

# **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON**



# **GOOD PARENTING**

**By: Sis. Ann-Marie Ballantyne**

Dark is the view of today's 'progressive' parents influenced by anti-Christian, cultural Marxist philosophies and pushed by organisations like the United Nations. They think that their humanistic methods of raising children are wiser than the One who created parents and children.

It is God- the Giver and Sustainer of life, who has given parents the responsibility to "train up a child in the way he should go..." (Proverbs 22:6). It is God who commands His heritage to "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). Despite the growing antagonism towards Bible training and discipline, God's word still stands and His counsels are right. Any parent who holds on such instructions are safe and wise.

The perilous times all around resulting from destroyed human personality traits, including disobedience of children, demand that parents be helped by instruction from the word of God to perform their duties wisely. Parents must not depend on the dictates of Marxist advocates. Those who subscribe to such teachings are anti-scripture and often fabricate all sorts of unfounded emotionally exaggerated arguments to push their anti-Bible stance.

Parents' duty is to fit the child to live a well ordered life to bless society and consequently to fit him for the new heavenly society, living with God and holy beings. This fitness includes, not only mental and physical training of the child, but moral preparation. If moral fitness, according to God's standard, is not the main ingredient and focus of our training, then all of our efforts would be in vain.

Instructions that God gave to parents thousands of years before the existence of any 'progressive' are still applicable today. Those who tout themselves as progressives opine that God's form of discipline is outdated. Such God-hating activists rant that the use of the rod, for example, is "barbaric and inhumane". However, God instructs that "the rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" and when discipline is wisely administered, the child's soul shall be delivered "from hell" (Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 23:13, 14).

Clearly, God is all-wise and His Way should be trusted and obeyed above any creation. Parents must continually look to God for help to love their children – teach them that life and true happiness

can only be found in obedience to God's Law. "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life and peace, shall they add to thee..."(Proverbs 3:1-3). Truly, God charts the Best course and His Bible is the most effective document.

In both the Old and the New Testament, we are given examples of good parenting. Of Abraham, YHWH-God said "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment..." (Genesis 18:19). Timothy's God-fearing parents instructed him early in the way of the Lord too. In talking about the "unfeigned faith" that was in Timothy, Paul informs us that that same faith was 'first' in Timothy's mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). Parents must therefore learn the ways of Christ and instruct their children, by precept and example, accordingly for genuine success.

Interestingly too, the wise God did not shield our eyes from examples of bad parenting and its results. All is for our learning and caution. Eli's failure to discipline his rebellious sons is one of the most striking examples etched on the page of Holy Writ to warn us. Moreso, he was a priest in Israel! Of Eli God says, "For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile and he restrained them not." 1 Samuel 3:13. Eli honoured his sons above God. Inspired Adventist writer, Ellen G. White tells us, "Eli did not manage his household according to God's rules for family government...He should first have attempted to restrain evil by mild measures; but if these did not avail, he should have subdued the wrong by the severest means..." **Patriarchs and Prophets**, p. 526.

Unfortunately, Godless, own-way human beings tend to think that their judgement is better than God's way. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25). It is not surprising then that society is plagued with so much indiscipline, delinquency and crimes. The end of untrained youth is often as bitter as death. Disregard for the counsels of God leads to sorrow and destruction of personality traits and even loss of lives of many youth. When the destruction comes, the child's rights activist and the cultural Marxist cannot help! They certainly will receive the wrath of God if they do not repent. As parents, it behooves us therefore to heed the directives given to us by the only wise God. "...the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them..." (Hosea 14:9).

May you reject the destructive satanic influences designed to destroy your children. Accept YHWH's way and be saved. AMEN.



**Thusia Seventh Day Adventist Church,  
P.O. Box 2622, Kingstown,  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

**Tel. 1784- 531-7558/528-2123**

**YouTube Channel: Thusia SDA Gospel**

**Website: [www.thusiasdaevangel.com](http://www.thusiasdaevangel.com)**