

TRAINING UP A CHILD IN THE WAY OF THE LORD

PROVERBS 22:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Children are among the greatest blessings of life. Yet some see children as a hindrance to happiness. (Ps. 127.3-5)
2. Kids will be kids, but the lack of respect for authority can be traced back to a lack of proper discipline. (Prov. 22.15)
3. Parents are given the greatest responsibility to train up their children in the way that they should go. (Prov. 22.6)

I. PROPER TRAINING THROUGH DISCIPLINE

A. PROVERBS 23.13: “Do not withhold correction...”

1. Contrary to pop child psychology, spanking does not have long term detrimental effects. (Prov. 23.13,14)
2. Proper discipline is unpleasant for both parent and child, but it is necessary to produce good fruit. (Heb. 12.9-11)

B. However, parents must be careful. (Eph. 6.4)

1. Unreasonable expectations and severity of punishment may lead children to “become discouraged” (Col. 3.21)
2. Discipline ought always to be out of love. (Prov. 29.15)

II. PROPER TRAINING THROUGH INSTRUCTION

A. Teaching respect for God and His laws through scriptures cannot be ignored or minimized. (Eph. 6.4; 2 Tim. 3.14,15)

1. Are you looking for teachable moments? (Josh. 4.4-7)
2. Some ask, “Should I force my child to come to worship services? Will that make them sour to God? (Ps. 78.4-6)

B. The consequences of not teaching our children is raising children who do not know and respect God. (Jdgs 2.10,11)

III. PROPER TRAINING THROUGH EXAMPLE

A. That setting a good example is frequently taught throughout the Bible. (Phil. 3.17; Heb. 13.7; 1 Pet. 5.3; 1 Tim. 4.12)

- ##### B. As important as it is for Christians to be good examples, how much more to our children? (Matt. 23.3)
2. Children need to see an example of how mother and father love each other. ((Eph. 5.25,28,29)
 3. Children need to see an example of how parents serve God faithfully and not half-heartedly. (John 4.23,24)

CONCLUSION: It takes time, love, and patience to raise children.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ♦ North Las Vegas, NV ♦ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping
God “in Spirit
and truth”
(John 4.23)*

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2009

NOT ONLY IN MY ABSENCE

Everyone is tempted. Even Jesus, Himself, was tempted. The difference between us and Christ? Christ was “*in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*” (Heb. 4.15).

What was the secret behind the success of Christ when facing the wiles of the devil? Was it because He was somehow more powerful than us? It would seem that if Jesus was deity, then He would not have the weaknesses of the flesh as we do. Yet we are told that Christ possessed the same weaknesses and human frailties as do us all (Phil. 2.5-8).

Perhaps some insight can be gained by examining the time when Christ was tempted three times by the devil. In Matthew 4, after Jesus fasted for forty days, Satan took advantage of His hunger and tempted Him (Matt. 4.1-4). Later the devil lifted Jesus and put Him on the pinnacle of the temple and challenged Him to prove His deity by jumping off the building (Matt. 4.5-7). After all, even the scriptures teach that angels will not allow Christ to be harmed. Then Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him, if He would bow down and worship Satan (Matt. 4.8-10). In all this Christ never gave into temptation.

What did Christ do to overcome the devil? In each and every case we find Jesus quoting the scriptures (Matt. 4.5,7,10). Even at His weakest, Jesus used the word of God as His source of strength and defense.

Next time we are faced with temptation, may our strength and defense be the same as with Christ. “*It is written...*” CLP

STEPPING INTO THE ABYSS

JAMES 1:14,15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Man is born free from sin and from the corruption of the world, but his eventual fall comes by a series of almost indiscernible steps.
2. Once in sin, both the sinner and the fallen Christian blame everyone but himself for his journey into the abyss. (James 1.13)
3. When Christians understand the progressive steps from light to darkness, they can be better equipped to resist the devil.

I. DESIRE LEADS ONE INTO TEMPTATION

- A. Temptation is not a unique experience, but confronts all people in every place in all times. (1 Cor. 10.6-13)
 1. Therefore we would do well to learn from the examples of those who lusted in the past. (1 Cor. 10.6-11)
 2. Self-sufficiency is dangerous. (1 Cor. 10.12; Heb. 4.11)
 3. A way of escape is always provided. (1 Cor. 10.13)
- B. Who is responsible for leading one into temptation?
 1. Does God lead us into temptation? (Matt. 6.13)
 2. God allows us to be tempted by the devil. (Luke 22.46)
 3. Ultimately, our desires draw us away. (James 1.14)

II. TEMPTATION LEADS ONE INTO SIN

- A. Attempting to justify themselves, some define sin by a subjective criteria. But the Bible defines it objectively.
 1. Sin by commission. (1 John 3.4; Rom. 5.13; 1 John 5.17)
 2. Sin by omission. (James 4.17; Luke 12.47,48)
 3. Sin by violating the conscience. (1 Cor. 8.7; Rom. 14.14)
- B. The dangers of sin are not always apparent, yet it's effects are deceitfully subtle. (Heb. 3.13; 1 John 2.15-17)
- C. The strength to resist the devil and sin lies in the word of God, prayer, and brethren. (1 John 2.1; Luke 22.31,32)

III. SIN LEADS ONE TO DEATH

- A. It can certainly be said that physical death entered the world because of the sin of Adam and Eve. (Gen. 2.9,16,17; 3.23,24)
- B. However, much greater does man suffer the consequences of spiritual death. (James 1.14; Rom. 7.9-11; 6.23)
 1. One can be alive physically but death spiritually. (1 Tim. 5.6)
 2. Not an annihilation, but a separation. (James 2.26; Isa. 59.2)
 3. Is there sin that does not lead to death? (1 John 5.16,17)
- C. Through the gospel the dead are made alive again. (Eph. 2.1-5)

CONCLUSION: The damage can be undone by a reverse course.

NOT A SHADOW OF TURNING

As Summer has turned into Fall, we are reminded of the every changing world in which we live. From our language, to our culture, to our philosophy, to our technology, with each generation there is there is grand societal transformations. And with each generation there is a curiosity of what it was like to live when you were my age? What was it like to live without television? What was it like to live without computers? What was it like to live without cell phones?

Society has changed exponentially over the years, but several constants remain. First, the nature of man is still unchanged. After being on the earth for more than 5000 years and living through countless changes in the political, social, cultural, and even religious climate, man is still the same. He needs for companionship still remain the same (Gen. 2.18). His search for meaning and happiness are also unchanged (Ecc. 12.13,14). His weakness of giving into temptation in violation of the laws of his nature (Rom. 2.14), still get him into trouble even after centuries of time (Rom. 3.23).

Second of all, and this is perhaps the most important, God does not change. God told Israel, *"I am the LORD, I do not change."* (Mal. 3.6). In the epistle of James, God is described as One *"with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning"* (James 1.17). While shadows change in shape and direction s the earth rotates, God does not change.

Because our culture has changed, man has become more tolerant of sin has taken on more of an entitlement mindset believing he has the right to do that which God had previously condemned. Therefore He assumes that God would have changed as well. God, at one time, condemned drunkenness, one may argue, but times have changed. Certainly God would be more understanding of such things in our modern culture.

Indeed, times have changed. But God has not. As man is still trying to get away with and justify his sinful actions, so also is God still holding men accountable to His standard of righteousness.

How comforting to know that when we face God in judgment we need not worry about God changing the rules. Even before time began, God promised eternal life to His faithful, and that's a promise He will keep. (Heb. 6.17-20) CLP