

TRAINING CHILDREN

The Foundational Faith

Ibn Adam Al-Amin

February 2013



TRAINING CHILDREN

Praise God the Lord of All and peace to all descendants of Adam, this text has been put in your generous hands which contains solid foundations which explain to us the teaching and information about how to discipline, correct and train the children. It is simple studies from the Noble Book, i.e. the New Testament, firstly, and some personal suggestions, secondly.

We hope in God, the Able, for success and appropriateness in all our daily life activities. Amen.

Some people speak of obeying God and pleasing Him. But is God pleased with the way we train our children? What are the commands in the Noble New Testament which are required of us for raising children? What is the purpose of God for these commands? Let us discover them.

JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN

Children are loved by God and they are also fit to learn and concentrate on such. They do what they see around them and follow it. We respect the children because God respects them and they are examples for us. It is required upon us that we see the work of God and copy it and learn from it. Let us go with God and grab His hand and trust Him. Like Christ says, ***“Now people brought little children to him for him to touch, but the disciples scolded those who brought them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not try to stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.’ After he took the children in his arms, he placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*** (Mark 10:13-16) (translation from The Noble New Testament, a dynamic equivalent translation of the Word of God) (see Luke 18:15-17)

We welcome the children no less than we welcome Christ. ***“Now an argument started among the disciples as to which of them might be the greatest. But when Jesus discerned their innermost thoughts, he took a child, had him stand by his side, and said to them, “Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me, for the one who is least among you all is the greatest one.”*** (Luke 9:46-48)

And God invites the children to believe and hear the Good News and understand it. ***“For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, yes, as many as the Lord our God calls to himself.”*** (Acts 2:39)

PROVERBIAL WISDOM

Let us look at what is from Solomon (peace be upon him) for wisdom in dealing with children. But this is not a command from God for us, but is useful for direction and understanding.

“The one who does not allow his rod hates his child, but the one who loves his child is requests disciplining for him.” (Proverbs 13:24)

“Discipline your child, in that there is hope, but do not set your heart on causing his death.” (Proverbs 19:18)

“Train the child in his way, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

So, training is important because it is the foundation of the base of truth, and if we do not train them in truth it means we do not love them.

What are the tools presented for dealing with training children? There are many tools, the first of them is training, the last of them is chastisement if necessary, but chastisement is not acute.

“Folly is bound up in the heart of the child, the rod of discipline will take it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15)

“Do not withhold discipline from the child; because if you strike him with the rod, he will not die.” (Proverbs 23:13)

“A rod and reproof impart wisdom, and a child who is free to blow in the wind shames his mother.” (Proverbs 29:15)

“Discipline your child and he will give you rest; he will bring you niceties.” (Proverbs 29:17)

So, that was some of the wisdom and proverbs, and now let us observe the commands which are from God about raising children.

COMMANDS

When we discipline our children it is not appropriate that we train them out of defense for our unruly anger because in that we become selfish and anger will control us. For this reason it is necessary to put aside the anger and train our children because of our love for them not because of anger and it is best to encourage them in their obedience to us and explain to them that we discipline them because of their sin only and we love them from our deepest heart.

In the Noble New Testament God commanded the parents as follows, ***“And you, Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but raise them up in the discipline and instruction that is from the Lord.”*** (Ephesians 6:4)

And, ***“Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not fail.”*** (Colossians 3:21)

Both of these generous verses establish that training should not be extreme or inconsistent, and if not the result will be frustrating.

And regarding leaders for the believers, harsh discipline is not dignified. **“He must manage his own household well, and raise his children to obey him and honor him in all things.”** (1 Timothy 3:4)

If we discipline the children because they are bothering us and not because they sinned, then by this we leave the truth, truth of our death and resurrection with Christ, because he himself is the one who directs us not our feelings.

And in addition to that, Christ, by His life in us, is able to direct us in the straight way. Fathers and Mothers, I invite you to go with Him moment by moment.

And what is the role of the helper in raising children? The helper is a servant among the believers. **“Deacons must be husbands of one wife and good managers of their children and their own households.”** (1 Timothy 3:12)

And how shall we be with the children? **“Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Older women likewise are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good. In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited. Encourage younger men likewise to be self-controlled, showing yourself to be an example of good works in every way. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, and a sound message that cannot be criticized, so that any opponent will be at a loss, because he has nothing evil to say about us.”** (Titus 2:2-8)

It is hard to follow these commands because we have not arrived to completion and holiness. But, is there a solution? The solution is that you are not the one who lives but Christ lives in you, so it is possible to complete the commands of God for teaching children and others.

