



What Rights and Privacy should Children Have?

Proverbs 13:24: (NASB) He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.



Children are people too! Yes they are, but what does that really mean in terms of raising them? After all, they are children, and the object is for them to become adults - real, full-fledged, mature, contributory adults! As a parent, is it our responsibility to walk them to that destination or do they instinctively know how to get there on their own? Could it be that parents are just in the way? What does the Bible say? Is the Bible right for our generation? Stay with us!

What is a *child's* responsibility to their parents?

 **Wanted to be the first, spoiled Veruca Salt, *Willy Wonka (1971)***

- *Veruca: I wanted to be the first to find a golden ticket, Daddy!*
- *Daddy: I know, Angel. We're doing the best we can! I've get every girl on the bleeding stockroom looking for ya.*
- *Veruca: Where is it? Why haven't they found it?*
- *Daddy: Veruca, Sweetheart, I'm not a magician! Give me time!*
- *Veruca: I want it NOW! What's the matter with those twerps down there!?*
- *Daddy: For five day now, the entire flipping factory's been on the job! They haven't shelled a peanut in there since Monday! They've been shelling flaming chocolate bars from dawn to dusk.*
- *Veruca: Make them work nights!*



The answer to our original question is really quite simple! Honor and respect your parents:

Ephesians 6:1-3: (NASB) ¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

FACT This is the only one of the Ten Commandments that came with a promise, specifically designating personal advantage.

 **Whatever happened to..., *Bill Cosby, January, 2004***

- *Ladies and Gentlemen: Whatever happened to parenting? (Wild applause) Whatever happened to, "I am your mother, and I know better for you. I am your father and I know better for you, and I love you." Whatever happened to responsibility placed on these children? We cannot raise a child on love bought. "I'm afraid not to give it to her, because she may not like me." That's not parenting. That's called, Junior Chamber of Commerce Award.*



Honor is seen in loving what that parent has to offer:

Proverbs 12:1: (KJV) *Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.*

Honor is seen in truly listening:

Proverbs 13:1: (KJV) *A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.*

Proverbs 15:5: (KJV) *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*

Which list would you rather be on? Generally this is not taught today.

Authoritarian dangers, Authoritarian vs. Permissive, Alison Poulsen

- *Authoritarian parents want their children to be successful, responsible, independent and capable. Excessive authoritarianism, though, can be harmful in the following five ways: The excessively strict parent doesn't really enjoy the child, doesn't hang out with the child, and there is little appreciation for feelings or imagination or creativity.*
- *When you have an overly strict parent, you develop a very harsh inner critic, and it makes you very hard to relax and enjoy life. Even though the child of an authoritarian parent might be obedient, he or she could become a target for future authoritarian relationships - bully wives or bully husbands.*
- *And actually those obedient children sometime become sneaky and secretive because they are so fearful of the parent.*



Honor is seen in applying what you are taught:

Proverbs 4:1-6: (KJV) ¹Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. ²For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. ³For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. ⁴He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. ⁵Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. ⁶Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Proverbs 15:31-32: (KJV) ³¹The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. ³²He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

What is a parent's responsibility to their child?

A parent's responsibility is to provide:

2 Corinthians 12:14: (NASB) *Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.*

Paul was like a father figure to the Corinthian church, preparing a future for them. That principle applies to us as well.

Permissive pitfalls 1 and 2, Authoritarian vs. Permissive, Alison Poulsen

- *Permissive parents want their children to be happy, to be creative and to feel loved, to really enjoy the moment. But when permissive parents become excessively permissive, they are not doing their children any favors. So here are the four harmful things that can happen with too much permissive*



parenting: Sometimes fear of conflict leads to parents over-indulging a child, and what happens is that the child then learns to be demanding and whining and to be loud. The child of an overly-permissive parent doesn't learn self-discipline and doesn't learn to postpone gratification.

Sometimes parents have to break a pattern of how they themselves were raised.

