

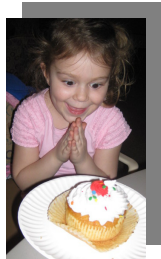


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## Are Children People Too?

Proverbs 22:15: (NASB) *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

Children - they are so sweet, adorable and predictable when they are infants - their needs are obvious and so caring for them takes an obvious path. Then something happens - they start to grow and develop a personality, a temperament, and preferences and suddenly what was once predictable now becomes more of a mystery and an adventure. So, what rights do children have? What rights do parents have? How do you know what kind of discipline should be used? How do you know where to set limits and boundaries? Stay with us as we discuss children, rights, discipline and the Bible!

### Do children have rights?

First, the Law given to Moses: Exodus 20:12

 **Children's Rights Through Children's Eyes, a school in Britian on youtube**

- *We should all have equal rights.*

Exodus 21:15-17: (NRSV) <sup>15</sup>Whoever strikes father or mother shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup>Whoever kidnaps a person, whether that person has been sold or is still held in possession, shall be put to death. <sup>17</sup>Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21: (NRSV) <sup>18</sup>If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father and mother, who does not heed them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup>then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his town at the gate of that place. <sup>20</sup>They shall say to the elders of his town, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard. <sup>21</sup>Then all the men of the town shall stone him to death. So you shall purge the evil from your midst; and all Israel will hear, and be afraid.

The Law was very severe regarding honoring one's parents and not becoming rebellious.

The following text was the strongest I found that could be interpreted this way: Proverbs 23:12-16: (ASV) <sup>12</sup>Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. <sup>13</sup>Withhold not correction from the child; For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. <sup>15</sup>My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: <sup>16</sup>Yea, my heart will rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.


What does this seem to be saying?

- Do not neglect correcting your child.
- If you beat a child with a rod - he will not die.
- When you beat him with a rod, you save him from the grave.

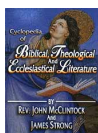
### Who decides what rights they have?

According to the theme text, it's all about the parent's decisions.

Mr. Richard Dawkins sees this a bit differently.

 **Abusive to label a child religiously, The Big Debate with Richard Dawkins**

- *It is important for children to learn about religion.*
- *I am against the labeling of children of the religion of their parents when they are too young to know their own views.*
- *It is abusive to take a tiny child and tell them "you are a Christian child" or "you are a Muslim child."*



**McClintock and Strong's**: The use of the staff as a symbol of authority was not confined to kings, it might be used by any leader... Indeed, no instance of the scepter being actually handled by a Jewish king occurs in the Bible; the allusions to it are all of a metaphorical character, and describe it simply as one of the insignia of supreme power.



"Rod" was used as an expression of supreme authority.

**Incomplete Development, *The Adolescent Brain*, youtube**

- *The pre-frontal cortex - the area that builds the strategies, planning behavior, changing your mind and warnings of potential consequences - is still being built during teenage years.*
- *Teens are capable of enormous intellectual and artistic accomplishments but that basic part of the brain that gives us strategies and warns us of potential consequences isn't fully on board yet.*

**Back to this text - Is God advocating beating children?** Proverbs 23:12-16: (ASV) <sup>12</sup>Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. <sup>13</sup>Withhold not correction from the child; For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. <sup>15</sup>My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: <sup>16</sup>Yea, my heart will rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

The context of the text broken down:

Apply thy heart unto instruction: Whose heart? The parent's heart.

instruction: chastisement; figuratively, reproof, warning or instruction; also restraint

Be willing to humbly receive instruction and restraint in your heart.

and thine ears to the words of knowledge: Whose ears? The parent's. ...This instruction you humbly receive must come from the words of knowledge. Here is that Instruction Manual every parent wants!

Withhold not correction from the child: "correction" is the exact same word as "instruction" above. The parent is both instructed and to instruct in the same way. In other words, don't cheat your child out of necessary reproof, warning and instruction.

For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. Disciplining him with forceful authority won't kill him.

Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. On the contrary, when you firmly discipline him, you are feeding the quality and habits of his life positively.

My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: so that his heart - his inner man may grow to be truly wise, which makes my heart to thoroughly rejoice.

Yea, my heart will rejoice, when thy lips speak right things. Yes! My heart will thoroughly rejoice when your maturity comes through in your words!

We need to apply this with patience, not necessarily seeing immediate results.

