

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: (KJV) *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

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

- *We should all have equal rights.*

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

Deuteronomy 21:18-21: (NRSV) ¹⁸If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father and mother, who does not heed them when they discipline him, ¹⁹then 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. ²⁰They 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.* ²¹Then 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) ¹²Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. ¹³Withhold not correction from the child; For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. ¹⁴Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. ¹⁵My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: ¹⁶Yea, 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?

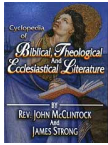
According to the theme text, it's all about the parent's decisions.

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) ¹²Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. ¹³Withhold not correction from the child; For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. ¹⁴Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. ¹⁵My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: ¹⁶Yea, 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: (NRSV) ¹⁵The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by a neglected child. ¹⁶When the wicked are in authority, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall. ¹⁷Discipline your children, and they will give you rest; they will give delight to your heart. ¹⁸Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint, but happy are those who keep the law. ¹⁹By mere words servants are not disciplined, for though they understand, they will not give heed. ²⁰Do you see someone who is hasty in speech? There is more hope for a fool than for anyone like that.

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: (NRSV) ¹⁶Those who keep the commandment will live; those who are heedless of their ways will die. ¹⁷Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and will be repaid in full. ¹⁸Discipline your children while there is hope; do not set your heart on their destruction. ¹⁹A violent tempered person will pay the penalty; if you effect a rescue, you will only have to do it again. ²⁰Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

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.*

Excerpts from:

(Source: John Quincy Adams, the 6th President - Scholar, Diplomat, Statesman. allbiographies.com) After the British left Boston, this little fellow, still only nine years old, used to ride on horseback into the city to bring back to his mother the latest news. It was twenty-two miles going and coming, which was a pretty long ride for a boy of that age.

The boy we are speaking of was the oldest son of John Adams, the great patriot, who was then in the Congress at Philadelphia, helping with the famous Declaration of Independence...A grave, thoughtful little boy he was, one who would rather hear the old folks talk than play with his schoolmates, and who was to do the work of a man long before he ceased being a boy. Like his father, he was honest in grain, and like his father, he was fearless and obstinate. To the day of his death, nothing could scare him, and nothing could turn him from his course.

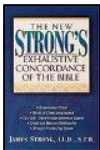
The boy began life in the great world early. He was just past ten years of age when his father was sent by his country to France, and took him along. A long and stormy voyage it was; and on the way they were chased by a British war-vessel, and had a desperate battle with a privateer, in which his father wanted to help the sailors fight, but the captain would not let him.

How can a child that young have handled this responsibility and *our* children are just planted in front of the television or computer?

Is spanking a good way to discipline your child?

How do we handle the discipline factor?

Hebrews 12:4-13: (NRSV) ⁴*In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.* ⁵*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; ⁶*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/rebuked: *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: (KJV) *Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*

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: (NRSV) ²⁰Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm. ²¹Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous. ²²The good leave an inheritance to their children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. ²³The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice. ²⁴Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them. ²⁵The righteous have enough to satisfy their appetite, but the belly of the wicked is empty.

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...)

(Source: John Quincy Adams, the 6th President - Scholar, Diplomat, Statesman. allbiographies.com) The ship got safe through all this, and they came at length to Paris. Here little John was sent to school and put to studying French. He learned a good deal more, for when they came back, a year and a half later, we find the boy giving lessons in English to the French ambassador, who was on board the ship. He was a severe teacher, too. He would stand no idleness. And he showed so much learning that the ambassador stared at him in wonder. The boy of twelve was more than half a man already. "He is a better teacher than you are," said the ambassador to Mr. Adams.

They did not stay home long. In three months John Adams was sent back again, and once more he took his son along. This time the boy saw more of the world, for his father traveled from Paris to Holland and met many of the leading people. Young John Quincy must have shown himself wonderfully bright, for he was in public service himself before he was fourteen years old. Francis Dana, envoy from the United States to Russia, took him as his private secretary.

Proverbs 22:12-16: (NRSV) ¹²The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the faithless. ¹³The lazy person says, *There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!* ¹⁴The mouth of a loose woman is a deep pit; he with whom the LORD is angry falls into it. ¹⁵Folly is bound up in the heart of a boy, but the rod of discipline drives it far away. ¹⁶Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself, and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss.