A parent's responsibility is to discipline:

Proverbs 19:18: (NRSV) *Discipline your children while there is hope; do not set your heart on their destruction.*

Kids are homeless, *Bill Cosby, January, 2004*

- *These children happen to be homeless people! They don't own a home. They don't have a job. The closest things they have are chores, and they don't do them! Who are these people running these kids? And all you keep talking about is, "...in my day..." "You know, in my day my father would have thrown me..." ...well, what's wrong with you?*

Children need to be given ways to contribute.

A parent's responsibility is to teach:

Proverbs 22:6: (KJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Notice it does *not* say they will *never* depart from it...

Parents should be wise in their approach:

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

Permissive pitfalls 3 and 4, *Authoritarian vs. Permissive, Alison Poulsen*

- *The child will feel anxious and insecure. If the parent is always there taking care of the child, letting the child do whatever he or she wants, the child doesn't feel that sense of self-empowerment that enables you to go out in the real world, where you don't know what will happen, and have some sort of confidence that you'll come out at the other end. The child loses respect for the parent. If the parent is overly indulging the child, always trying to make the child happy and comfortable, then the message is sent that the parent is very uncomfortable with any anxiety or difficulty or discomfort.*

A child will look more at what you do than what you say. Children need models more than they need critics. Our goal is to give them everything possible to make them responsible adults.

A parent's responsibility is to nurture:

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.*



A parent's responsibility is to communicate and encourage towards maturity:

1 Thessalonians 2:10-14: (NRSV) ¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. ¹¹As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, ¹²urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. ¹³We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. ¹⁴For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews...

Should a child be forced to follow their parents' moral guidelines?



"The thing that impresses me most about America is the way parents obey their children."
-King Edward VIII (1984-1972)



Teens, use it or lose it, *Adolescent Brain*, PBS

- The "pruning down" phase is perhaps even more interesting. Our leading hypothesis for that is the "use it or lose it" principle. Those cells and connections that are used will survive and flourish. Those cells and connections that are not used will wither and die. So if the teen is doing music, or sports or academics, those are the cells and connections that will be hardwired. If they are lying on the couch or playing video games or watching TV, those are the cells and connections that are going to survive.

So, should we force our children to follow our moral guidelines? We think the short answer is absolutely yes! What child knows exactly what is best for them?

Proverbs 22:15: (KJV) Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 29:15: (KJV) The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Rotten, mean father, spoiled Veruca Salt, *Willy Wonka* (1971)

- Veruca: They're not even trying! They don't want to find it - they're jealous of me!
- Daddy: Sweetheart, I can't push 'em no harder. It's 19,000 bars an hour they're shelling and 160,000 of them they've done so far!
- Veruca: You promised, Daddy! You promised I'd have it the very first day!





- *Mother: You're going to very unpopular around here, Henry, if you don't deliver soon.*
- *Daddy: It breaks my heart, Henrietta. I hate to see her unhappy.*
- *Veruca: I won't talk to you ever again! You're a rotten, mean father! You never give me anything I want! And I won't go to school until I have it!*



Obviously this is over-the-top disrespect. Children end up being lost as adults.

This next text shows the harsh reality of the Law regarding such matters:

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.

Death for being disobedient? This refers to older children, but the penalty for absolute disrespect for your parents was death. But do all parents have great moral guidelines? Unfortunately not.

Talk and teach, *Bill Cosby, January, 2004*

- *Talk to your children - that's a part of parenting! Stop leaving it up to "the teacher might do it." Ask your child. Make your child talk to you. This is not a contest called, "Do you love me...please?" None of you want to stand in front of a judge with your child dressed in orange and say, I'm sorry your honor, I did all I could. No. I want you to talk to your children. I want you to teach your children to love you unconditionally, and if they do that, then it's an even playing field.*

We teach by applying the process of leadership, guidance and discipline:

