

# DISCIPLINE & INSTRUCTION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

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## LAYING A FOUNDATION

**Ephesians 6:4** – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

## CALLING ALL FATHERS

**Proverbs 1:8** - “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching,”

Who is charged with the primary responsibility? **Fathers are charged with the primary responsibility for guiding their homes and children.**

Is this meant to be delegated? **There is no indication in Scripture that the Fathers are supposed to delegate child rearing to the mothers and then go pursue other tasks. Fathers must be leading and involved!**

## THE DANGER OF ANGER / THE POWER OF LOVE

**Proverbs 17:6** - “Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.”

**God gave us their heart that we might **teach** and **train** them for their good!**

What do we risk if we use any methodology besides God’s? **We risk provoking them to anger, which damages the connection God gave us to use to teach and train them for His glory and their good.**

**Visit:** <http://www.fatherhood.org> for more compelling statistics

**When the bond of affection is **broken**, our ability to influence them for Christ is greatly **hindered**.**

**Visit:** [www.anchoredresources.org](http://www.anchoredresources.org) – Search for the sermons: “Don’t Provoke to Anger” – Parts 1 & 2

## BRING THEM UP

Bring them up – **nurture to maturity**

**Genesis 2:24** - “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

What is supposed to leave the home? A man is supposed to leave the home. We are called to raise our children to a place of maturity.

**We raise **adults**, not children.**

**Psalms 144:12** - “May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace;”

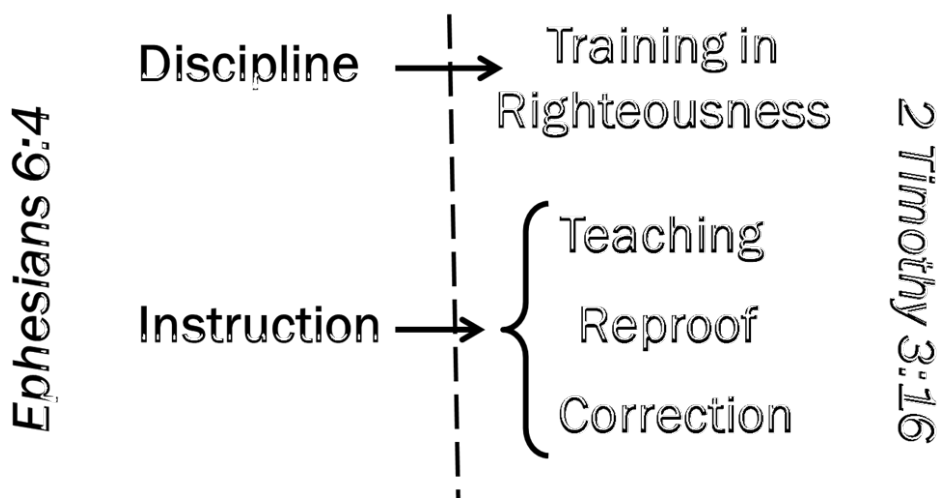
**Context:** The prayer of a soldier who longed for home that he might fulfill his duty and bless his home.

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## OUR ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE

Two sister passages that provide us insight: **Ephesians 6:4** and **2 Timothy 3:14-17**



## INSTRUCTION: TEACHING BIBLICALLY

**Deuteronomy 6:6-9** – How we are to raise our children in a Christian home

### Teaching with a Plan

Teach diligently – **teach by rote, impress, formally educate, inculcate, repeat.**

This is a picture of focused **planning** by the parent, coupled with formal **teaching** of the children

### How we try to do this in the Keen house?

- Our vision for our home:  
A Christian home - a family in which the true knowledge of Christ, His attitudes, attributes, presence, worship, and favor are the supreme goal.
- Our vision for our children
  1. Each of them be saved
  2. Have a heart that is given to the Lord
  3. Be equipped to serve God in whatever capacity He would have them.
- Our Goals for our children  
**Visit:** [www.anchoredresources.org](http://www.anchoredresources.org) – Search for the sermons: “Shooting for the Mark...” messages
- In practice, teaching can take on different formats.
  - Family Worship: flows from the goals for our children

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## TEACHING & TRAINING IN THE MIDST OF LIFE

- 1) Live these **truths** before your children

Your **example** will either add or subtract weight to your teaching

- 2) Use the **teachable** moments of life to catch their attention

Even our **failures** as parents are teachable moments!

