

Family Heritage Developer

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"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

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Family Duty, Part 4

By John Bunyan (1628-1688)

DUTY OF PARENTS TO CHILDREN

If you are a parent, a father, or a mother, then you are to consider your calling under this relation. Your children have souls, and they must be born of God as well as of you, or they perish. And know also, that unless you be very circumspect in your behavior to and before them, they may perish through you: the thoughts of which should provoke you, both to instruct, and also to correct them.

First, To instruct them as the scripture says, and to 'bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord'; and to do this diligently, 'when thou sittest in thine house, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up' (Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:7).

Now to do this to purpose:

1. Do it in terms and words easy to be understood: do not use high expressions, they will drown your children. Thus God spoke to his children (Hosea 12:10), and Paul to his (1 Cor. 3:2).
2. Take heed of filling their heads with whimsies, and unprofitable notions, for this will sooner teach them to be bold and proud, than sober and humble. Open therefore to them the state of man by nature; discourse with them of sin, of death, and hell; of a crucified Savior, and the promise of life through faith: 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Prov. 22:6).

3. There must be much gentleness and patience in all your instructions, 'lest they be discouraged' (Col. 3:21). And,
4. Labor to convince them by a conversation answerable, that the things of which you instruct them are not fables, but realities; yes, and realities so far above what can be here enjoyed, that all things, were they a thousand times better than they are, are not worthy to be compared with the glory and worthiness of these things.

Isaac was so holy before his children, that when Jacob remembered God, he remembered that he was 'the Fear of his father Isaac' (Gen. 31:53).

Ah! When children can think of their parents, and bless God for that

instruction and good they have received from them, this is not only profitable for children, but honorable, and comfortable to parents: 'The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him' (Prov. 23:24, 25).

Second: The Duty of Correction

1. See if fair words will win them from evil. This is God's way with his children (Jer 25:4). Let those words you speak to them in your reproof, be both sober, few, and pertinent, adding always some suitable sentence of the scripture therewith; as, if they lie, then such as (Rev. 21:8, 27). If they refuse to hear the word, such as (2 Chron 25:14-16).
2. Look to them, that they be not companions with those that are rude and ungodly; showing with soberness a continual dislike of their naughtiness; often crying out to them, as God did of old unto his, 'Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate' (Jer 44:4).
3. Let all this be mixed with such love, pity, and compunction of

spirit, that if possible they may be convinced you dislike not their persons, but their sins. This is God's way (Psa. 99:8).

4. Be often endeavoring to fasten on their consciences the day of their death, and judgment to come. Thus also God deals with his (Deut. 32:29).
5. If you are driven to the rod, then strike advisedly in cool blood, and soberly show them, (1.) their fault; (2.) how much it is against your heart to deal with them in this way; (3.) and that what you do, you do in conscience to God, and love to their souls; (4.) and tell them, that if fair means would have done, none of this severity should have been. This, I have proved it, will be a means to afflict their hearts as well as their bodies; and it being the way that God deals with his, it is the most likely to accomplish its end.
6. Follow all this with prayer to God for them, and leave the issue to him: 'Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him' (Prov

22:15). Lastly, Observe these cautions,

- A. Take heed that the misdeeds for which you correct your children be not learned by them from you. Many children learn that wickedness of their parents for which they beat and chastise them.
- B. Take heed that you smile not upon them, to encourage them in small faults, for your behavior toward them will be an encouragement to them to commit greater.
- C. Take heed that you use not unsavory and unseemly words in your chastising of them, as insulting, name calling, and the like: this is devilish.
- D. Take heed that you do not accustom them to many chiding words and threatenings, mixed with lightness and laughter; this will harden. Speak not much, nor often, but pertinent to them with all sobriety.

...to be continued... "Duties of Children to Parents" will be the next section of Bunyan's work to be re-printed...

Becky's Tips

Help from Ephesians

Personal growth is just that- personal. We have the responsibility to continue our study of God's Word, given to us by His Spirit. Ephesians 5 begins with a call to imitate God as we live a life of love, recognizing that He showed His love to us by sacrifice. A list of sins to be avoided follows. It is the next verse that I want us to look at.

Ephesians 5:6 NLT *"Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey Him."*

It's difficult for us to follow the love of God with the anger or wrath of God. But our challenge is to help our children see that we will not have one without the other. Understanding that concept will lay an exact Biblical foundation for discipline in the home. **(I'm)** Ready and willing to discuss this more specifically with anyone who wishes.

Championship from Colossians

Col. 2:6-7 NLT "And now, just as you accepted Christ

Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

This portion of Scripture is so exciting when you are a student of Championship Christian Education, which I have been for over 45 years! I love how one spiritual concept builds on another and there is no separation of life into parts – school and finished school. Rather, there is a constant flow as **(you)**:

- accept Him
- continue to follow Him
- be rooted in Him
- build your life on Him

Then:

- your faith will grow strong
- you will know the truth
- you will overflow with happiness

Some championship thoughts that follow for me:

1. It is important in educational training to know if both you and your child know Christ in a personal way. Power to understand teaching both for teacher and

learner, is given by His Spirit, to the one who knows Christ.

2. No academic subject, no read-aloud, no field trip, no sport, no music lesson, or no free time activity can be fully understood or enjoyed apart from knowing HOW to make it rooted. This is why we spend so much time on Creator, Sustainer, Revealer, Redeemer.
3. Artificial happiness in children is often encouraged. Happiness can be and is found in math, science, spelling, soccer and other everyday opportunities when I understand that I get my happiness when truth, faith and roots are growing in the right direction – instead of getting our happiness from contrived shoots of man-made roots.

Individualized Instruction (1Cor. 12:4, Exodus 35:10)

One of the ideas we want to explore for the coming school year is:

How to maximize your child's opportunity for learning because you educate him at home. We will call this approach to education: **ENGAGEMENT LEARNING**. Hopefully I will introduce some specific ways that your family might embrace Engagement Learning.

For now begin thinking:

1. Is the only right way to educate the way I have been doing it?
2. When I look at each child's gifts do I see my academic plan training and using those gifts?
3. Are each of my students eager to get to any academic assignment?

4. Do I, as teacher, often feel defeated?
5. Do I carry the impression that other families know how to train but I am slighting my children because of some personal inadequacy?

Getting the house in order (1Cor. 14:40)

There are many Scriptures that give us evidence of our need to prepare for the next step in the training of our children. For example:

- Jer. 46:3 prepare your shields for battle
- Prov. 24:27 prepare your fields
- Matt. 25:7 bridesmaids and lamps

- 11Chron. 31:11 storerooms prepared
- Prov. 21:31 horse prepared for battle
- Matt. 26:19 disciples prepared Passover meal

With "being prepared" in mind, consider what you could do in your house to bring order and simplicity. With simplifying, more time and energy can be spent on what really matters and less time will be spent on managing stuff.

More on this in workshops to come.

Love,

Becky