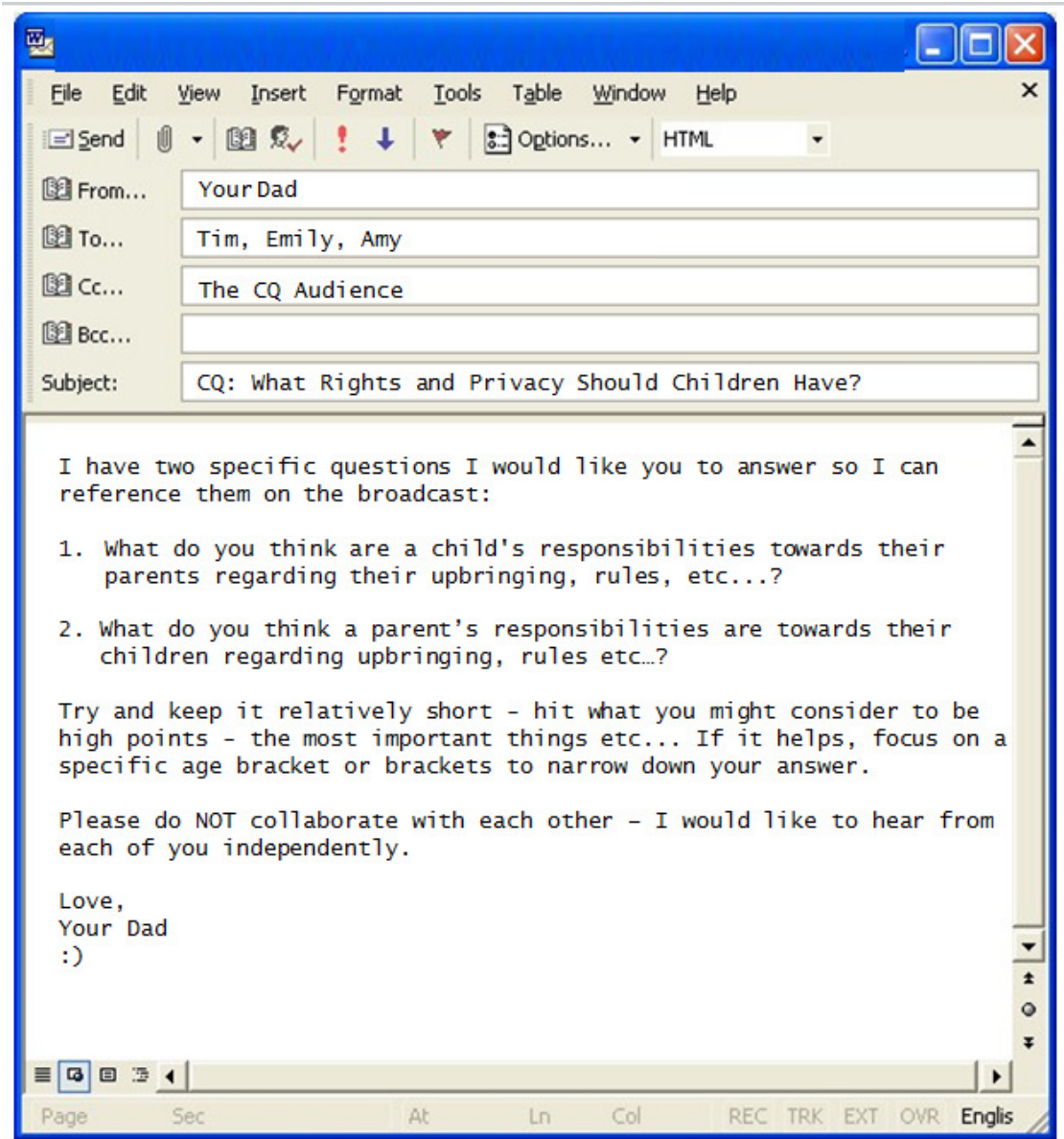
Hebrews 12:5-11: (NRSV) ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children--My child, do not regard lightly the **discipline** of the Lord, or lose heart when you are **punished (rebuked)** by him; ⁶for the Lord **disciplines** those whom he loves, and **chastises** every child whom he accepts. ⁷Endure trials for the sake of **discipline**. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, **discipline** always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- Do not lose heart when you are **rebuked** by Him...: Scolding with words or a look disheartens.
- ...for the Lord **disciplines** those whom he loves: Discipline/action doesn't feel like love.