**Do parents always know what is good for their children?**

**This text indicates the need for authority - without it, a child is considered neglected!**

Proverbs 29:15-20: Discipline takes work, but the fruits follow afterwards. Sometimes it takes more than just words.



**Effects of Divorce on Children, statistics on divorce and kids**

- *1/3 of all children are born out of wedlock;*
- *35 million children have seen their parents' divorce since 1970;*
- *Five times more likely to live in poverty - three times more likely to be expelled from school - twelve times more likely to be jailed;*
- *Only 45% of teenagers live with their married mother and father.*

This next text brings in the thought of reigning in one's emotions in the disciplining process: Proverbs 19:16-20:





Sometimes we are afraid of our children. We need to be the parent, not their friend. Children need models more than they need critics.

))) God and Morals don't mix, *The Big Debate with Richard Dawkins*

- *It would be deeply depressing if the only way children could get moral values was from religion.*
- *Children should not be intimidated by God into any set of morals.*

Is spanking a good way to discipline your child?

**How do we handle the discipline factor?** Hebrews 12:4-13: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children - My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are **punished (rebuked)** by him; <sup>6</sup>for the Lord **disciplines** those whom he loves, and **chastises** every child whom he accepts.

**Discipline:** Strong's #3809- *tutorage, i.e. education or training*

This is the overall experience of learning as a Christian. We learn lessons when we make mistakes. There are three levels of training discussed in this scripture:

First Level/rebukes: *to find fault with, correct*

- The least painful, correction with words or a look.

Second Level/disciplines: *to train, to cause one to learn*

- This is the second level of training, more painful, it takes a little more time, training through action.

Third Level/chastises: *to chastise, to flog*

- This is the third level of training, the most painful, putting punishment in place.

))) Get Control, *Out of Control Children with Dr Phil (2008)*

- *If the parent does not control the situation, they will be manipulated by the child.*

What do parents "owe" their children?

**The responsibility of parents:** 2 Corinthians 12:14: We ought to take care of them in every way.

))) Effects of Divorce on Children, Judge Joseph Monnin

- *The effects of the family unit breakdown is easily observed in juvenile court.*
- *Clark County population is the same over 40 years, yet juvenile court cases have risen four times.*
- *The one corollary is these kids are from poor and broken or never-married families.*

We owe our children better than this. We owe them parenting.

Proverbs 13:20-25: A child needs guidance.

))) Teach morals without God and fear, *The Big Debate with Richard Dawkins*

- *Teach the Golden Rule without religion, it is depressing to suggest that you actually need God in order to be moral. I hope our morals come from a better source than that to be genuinely moral rather than based on outmoded scripture or based on fear.*

What better source can there be? Fallen humanity? How are we doing so far? (Incidentally, the Golden Rule comes from the Scriptures...)

Proverbs 22:12-16

Do children "owe" their parents anything?

))) Values Come in Spite of Religion, *The Big Debate with Richard Dawkins*

- *Any good morality often comes despite religion and is a result of enlightenment and a vast social movement for 21st century values.*



Parenting = Stewardship. A child is a person in Christ to be persuaded and nurtured with a sense of stewardship on our part, and never used as a weapon in battle with others or in battles with ourselves. We lead the child to Christ by being Christ-like. Ephesians 6:4: *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the Lord.*

Proverbs 19:26-27: It is the child's responsibility to be humble, be respectful and have a willingness to give back.



**Adolescence and Risky Behavior, *The Adolescent Brain*, youtube**

- *Adolescence has always been a period of high risk and with the underdeveloped frontal cortex, the ability to measure risk is impaired.*

Proverbs 10:1-6: These are *learned* behaviors for a child. They need to be shown how to be responsible, and out of responsibility comes independence.

**How much freedom should a child be given?** 1 Timothy 3:4-5: How we raise our children is a reflection on the rest of our lives.

**Enough freedom to still remain respectful in every way...**Ephesians 6:1-4 Proverbs 30:11-13

**Finally, the responsibility of children and parents simply summed up:** Colossians 3:20-21

We believe that if we can take our higher source of goodness and righteousness and apply it to the raising of children, the children will be better enabled to serve mankind and make their own choices because what they are given to work with is higher than mankind. Inevitably, when we rely on the reasoning of man, there is going to be a disagreement. When we rely on God, it is something so much better. Raising children is difficult and takes work. Go to work!

*So are children people too?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

