

PROVERBS SERIES FIFTEEN
TRAIN UP A CHILD
Pastor Glenn Barteau
Proverbs 22:6; Deut. 20:5; Rom. 15:7; Eph. 6:1-4

- (Hook) When my oldest daughter, Ruth, was about to have her third baby, I arrived to help for a month. One afternoon, while she was still in the hospital, I made a large batch of chocolate-chip cookies. Spreading them out on the table for three-year-old Heidi and four-year-old Tim, I was surprised that not one cookie was taken. "What's the matter?" I asked. "Don't you like Grandma's cookies?"
 Almost in unison, they replied, "Mama only lets us eat the burned ones and none of yours are burned!"
 ↳ Children are like sponges... So much of what they experience gets engraved into their brains.
- Pro 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Underline the word "train."
- Oftentimes I hear people talking about this passage and they think of "training" a child the way you would train for a sport, or having a personal trainer. Equipping them in skills or behaviors.
- Q: How many of you go to the gym and have some sort of personal trainer?
 Who does the work? You do.
 ↳ There is a trainer and a trainee... The trainee is the one on the treadmill or pumping the iron.
 ↳ People tend to think of this verse as the child being the trainee... So as parents we are **tempted** into feeling like our children must get involved in a whole bunch of stuff... so they will know how to live.
- (ILL) Outer-Space observers
 Sometimes I wonder if some alien were watching from outer space and couldn't understand our language, if they were trying to understand us by just watching us, they would probably conclude that slowing down is very dangerous to our health.
 That if children don't get to lots of different places it causes them to shrivel up or something.
 That making sure they look right and get someplace on time is a matter of life or death.
 That if they come together in little family groups it creates some sort of toxic reaction
 ~ They would assume humans have to rush, rush, rush... or they will melt.
- (ILL) We even have bumper stickers for this: "Soccer Mom." So get out of my way because I've got places to go. Maybe we need bumper stickers for the front of our cars!

(ILL) You know how the pizza delivery guys have the lit sign on top of their car? Parents and grandparents should have those... so people will get out of our way.

(ILL) But here's the reality: Having done a lot of counseling over the years I've heard a lot of things, but I've never heard someone say:

- ✓ All the pain of my life started when my mom didn't get me to soccer practice on time. I've been a crazy control freak ever since.
- ✓ All my problems stem from not getting into the college of my choice – I've struggled with authority issues ever since.
- ✓ It all goes back to when my dad made me drive a used car in high school... years of driving a pre-owned car has led to a complete inability to hold my marriage together.
- ✓ I wasn't allowed to be a part of the traveling team, and I've been bitter ever since.
- ✓ As a young girl my parents wouldn't allow me to wear Jordache jeans, and my self-esteem has never recovered.

Friends, here's my concern. The trend in America is to make our children experience-rich... and relationally poor.

- ↳ There are a lot of children who grow up who are smart, skilled, rich and powerful... but they're relationally poor.

Pos And here's what we know as adults: In your life, it is your ability to develop mature and rich relationships that makes life worth living.

Neg And here's something else we know as adults: If you can't maintain healthy, mature relationships, you just don't make it in this world... in marriage... friendships... finding joy at work, school, home, or your relationship with God.

i.e. You can be rich, powerful, beautiful ... and then die miserable and alone.

- We want our children and grandchildren to have solid discernment in choosing a spouse:

(Story) I've been working on Colette to let me be a part of choosing her future husband.

She asked, "Will you help me pick a house?"

"Yes."

"Can I have this house?"

"You let me pick your husband and you can have this house!"

(So I figure I've got a little less than 20 years to find another place to live)

- We want our children to build healthy marriages and raise healthy children of their own...

You don't want some mean, unloving, ungrateful, dysfunctional, snot-nosed grandchild. It all starts with your children, because that's where your grandchildren come from. (That's how that works – and if you don't understand that... pick up the sermon on sex)

- Relationally rich children will do well in life because they will always have friends to love and support them.
 - They will know how to handle stressful jobs, and hard times.
 - They'll grow up to fall in love with God, because they will understand a spiritual journey is a relational thing

Pro 22:6 *“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

There is something far deeper in this verse than we might realize.

{Hebrew}

Train = Chanokh

It might be more accurately translated “dedicate.” It only means “train” in the sense that an investment has been made into someone.

In an O.T. dedication, the action taken was never taken by the child, house, or temple. The work was done by the dedicator that always **changed the intrinsic nature of what was dedicated**. It’s about becoming, not doing.

- ✓ A temple dedicated becomes a place worthy of worship.
- ✓ A house becomes a home open to love and value.
- ✓ A child becomes an object of love and affection to be raised God’s way.

Deut 20:5

“The officers shall say to the army: Has anyone built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may dedicate it.”

↳ The emphasis is about what the man must offer his house and family.

- Here’s the great truth of Pro 22:6: It’s not about what you get your child to do or not do. It’s really all about what you and I dedicate into our children.

↳ We have the power to make our children relationally rich or relationally poor... It’s only a matter of what we invest in them.

paraphrase

“Dedicate a child to the right things... and when he’s old he will still live off that investment.”

T>>

If we want relationally rich children and grandchildren, we must dedicate or invest the right relational qualities in them.