- ...**chastises** every child whom He accepts: Scourging seems to be the opposite of acceptance.

How should a parent teach a child morals and ethics in a way that the child doesn't feel overwhelmed by standards that are too high?

The e-mail I sent to my three grown up and independent children:



How have I done as a parent? I ask my grown up children! We will get to that shortly, but in the meantime, back to Veruca!

 Happiness and harmony, spoiled Veruca Salt, *Willy Wonka (1971)*

- *(One of the workers finds a golden ticket) I got it! Here it is!*
- *Veruca: I want it! Give me that ticket! It's mine! I found a golden ticket!*
- *Daddy: Thank goodness for that.*





- *Mother: Happiness is what counts with children. Happiness and harmony.*

Proverbs 13:24: (NRSV) *Those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them.*

Discipline should be a byproduct of our love for our children.



A caller suggests: Ways of teaching children to be good Christians include reading Scriptures, teaching lessons and Bible stories so they can relate to their own lives. Also, teaching respect for other people, including practical examples like being on time. Teaching them to think of others by learning Jesus' example of washing one another's feet.

Rick's son Tim, now 30, is a very responsible adult but was a very rebellious teenager. Here is his (partial) answer to Rick's email. (See **CQ Rewind Full Edition for the complete reply.**)

1. The responsibility a child has to his or her parents as far as upbringing and rules is to accept what the parents have set forth and abide by the rules of the household. Obviously, there are unfortunate circumstances where parents don't always have the child's best interest in mind, but just because there are some unfortunate cases doesn't mean all parents are like that and most have their child's best interest in mind. As far as privacy, a child has not earned the right to be able to decide for itself what they will and will not share with their parents. If children are hiding things and feel that their privacy is being invaded, it's probably because they are doing something that they shouldn't and could possibly hurt themselves or others...



2. A parent's job is to teach and raise their children to be good, well-rounded people, and that is not an easy task at all. All children are different and every parent will encounter problems and difficult decisions. By limiting a parent's ability to set up the rules and guidelines for their household to help raise and protect their children, you're asking for trouble. A parent has a hard enough job as it is without society telling them that they are invading their child's privacy. It is a parent's decision what their children can and can't do and what they can keep secret and what a parent needs to know. The wonderful technology we all enjoy today makes our everyday life better but it is also an easier way for children to put themselves in compromising potentially dangerous situations without the knowledge of their parents, making the monitoring of our children even more important.

Brains not fully developed, Adolescent Brain, PBS

- *A child's cognitive flexibility - the ability to change their mind to solve problems - is still being built during teenage years. The part of the brain that gives us strategies and organizing and warns us of potential consequences isn't fully on board yet.*

To best influence our children, we need to approach them with the highest regard for who they are and what they represent - one of the greatest gifts with which we could ever be blessed! How often do we as parents actually thank God for our children?



Micah 6:8: (NRSV) *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Keeping these three simple and elegant principles as a foundation, we then apply the next text:

1 Corinthians 11:1: (NRSV) *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

So, with our attitude and motivation focused, we can now proceed to express our leadership and concern for our children with honesty and integrity.

1 Corinthians 4:14-19: (NRSV) ¹⁴*I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.* ¹⁵*For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.* ¹⁶*I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me.* ¹⁷*For this reason I sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church.* ¹⁸*But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant.* ¹⁹*But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power.*

The Apostle Paul teaches us that parental authority must be present, visible and clear. Children need to be shown how to be an adult.



A caller suggests: Raising God-honoring adults is more important than raising successful children. We make a distinction between success in God's eyes or the world's eyes.

How much freedom should a child be given?

Rick's daughter Emily is an emergency room nurse. Here is part of her answer:

What is a child's responsibility to their parents...simply to listen!!!! Obviously that won't happen all the time every time, but it's to listen and be respectful of their parents, which is incredibly lost lately. Like I tell aggravated patients who are swearing loudly in the E.R. when I ask them to stop and they say, I don't give a (insert a multitude of inappropriate language here), I tell them "you don't have to like what I've asked of you but you do have to respect it and do it."

