**Relationships in the Home – Parents to Child**

It is common place to see children out of control. T V news show accounts of children stealing, killing, taking drugs, and being involved in gang wars. In less dramatic form, children disobeying their parents be talking back or disregarding their rules. One even hears the term “parent abuse”. There are many children who do not know the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Whose fault, is it? In large part the blame must rest upon the parents.

***“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”*** (Ephesians 6:4). God has given parents the responsibility of training their own children. In this passage the chief duty is given to the father. One problem of many families is that the father is not present or involved in the child rearing process. In II Timothy 1:5 we read that Timothy’s mother helped to instill the proper faith in Timothy. She brought him up learning and respecting God’s law. Parents, your child must be trained and that has been given to you. Many parents want to give that job to day care centers or public schools but they are not equipped for the task. Day care centers and schools do not properly use the Bible to train your child. Some parents do not see the urgency in training their young children. They will wait until their child is five or a teenager and then wonder what went wrong. As a child is born it does not have a system of beliefs or values. If the parents do not train them, somebody will. It might be the TV set, playboy magazine, immoral teachers, or their peers, but somebody will train them. To not train your own child is to invite disaster.

Training should be based on the Word of God. Sit down with your family and open the Bible. Read lessons taught from Genesis to Revelation. Stress the everyday warnings in Proverbs. Perhaps one reason few people are doing a good job parenting is their own ignorance of the Bible. Children need to learn about God. They need to be taught right from wrong. It is absurd to feed, clothe, and provide for all of the physical needs and neglect the spiritual.

***“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged”*** (Colossians 3:21). What can discourage a child” Being inconsistent with your discipline, to correct in anger, or favor one child above another are some common ways to do so. To always criticize and never praise. The Bible is not telling us to let the child run free but to teach and act in the child’s best interest. A young child may not always appreciate a spanking or being grounded but if it is done fairly and consistently with love, he/she will learn to behave.

Discipline and admonition are involved in the training process. Discipline comes in different forms. Spanking or taking away privileges are two methods. Generally, the idea of discipline teaches or molds the child. ***“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it”*** (Hebrews12:11). Admonition requires talking and reasoning with the child. As children grow older, they should be reasoned with. Parents must take the time to sit and talk with children.

Three of the main elements in training children are God, love, and time. Turn off the television, spend some time with your children, and go to church with them. God expects you to be there together and your family needs it. Dennis Tucker