How? By faith we have received the death of Christ and His resurrection. We have risen with Him and we have received His new life. And He is the one who does the work. By His strength and by faith in Him we walk with Him and grab onto the Vine like branches. He gave us the commands that He completes. And He makes us able to obey them and complete them. I invite you, Dear Reader, to invite Him to do it.

THOUGHTS THAT LEAD US TO APPLICATION

Ask for wisdom from God in every moment. And do not rely on your feelings or your intellect but submit yourself and rely on the Holy Spirit who leads you every moment.

Dear Beloved Brother, image the parent who loves his son but does not teach his son propriety and worthy morality. Will the civilized society accept him or them? Then there is no benefit if we love our children and do not teach them propriety and obligation. And image the parent that teaches his son propriety and worthy morality but does not love his son. Will the son know

about the love of God from the love of his father? No, and even he would doubt the love of God for him.

For this reason, it is necessary to love our children and teach them son propriety and worthy morality. Love and training are like your two hands. If you lift your child with only one hand then they will fall.

And there is an important point! Maybe our children cause us to be offended and annoyed, but by this situation it is not our right to behave according to our feelings, but the opposite. Controlling your self is first necessary and forgive them like Christ forgave you from your sins. After that we ask the Lord to complete it. When you chastise the children it is necessary to not be aggravated but pleasant, in other words content, because God is able to give us ideas that encourage us and that are received by the children.

Remember that you died and were buried and rose with Christ by faith. So, it is no longer you who live, but Christ lives in you. Does Christ sin while He is angry? No, far from it. Does a dead person sin? Of course not. So, there is no excuse that would make us sin.

If the child needs to learn about how he is dead and raised with Christ, then it is possible to request him to lie down, in other words sleep, like he is dead. And after an certain amount of time ask him to get up and say to him, "*By faith, you died and are raised with Christ! You are new! There is no reason to sin.*" By this you may explain to him about our new life in Christ which we have received in Christ.

When you notice a subject or behavior the needs correction, ask the Lord what you are to do. You may follow the following steps,

- 1- Teach: Tell the boy or girl about the rule which is requested for them to follow.
- 2- Train: Upon the first failure remind with words and explain the subject with a small penalty and increase the amount of penalty upon the second failure, etc. Some of the children correct their behavior through a penalty of silence while they are sitting silently. And some of the others need tiring work to encourage correct behavior.
- 3- Discipline: when the boy or girl refuses the correction then they need chastisement to encourage the boy or girl to do the requested.

And with assurance, do the above mentioned with the following:

- 1: Understanding – On us is to confirm from the children when we ask for obedience from them that they understood the requested work. This is not done except by explaining and teaching.
- 2: Privately – It is better to discipline the child away from those around him so that he will be away from confusion. By this the child will be more restful and receive the correction and love in his heart more. And the word '*shame*' is not appropriate in front of people because embarrassment from people does not encourage good behavior in front of God.
- 3: Consistency – Good behavior comes from constant lessons, and not inconsistent.

There is an important suggestion which is that we train them in a time which we are ready, and where there is not something else that keeps us busy or distracts our concentration. Training without distraction helps us teach in a clear and correct way, especially when training to avoid danger or training disallowed behavior. First, tell them what is requested to do or what is not allowed to do. Second, set up the situation so that the child is able to know the limits and able to choose to disobey, and this is not a dangerous situation, of course. Then you wait and watch what the child does. If they choose to obey, praise God. But likely, especially the first time, they will seriously test the leadership and responsibility and obligation, so they will need discipline.

As an idea, we could startle the children with an alarm when they enter the area of disobedience, especially in dealing with dangerous items. This will help young children to remember to stay away and be alert of danger.

And the last thought, when we give the children trust we make it possible for them to raise themselves with all merit and honor and they will imagine that the future will not be bright except by their obedience to God.

Remember God's love for us all, the parents and the children. The hand of the Lord is extended and His door is open if you would like to ask for anything. (from Luke 11:9-13) "***So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!***"

Amen.