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: (NRSV) ²⁶Those who do violence to their father and chase away their mother are children who cause shame and bring reproach. ²⁷Cease straying, my child, from the words of knowledge, in order that you may hear instruction.

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: (NRSV) ¹The proverbs of Solomon. A wise child makes a glad father, but a foolish child is a mother's grief. ²Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. ³The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. ⁴A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵A child who gathers in summer is prudent, but a child who sleeps in harvest brings shame. ⁶Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

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: (NRSV) ⁴He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

How we raise our children is a reflection on the rest of our lives.

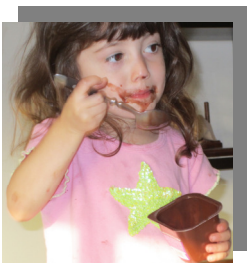
Enough freedom to still remain respectful in every way...

Ephesians 6:1-4: (NRSV) ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother—this is the first commandment with a promise: ³so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. ⁴And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 30:11-13: (NRSV) ¹¹There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. ¹²There are those who are pure in their own eyes yet are not cleansed of their filthiness. ¹³There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

Finally, the responsibility of children and parents simply summed up:

Colossians 3:20-21: (NRSV) ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.





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...!*



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Detailed analysis of the “beat them with a rod” text:

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

Rod: Strongs #7626 jbv shebet *shay'*- *bet* from an unused root probably meaning to branch off; 1a) rod, staff 1b) shaft (of spear, dart) 1c) club (of shepherd's implement) 1d) truncheon, sceptre (mark of authority) 1e) clan, tribe

(Source: McClintock and Strong's:) (Hebrews fb,ve, *she'bet*), in its primary signification...denotes a staff of wood (<261911> Ezekiel 19:11), about the height of a man, which the ancient kings and chiefs bore as insignia of honor. The use of the staff as a symbol of authority was not confined to kings, it might be used by any leader, as instanced in



<070514>Judges 5:14, where for "pen of the writer," as in the A.V., we should read "scepter of the 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 (<194506>Psalm 45:6; Bar. 6:14).

Beat: Strongs 5221. hkn nakah naw-kaw'; a primitive root; to strike (lightly or severely, literally or figuratively):— beat, cast forth, clap, give [wounds], go forward, indeed, kill, make [slaughter], murderer, punish, slaughter, slay(-er, -ing), smite(-r, -ing), strike, be stricken, (give) stripes, surely, wound.

Some uses of BOTH words together that are obviously figurative:

Isaiah 11:4: (KJV) *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite <5221> the earth with the rod <7626> of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

Micah 5:1: (KJV) *Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite <5221> the judge of Israel with a rod <7626> upon the cheek.*

Zechariah 10:11: (KJV) *And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite <5221> the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre <7626> of Egypt shall depart away.*

Joshua 12:7: (KJV) ⁷*And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel smote <5221> on this side Jordan on the west, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon even unto the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir; which Joshua gave unto the tribes <7626> of Israel for a possession according to their divisions;*

Proverbs 22:3-6: (NRSV) ³*The clever see danger and hide; but the simple go on, and suffer for it.* ⁴*The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.* ⁵*Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; the cautious will keep far from them.* ⁶*Train children in the right way, ²and when old, they will not stray.*

This text reminds us of the role that humility MUST play in the raising of our children and even indicates the problems we would encounter if not true to the words of knowledge.

Hebrews 5:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; ¹³for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.*

Freedom and maturity go hand in hand.



Rules for Raising Children (Author Unknown)

Suzanna Wesley was the mother of nineteen children, among them were John and Charles Wesley. It has been said that the Methodist faith was born on the lap of a mother, Suzanne Wesley.

She spent one hour each day in prayer. That's seven hours each week! She spent one hour per week with each child individually imparting spiritual life and wisdom. That's nineteen hours!

Suzanna Wesley over two hundred years ago formulated sixteen rules for raising children. They are still pretty good rules.

1. Eating between meals is not allowed.
2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 pm.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. They are to subdue their self-will so that they might be open to God's salvation.
5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
7. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Commend and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to reverence God.