## INSTRUCTION: REPROOF

Reproof – to convict or convince an individual of their guilt before a Holy God

This is a **necessary** part of parenting because of the inherent **sin** nature of our children.

### REPROOF: ESSENTIAL TO HEART CHANGE

**2 Corinthians 7:8-11** – Paul’s previous letter (1 Corinthians) convinced them; God’s Spirit took over and brought godly sorrow and repentance, which worked a great change in their attitude.

We do a **disservice** to our children when we present reproof outside of the context of Scripture.

### REPROOF: THE WAY OF LIFE

**Proverbs 15:5** – *“A fool despises his father’s instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.”*

**Proverbs 27:6** – *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”*

Reproof presented in the context of **love** will teach them the value of this proverb.

## PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR BIBLICAL REPROOF

- 1) Ask Questions that Appeal to their Conscience

**Proverbs 18:13** – *“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.”*

“You must try to disturb any complacency and indifference to sin and awaken him to the fact that he has done (or not done) something that is displeasing to God.” - Lou Priolo in Teach Them Diligently

**Genesis 4:6** - *“The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”*

Why is an excellent question! Don’t settle for, “I **don’t** know”.

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## 2) Define things Scripturally (for your benefit and theirs)

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 – Spiritual insight for spiritual problems.

Many **spiritual** problems are misdiagnosed as physiological problems in our culture.

The culture cannot understand the **root** problem because they do not have the **mind** of Christ.

## 3) Provide the Scriptural Perspective on their Sin

Psalm 51:4 – *“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.”*

Check out “For Instruction in Righteousness” – a fantastic resource!

## INSTRUCTION: CORRECTING WITH THE SCRIPTURES

Correction -

### CORRECTION: STEP BY STEP

#### 1) Confession

Psalm 32:1-5 – Confession is an essential part of receiving forgiveness from God

Confess – the loving means of standing someone back up after the rod of reproof has humbled them.

If you set this up right with Biblical reproof, they should be able to **recognize** and honestly confess that their **behavior** was sin against God and perhaps others too.

#### 2) Repentance – it is exemplified by everything that follows

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 – This is what repentance looks like: a change in heart, word & deed

##### a. Seeking Forgiveness from those offended

Luke 15:21 - *“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”*

Our children need to learn how to do this right. Don’t just say, “I’m **sorry**”. Honestly

**confess** the sin and ask for forgiveness

##### b. Restitution / Reconciling Relationships

Luke 19:8-10 – With real repentance comes the desire to make right what was wronged

This spirit of **restitution** leads to reconciliation.

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## c. Putting Off Sin

### i. Forsaking Sin

**Proverbs 28:13** – “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

For some sins, it may be enough to recognize it is evil and just **turn** away.

### ii. Radical Amputation May Be Necessary

**Matthew 5:27-30** – The doctrine of radical amputation

Knowing what to do will **flow** from looking for patterns in their sin.

Sin deeply **imbedded** in their character or habits will need more aggressive remedies.

### iii. Accountability May Be Necessary

**Proverbs 17:17** - “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

Bearing another’s **burdens** may require **ongoing** accountability. Don’t be afraid of this.

## d. Putting On Righteousness

**Ephesians 4:22-28...** - The put off/put on principle applied

God doesn’t aim to leave us **empty** by removing sin, but to **fill** us up by adding righteousness

## DISCIPLINING (TRAINING) BIBLICALLY

### HOW DO WE DEFINE TRAINING?

“Teaching gives knowledge. Training gives skill. Teaching fills the mind. Training shapes the habits. Teaching brings to the child that which he did not have before. Training enables a child to make use of that which is already in his possession... A very young child can be trained to cry for what it wants, or to keep quiet, as means of securing it. And, as a matter of fact, the training of children is begun much earlier than their teaching.”