(List)

Dr. David Ferguson has a list of the top 10 intimacy needs of children. When a child learns to receive these 10 intimacy needs and then learns how to give them to others – guess what – he has everything he needs for a healthy relationship.

1) Attention – To take thought of a child and convey interest and concern into their world. *See Cor 12:25*

Rom 15:7

~Jesus says, the Gentiles may be different, but that's okay... let them belong.

2) Acceptance – To receive them with value and significance relationally... inviting them to belong.

3) Approval – To express your approval for who they are and what they can do. *See Rom 14:18*

(ILL)

~Imagine a young child drawing a picture, or a teenager in sports... It's finding something about them, and telling them you value who they are and what they do.

4) Appreciation – To recognize with gratefulness the efforts a child has made for your or others. *See 1 Cor 11:2*

5) Support/Bear Burden – To come alongside a child and help them carry a problem or struggle. *Gal 6:2*

~ Every time child or grandchild gets a bump or cut, it's a great opportunity to pour into them.

6) Encouragement – To urge and inspire a child with courage and love toward noble and good things in life. *1 Thess 5:11*

7) Affection – To communicate care and closeness to a child through physical touch and affirming words (helping a child feel loved)
See Rom 16:16

8) Security – To provide reasonable security from danger or exposure to harmful situations. *Ps 122:6*

9) Comfort – To come alongside a child with words, feelings, or touch to ease grief or pain. *1 Cor 1:3-4*

(Story)

Mackenzie – She hurt a finger, and my mom said, “Oh my goodness, I better kiss it!” It made such an impression on her that now she goes up to her Grammy and says: “I got hurt,” holds up finger... then next finger, next finger, elbow, etc.

10) Respect – To value and regard a child highly; to esteem them
1 Peter 2:17

(Chart)

Intimacy needs un-met

Intimacy needs met

Application / Practical ways of raising relationally rich children

1. Establish your role as the parent.

Eph 6:1-3

Who is this written to? See, I think it's really written to me.

~ You have a place of honor! Use it!

2. Create a sense of security and peace in your home. ^{Dr. Phil p38}

Whatever is happening in your child's world... when they walk into their home and close that door behind them, they should feel safe and secure!!

~ Your home **can't** become a place of ridicule, isolation, or passive-aggressive behavior.

It's healthy for a family to have conflict, but it can't be riddled with words meant to hurt or stab.

Eph 6:4

Don't provoke your children. The worst thing in the world for a child is to have a parent or grandparent become a source of stress in their life.

~ Parents... It's your job to make your home a safe place!

3. Establish a family identity ^{Dr. Phil p44}

- **Reinforce your family values** – Let them know what it means to belong to this family.

(ILL)

We do this by telling them what it means to be a Barteau. For Chandler that's meant that Barteaus stay calm and poised. Barteaus work hard like your Grandpa and Gran Gran work hard. Barteau boys take care of girls and treat them right.

For Colie so far it's just been that Barteaus don't eat their boogers

- **Create meaningful rituals and traditions**

(ILL)

Make bedtime rituals where certain things are always said to them. Create weekly activities that they can always look forward to.

i.e.

Dads: date your daughters. Show them how to be treated right.
Reading Bible, saying prayers.

(Story)

Chan and Colie going into Nanna's pantry... They think they own it.

~ Rituals give children stability and they can be used to reinforce a sense of attention, acceptance, respect, and security.

- **Tell family stories** – Gideon asking about the stories of his great grandfathers... it was something he was holding onto for faith.

Children never grow tired of family stories, especially stories about them.

1. Stories about **them**: the day they were born, how happy you were... the dreams you had.

2. Stories about **you**: My kids love to hear stories of our wedding day.

(Story)

Our first camping trip: I tell about how I took Angie about a month after we got married, and how we were driving in our Jeep with the top down... and the windshield down... and how a giant June bug splatted on Angie's neck.

(Story) 3. Stories about their **grandparents**:
 “I said kiss her, son... not swallow her up!” And they laugh, and laugh.
 ~It is in the telling and retelling of these stories that they learn about how they are connected to you... their siblings, their grandparents, friends and God.
 It shows them how they fit into this world.

4. Celebrate

Throughout Scripture God asked His people to celebrate. It would involve large meals, and taking time off work. They did a lot of partying.

Why?

~ This is really simple. If you want something to stick in your child’s heart and mind... celebrate it.

- ✓ If your children treat one another with love... celebrate it
- ✓ If you want to value family time together... celebrate it... rent a movie, make some popcorn, bring out the pillows and blankets.
- ✓ Celebrate markers of growth in the lives of your children.
 - a. Riding a bike, drawing a picture, participating in sports, playing music
 - b. Act of sacrifice for a friend at school

(Story) Angie’s family always celebrates the return of their children. If Angie, Todd, or Alison went off to college, on a missions trip, to live in another state, whenever they return or come to visit, they celebrate: Giant cookies and ice cream, dinners with a special dish... and ice cream. **I married into a family that holds ice cream as a core institutional value!**

[Glenn] Ask parents to get their children and come forward

Set-Up

Dedications is more about these parents committing themselves to raise their children

[Carol] Rose

[Glenn] Responsive reading

[Glenn] Prayer of blessing

Song I Believe in You

[Glenn] Closing prayer