On the other hand, a parent's responsibility to their children is...drum roll please...hold your breath, this is going to surprise you...**BE A PARENT, NOT A FRIEND.** I did not grow up with friends as parents...why? Because that's not their job. Their job is to put me in my place when I misbehave, act out, etc. Stop trying to make your kids like you all the time. Chances are if they dislike you 50% of the time as teenagers, you're doing something right! Take this for what it's worth; I don't have kids but I hope when I do I'm like my parents... I know my unborn won't be having their cell phones, iPads, etc. in their possession at night...they'll be in mine. No private phone calls or TVs in their room. You want to talk to a boy/girl, guess what, it's happening in the living room where everyone can hear you!! Hope this is helpful! XOXO



))) 193 countries can be checked up on - “pro” stance, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, youtube.com (Switzerland)

- *The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an agreement between countries to act in a certain manner. The Convention has 54 articles and 41 of them each highlight a rule, such as all children have the right to a name, all children have the right to education and all children have the right to play. The countries which accept these rules are regularly checked up on to make sure that they are not cheating and breaking any rules. Today, 193 countries, including Switzerland where we live, have accepted the rules of the Convention.*



Sound scriptural principle:

Maturity goes hand in hand with freedom and privilege:

Hebrews 5:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²For 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.

The Apostle contrasts the immature with the mature. With maturity, one finds freedom. A child does not have that same freedom.

))) Defining the treaty, “against” stance, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, youtube.com

(Note: This was voted down in the United States’ Congress in 2009.)

- *The United Nation’s CRC treaty takes decision-making power away from parents and gives it to the government so it can enforce the ideological whims of the United Nations. This treaty allows the United Nations to decide what is in the best interest of the child, overriding all parental concerns.*
- *This is how it works: A committee of 18 experts sitting in Geneva has the authority to issue official interpretations of the treaty, which would be entitled to binding weight in the American courts and legislatures. This effectively transfers ultimate authority for policies in these areas to a foreign committee. This includes health, education, and family life issues like faith and discipline.*

Sound scriptural principle:

A child is childish and cannot function as an adult:

1 Corinthians 3:1-4: (NRSV) ¹And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, I belong to Paul, and another, I belong to Apollos, are you not merely human?

So when we act childish, we by definition must have the reigns of freedom pulled from us as Christians. We do not want to be “adult children” in Christ.

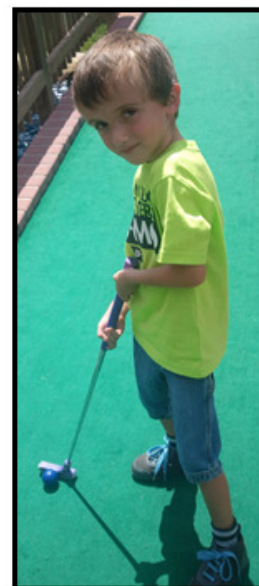


Sound scriptural principle:
Children have little strength and need the support of the mature:

Ephesians 4:11-15: (NRSV) *¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...*

Sound scriptural principle:
Grow up! (Notice - true growing up takes time, nourishment and experience)

1 Corinthians 14:20: (NRSV) *Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults.*



A caller suggests: If we don't discipline our children, the world will. Care and training of children trumps privacy every time. Children will not resent the path we set them on as long as we walk it as well. **Ephesians 6:1-3:** *Children obey your parents in the Lord that it may go well with you and you have a long life on earth.*

Rick's daughter Amy is a teacher and the mother of Domenic. Here is her answer to Rick's email request:


1. It is the child's responsibility to choose responsibility! It is the child's responsibility to their parent to be respectful and adhere to parental rules and guidelines. The child makes a choice as they get older to choose a path: both respect and following their parents' rules or total disregard for their parents' rules and doing what they want when they want. Some kids might dabble in both pathways. As a child gets older, they can make a choice to prove that they are responsible. If they can prove that they are responsible and respectful they might see that they are handed more responsibility and trust by their parents. A child needs to be the owner of their choices.