- H. Clay Trumbull’s, *Hints on Child Training*. (Pioneer of the Sunday School Movement)

Training is the process of shaping **character** by careful repetition and the use of **blessings** and **consequences**.

### TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

righteousness – derived from a word meaning “straight”, that which is right, pure, and good

**Psalm 58:3** - “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.”

They establish sinful habits very **easily**; righteous habits are more **difficult** to come by.

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**Hebrews 5:12–14** – The writer of Hebrews chastens them for being behind on their spiritual development

1. **Training is progressive**
2. **Good training is work; bad training is easy**

The greatest enemy of good training is **laziness** on the part of the trainer.

3. **Your children cannot reach maturity without training**

Good training makes **normal** or commonplace, what previously seemed **impossible**.

## THE CORE OF TRAINING

- 1) **Show them how**

**Matt 9:35-10:7** – Jesus provided a clear example before sending out the apostles

To expect good performance without instruction and **example** is unreasonable and provokes **anger**.

- 2) **Give progressive responsibility**

**Exodus 23:27-31** – God promised to drive out inhabitants little by little as Israel increased

Desire does not equal **ability**.

- 3) **Provide blessings for obedience**

**Hebrews 12:2, 11:6** – Christ endured the cross for the joy set before Him; God rewards those who seek Him

**Matthew 7:11** – *“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

Bless your children with **yourself**.

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## 4) Provide correction for disobedience

**Proverbs 23:14** – *“If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.”*

If you talk about consequences but do not deliver, what will they think of God’s consequences?

**Proverbs 22:15** – *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”*

**Biblical correction (discipline) is a function of teaching or it is not biblical and becomes abuse.**

## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE

### 1) Do I really have to discipline my children?

**Hebrews 12:5-8** – The Lord chastens every one of His children  
**Only if you love them.**

### 2) Won’t discipline provoke my child to anger?

**Proverbs 13:24** – *“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”*

**Not if you do it right. Discipline, when administered correctly, is an act of love.**

### 3) When do I start disciplining?

**Hebrews 12:11** – Discipline is meant to be part of training that produces righteousness  
**Begin disciplining when it can be productive in training your child – when they can understand what you are communicating to them.**

### 4) How do we discipline?

#### a. Based upon their age.

**Hebrews 5:12–14** - *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”*

#### b. Based upon their personal disposition

**Proverbs 17:10** – *“A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.”* **General rule: it needs to hurt without damaging.**

#### c. Based upon the nature of the offence

**Proverbs 6:16–19** - *“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”*

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## THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE

*This is integrated into the process of rebuking (convincing) and correction already discussed*

**1) Calm and collect yourself before administering discipline if you are angry.**

**James 1:20** – *“For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”*

Send them to their room, require them to sit in a chair, etc.... while you pray and collect yourself

**2) Identify the nature of the offence – get the facts and make a careful judgment**

Consult with your spouse (if possible) to agree upon what is going on

*(From here on, the order can be modified to suit the situation and your preferences)*

**3) Discuss the offence with your child, making sure they understand what they did wrong and why it was wrong.** It is useful to use Scripture here (see the Convincing section)

**4) Determine the appropriate discipline**

Consult with your spouse (if possible) to agree upon what is going on

**5) Administer the discipline (i.e. spanking) or advise them of what it will be (loss of privileges, etc....)**

**Note:** It needs to hurt but not damage – otherwise you either make discipline a mockery or abuse

**6) Reaffirm your love to your child (i.e. hugging or holding them, verbally reminding them)**

**7) Discuss what they should have done in place of the sin they committed (See the Correction section)**

Make sure they understand this and are capable of doing it.

**8) Decide on whether restitution and reconciliation is necessary and coach them through the process**

**9) Pray with your child and for your child**

It really is ideal to do this AFTER administering the discipline so that they aren't distracted.

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