N.T.P. don’t pass on opportunities to exhort and charge their children.

Hebrews 12:5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

6. N.T.P. utilize godly discipline as a training tool.
7. N.T.P. do the wok of parenting.

Verses for further study: Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Proverbs 3:11-12

Resources for further study:

- Parenting by Paul Tripp
- Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
- The New Dare to Discipline by James Dobson
- Instructing a Child's Heart by Tedd and Margy Tripp
- Bringing Up Boys by James Dobson
- Bringing Up Girls by James Dobson
- Growing Up Whitney by Rick Whitney
- Premeditated Parenting by Steve Nelson
- Loving the Little Years by Rachel Jankovic
- Fit to Burst by Rachel Jankovic
- The Collapse of Parenting by Leonard Sax
- Why Children Matter by Douglas Wilson
- The Faithful Parent by Martha Peace and Stuart Scott

"Some people say, "You can't expect laymen to rear their families, work all day, and shepherd a local church." That statement is simply not true. Many people rear families, work, and give substantial hours of time to community service, clubs, athletic activities, and/or religious institutions. The cults have built up large lay movements that survive primarily because of the volunteer time and efforts of their members. We Bible-believing Christians are becoming a lazy, soft, pay-for-it-to-be-done group of Christians. It is positively amazing how much people can accomplish when they are motivated to work toward a goal they love. I've seen people build and remodel houses in their spare time, for example. I've also seen men discipline themselves to gain a phenomenal knowledge of the Scriptures. The real problem, then, lies not in men's limited time and energy but in false ideas about work, Christian living, life's priorities, and especially Christian ministry." *Biblical Eldership by Alexander Strauch*