2. With that being said, parents need to lead by example. Whether you like it or not, your children are watching you and learning by your actions. It is a parent's responsibility to look out for their child's best interest no matter what. They need to set guidelines and rules that are in the interest of their child's wellbeing. Parents need to take ownership of the fact that they are the parent, and their child is the child. They will not always be friends, it's ok. Parents need to be a constant support. In order to be a support they need to allow their children to own their choices.

Sometimes children need to experience things on their own and learn the hard way. It's the parents' job to let go when necessary, be stern when needed, and teach their kids how to pick up the pieces when it all falls apart. Parenting



is one of the hardest jobs out there, but being a good parent is worth it in the end, no matter how bumpy the road is.

 Kids' rights to speech and religion, "pro" stance, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, youtube.com (Switzerland)

- *The Convention also says that all children should be listened to and be able to say what they think - freedom of speech is a human right and everybody has a right to say what they think, not just adults, but children too. And what children think and say is important, so adults should listen.*
- *It is also an important right to be able to think and believe what you want. All children have the right to choose their own religion. There are many religions in our world today, such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and many more. The convention allows children to believe what they want.*

This thinking hands over the responsibility of raising our children to someone else.

What should happen when a parent and child disagree?

Our children are OUR PERSONAL responsibility:

1 Peter 2:1-5: (NRSV) ¹Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Through parenting, we allow the growth process to have its results shine through.

 Netherlands, "against" stance, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, youtube.com

- *Consider the United Nations voted the Netherlands, where the legal age of consent is only twelve years old, to be one of the best places to raise children. And the United Nations also praised the Netherlands' liberal attitude towards juvenile drug and alcohol use. Usually if you don't like the laws that your politicians pass, you can kick them out at the next election. But because this is a foreign treaty, once these United Nations' elitists move in, you can't throw them out.*

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.

We cannot be afraid to be the head of the household for their ultimate good. On the other side, we need to be ready to walk away from them when they are of age, as they are ready to make their own decisions.



This next text brings in the thought of reigning in emotions during 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 affect a rescue, you will only have to do it again. ²⁰Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

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.



Walk the road with them. Show them by what you do and teach them by what you say. Show them how to think in a godly manner. Raising children is one of the most critical responsibilities we can have, and fortunately we have the Bible that gives us the scriptural principles on how to do that.

*So what rights and privacy should children have?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





First, the full answers to the two questions Rick asked his adult children:

Tim's answer:

1. The responsibility a child has to his or her parents as far as upbringing and rules is to accept what the parents have set forth and abide by the rules of the household. Obviously, there are unfortunate circumstances where parents don't always have the child's best interest in mind, but just because there are some unfortunate cases doesn't mean all parents are like that and most have their child's best interest in mind. As far as privacy, a child has not earned the right to be able to decide for itself what they will and will not share with their parents. If children are hiding things and feel that their privacy is being invaded, it's probably because they are doing something that they shouldn't and could possibly hurt themselves or others. How many times have children been hurt or even killed because they thought something was a good idea and fun and it ended up getting someone hurt, and a parent says we didn't ask because we didn't want to invade their privacy.

2. A parent's job is to teach and raise their children to be good, well-rounded people, and that is not an easy task at all. All children are different and every parent will encounter problems and difficult decisions. By limiting a parent's ability to set up the rules and guidelines for their household to help raise and protect their children, you're asking for trouble. A parent has a hard enough job as it is without society telling them that they are invading their child's privacy. It is a parent's decision what their children can and can't do and what they can keep secret and what a parent needs to know. The wonderful technology we all enjoy today makes our everyday life better but it is also an easier way for children to put themselves in compromising potentially dangerous situations without the knowledge of their parents making the monitoring of our children even more important.

Honestly, all this can be summed up by this: you are not considered a legal adult by the U.S. government and have not earned the trust of your parents by making good healthy decisions for yourself. Your parents have the right to make the rules for the household, and you have the responsibility to follow them whether you like them or not. If you don't want to, wait until you're 18 and move out!

