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God's Blueprint For Parenting #5

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God has established in the Word regarding the husbands and wives roles in the marriage relationship and all the communication necessary in order to know and fulfill the blueprint that He has set up for each person. This blueprint also includes instruction for the raising of the children that He has blessed the families with.

Many years ago, there was a Dr. Spock who taught that children should be raised without discipline or correction of any kind and should be allowed to express themselves in whatever manner they or their parents chose. However, at the time of his death, he realized that his teaching had been wrong, but by that time the damage had been done to many children and their families.

Depending on the translation used, the Bible teaches discipline or correction are words that are used in the place of chastisement or training. Training does not happen overnight, it is a process that takes day by day instruction to be complete.

Malachi teaches that God took a man and woman and made them one flesh because He desired there to be a godly offspring, that there would be a residue of the spirit of the anointing that is on the father and mother to be on the children. This is why there is such an importance in teaching the children God's voice and the importance in serving God.

Example was given of Susan and John Wesley, even though they had several children and John was instrumental in raising many churches, establishing the Methodist denomination and the writer of many songs, he never had time for his family or the raising of his children, that was left to his wife and because of this, she was a very bitter woman, refusing to believe what he taught and causing scenes when he was preaching.

Psa 127:3-5 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." KJV

We are to be stewards of God's blessing and the greatest challenge of being stewards is conquering the child's will at an early age. An undisciplined child has no will power. Direction and purpose are to be given to the children, parents are to aim and have a mark for their children.

Psa 128:3 "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table." KJV

Children are like plants; they must be taught or trained in the way to grow, nourished and pruned when necessary. Parents are the caretakers and are responsible for the plants.

Triple AAA on children is acceptance, approval and appreciation, means to encourage, give praise to them and show affection.

The Bible teaches to give discipline to our children because we love them; by not disciplining it is shown as not having love for them. Discipline which is part of training will give the end result, the finished product. This training must begin at an early age.

Pro 13:24 "He who s pares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently *and* punishes him early" AMP

Children must be taught to obey when told to do something, however, following through has to be done by the parent. Discipline means to obey authority, the parent being the authority.

Pro 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." KJV

Train up does not mean advice, counsel, or inform, these things could be involved, but the word "train" is used. Some children are harder to train because of a strong will like a young colt. It is a process, a journey that goes day by day, if something is done wrong the training must be followed through and correction made immediately.

A child left to himself, receiving no correction or discipline will have terrible problems later in his life. Society does not look at mistakes today as they did a few years ago. Children cannot be allowed to raise themselves with no guidance from parents.

Pro 29:15,17 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. 17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." KJV

Children will perform to the level of their training, what they have been taught, showing respect for others, how to be honest, what examples have been set for them, not just telling them to do certain things, but showing them by our actions, going to church, praying and how to hear Gods voice and the reward that comes from hearing Gods voice and the blessing they will be to society and the world. Point them in the right direction; don't allow them to be making their own choices while they are in the training process. We train our children so they can do things the right way.

The story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan was shared of how through consistent obedience and love, Annie was able to teach Helen how to speak, but Helen's obedience had to come first. Development cannot come without obedience.

Pro 3:11-12 "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." KJV

Discipline without love will produce rebellion; however, love without discipline will breed contempt for authority and disrespect. If we love our children, we will discipline them Gods way. God disciplines and trains us by His word, because He loves us.

Pro 23:13 "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." KJV

Do we love our children? Are we withholding correction from them? Do not allow emotions or feelings from getting the way of correcting them. Who are your children spending time with?

Surround your children with love and faith. If your children are older, they will have to make their own choices. There are many people in history who were trained at an early age and their life gives proof of that. It is said that the first 7 years of a child's training is the most important.

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There is no doubt that raising children in today's world can be very challenging, but there are principles that must be followed. God's Word does not change.