

#7 THE DOCTRINE OF PARENTING

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW / DR. RANDY WHITE

HAVING OFFSPRING WAS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE BEGINNING

- Genesis 1:27-28 – the command to **be fruitful and multiply**
- Genesis 9:1 – the command repeated
- God could have (but did not) create a *filled* earth (as he did with other animals). Humanity, unlike the other creatures, was created as a single pair – Genesis 1:20-25.

THE BIBLE GIVES FEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARRYING OUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTING

- A negative command: Colossians 3:21 (also found in Ephesians 6:4).
 - Father's must be the disciplinarians.
 - When fathers **provoke** their children, the children will be **discouraged**.
 - **Provoke** - ἐρεθίζω [erethizo], literally, "stir up strife." (In Greek mythology, the goddess of strife is named *Eris*)
 - If children are provoked then they may become ἀθυμέω [athumeo], which is "without fierceness" or "without passion."
- A positive command: Ephesians 6:4
 - Since the father cannot **provoke...to wrath**, he will rather use **the nurture and admonition of the Lord**.
 - The word **nurture** παιδεία [paideia] is an all-encompassing word for the training of a child, mentally, physically, and spiritually.
 - The word **admonition** νουθεσία [nouthesia] is "to put their thinking in order."

THE BIBLE GIVES A CLEAR INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN

- Ephesians 6:1-3 –
 - Wives are to **submit** (to the "rank" of their husband – see last week's sermon). The common wording in weddings comes from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, not the Bible).
 - Children are to **obey** – this is the right thing to do!
 - When children obey, they **honor** their parents.
 - Paul quotes Exodus 20:12, with a parenthetical note concerning **the first commandment with promise**. However, Paul removed the last words of the

commandment, **which the Lord thy God giveth thee**, to make this applicable to all believers.

- Note that both in Hebrew and Greek the word for *land* and *earth* is the same word.
- What if a child does not obey?
 - Proverbs 19:18 – do it early in childhood to avoid having to do it late in childhood.
 - Proverbs 23:13 – a harder lesson to learn for first-time parents.

PRACTICAL PARENTING

- Do not let your children decide about foundational issues of worldview. This is lunacy. You are giving your child to the forces of a wicked and fallen world. Rather, follow the instruction of Proverbs 22:6 (with insight from Prov. 22:15).
- Raise your children to be independent and free.
 - Not restricted by anything except Scripture itself.
 - Not burdened by peer pressure.
 - Not dependent on parental support.
- Two rules that will solve all parenting problems.
 - Rule #1: Children will obey their parents.
 - No need to count till three.
 - Learn to be consistent.
 - Communicate with your spouse.
 - Rule #2: Children will not have a temper tantrum.
 - Happiness is not your goal!
 - Emotions are not your enemy (but they can go in another room to cry).
 - Proper expression of anger, frustration, and disappointment is essential to healthy living.
 - A temper tantrum should be swiftly disciplined, it is a sign of rebellion, which is unacceptable.
 - Swift removal from watching eyes makes temper tantrums un-useful. Children learn very quickly to only use that which leads to the achievement of their goal!

SIGNS YOU MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM

- A temper tantrum after age 4.
- A repeated discipline problem after age 3.
- Consistent grades lower than a C average after first grade.
- Disrespect for adults after age 3.