Emily's answer:

The question for this week's radio program is a hot topic especially at work because of the unbelievable stuff and people we see in the department. What is a child's responsibility to their parent's rules, etc., simply to listen!!!! Obviously that won't happen all the time every time, but it's to listen and be respectful of their parents which is incredibly lost lately. Like I tell aggravated patients who are swearing loudly in the E.R. when I ask them to stop and they say, I don't give a (insert a multitude of inappropriate language here), I tell them "you don't have to like what I've asked of you but you do have to respect it and do it."

On the other hand, a parent's responsibility to their children is...drum roll please...hold your breath, this is going to surprise you...BE A PARENT, NOT A FRIEND. I did not grow up with friends as parents...why? Because that's not their job. Their job is to put me in my place when I misbehave, act out, etc. Stop trying to make your kids like you all the time. Chances are if they dislike you 50% of the time as teenagers, you're doing something right! Take this for what it's worth; I don't have kids but I hope when I do I'm like my parents... I know my unborn won't be having their cell phones, iPads, etc. in their possession at night...they'll be in mine. No private phone calls or TVs in their room. You want to talk to a boy/girl, guess what, it's happening in the living room where everyone can hear you!! Hope this is helpful! XOXO

Amy's answer:

1. It is the child's responsibility to choose responsibility! It is the child's responsibility to their parent to be respectful and adhere to parental rules and guidelines. The child makes a choice as they get older to choose a path, either respect and following their parents rules, or total disregard for their parents rules and doing what they want when they want. Some kids might dabble in both pathways. As a child gets older they can make a choice to prove that they are responsible, if they can prove that they are responsible and respectful they might see that they



are handed more responsibility and trust by their parents. A child needs to be the owner of their choices.

2. With that being said, parents need to lead by example. Whether you like it or not, your children are watching you and learning by your actions. It is a parent’s responsibility to look out for their child’s best interest no matter what. They need to set guidelines and rules that are in the interest of their child’s wellbeing. Parents need to take ownership of the fact that they are the parent, and their child is the child.. They will not always be friends, it’s ok. Parents need to be a constant support, in order to be a support they need to allow their children to own their choices.

Sometimes children need to experience things on their own and learn the hard way. It’s the parents’ job to let go when necessary, be stern when needed and teach their kids how to pick up the pieces when it all falls apart. Parenting is one of the hardest jobs out there, but being a good parent is worth it in the end, no matter how bumpy the road is.

Second, a detailed look at a text that sure seems like it is saying we should really beat our children:

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: Strong’s #7626 jbv shebet *shay’- bet* from an unused root probably meaning to branch off; AV-tribe 140, rod 34, sceptre 10, staff 2, misc 4; 190

- 1) rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, sceptre, tribe
- 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:) In its primary signification, like the equivalent skh-pton (for the root of the Hebrew and Greek words seems identical; comp. also English *shaft*), 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: Strong’s #5221. hkn nakah *naw-kaw’; to strike (lightly or severely, literally or figuratively):— beat, cast forth, clap, give [wounds], X go forward, X indeed, kill, make [slaughter], murderer, punish, slaughter, slay(-er, -ing), smite(-r, -ing), strike, be stricken, (give) stripes, X surely, wound.*

Some uses of BOTH words together that are obviously figurative:

Isaiah 11:4: (KJV) ⁴But 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 **scepter** <7626> of Egypt shall depart away.



Joshua 12:7:(KJV) *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;*

Is God advocating beating children?

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

The context of the text broken down:

¹²**Apply thy heart unto instruction - whose heart? The parents' heart.**

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

Be willing to humbly receive instruction and restraint in your inner man (heart)...

and thine ears to the words of knowledge - whose ears? The parents! This instruction you humbly receive must come from without - the words of knowledge...

¹³**Withhold not correction from the child;** - "correction" is the exact same word as "instruction" above! ...Withhold not - don't cheat your child out of necessary reproof, warning and instruction...

For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die. ...For disciplining him with forceful authority won't kill him - (even though it is not comfortable)...

¹⁴**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...

¹⁵**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...

¹⁶**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!