

A Spoilt Generation Of Children

The lack of adult authority has bred a spoilt generation of children, who believe grown-ups must earn their respect.

Attempts to “empower” children and the lack of discipline in the classroom have fostered rising levels of violence at home, at school and in the street.

Authority is a basic mental and physical health requirement in children’s lives.

Children are now used to having their demands met by their parents and others in authority and that in turn makes them unprepared for the realities of adult life.

Isaiah 3:4-5, 12 [New King James] *“I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbour; the child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base toward the honourable.” ... “As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths.”*

God’s prophet looked forward towards the state of society just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [Micah 7:6-7].

2 Timothy 3:1-4 [New King James] *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”*

The apostle Paul warned Timothy what kind of world future Christians would have to face.

The consequences of this lack of discipline and guidance by parents is measurable by higher rates of child depression, underage pregnancy, obesity, violent and anti-social behaviour and pre-teen alcoholism, since records began.

For example, the youngsters inflated sense of their own importance is fuelling the obesity epidemic, because children feel they have the right to demand foods which would once have been given only as occasional treats.

Some children thought to have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder might simply have never learned how to behave.

There needs to be a common-sense policy in law that adults “*know best*” and are right unless there are exceptional reasons.

Teachers’ authority needs to be restored legally, culturally and professionally, with the presumption that teachers “*know better*” and are right, unless it is shown otherwise.

There should be no fear for teachers of the “*compensation culture*” when discipline is applied to certain children for the good of the whole class.

Children need to have boundaries imposed by both parents and teachers.

Lack of such boundaries is bad for children, parents and teachers.

Some parents, due to a lack of time spent with children, especially when both parents work to maintain a “*level of life,*” feeling guilty try to buy their children’s love with things instead of one-to-one time.

With their parents away from the home at work the children turn to “peer groups” to provide them with the “family” they need, with painful consequences.

[Please download and study an article written for teenagers on this website, ‘Dare To Be Different’ under the sub-heading ‘Youth’ to understand what peer pressure can do to your children.]

What is the answer to this escalating problem?

Just as God’s Word, the Christian Bible, prophesied what we see in society today, it also gives us solutions to the problem.

What is the answer to this problem?

Proverbs 22:6 [New King James] *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Child training must begin when the child is young to be effective.

Proverbs 22:15 [New King James] *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”*

Two important things are mentioned in this one verse.

The need for training and discipline because of foolishness, the Hebrew word means silly to the extent of being perverse.

This is the natural working of a mind that has **not** been taught to think.

The way to eradicate this silliness is then mentioned.

The Hebrew word for “rod” is “shêbet” referring directly to a shepherd’s rod or crook.

Psalms 23:4 [New King James] *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

David, who was a shepherd before he was anointed to be a king.

Note David considered that God’s use of the rod [crook] was comforting.

A shepherd’s crook is used to direct a sheep in the right direction away from any danger. Also to lift a sheep out of any gully it may have fallen into.

The “rod” referred to in Proverbs is used in the same way to direct young foolish children away from what is dangerous and to rescue them when they fall into dangerous places, both physically and mentally.

Proverbs 13:24 [New King James] *“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”*

Again two important factors are mentioned in this verse.

If you are actively directing a young child’s life, you are showing that you love them.

Lacking discipline shows a lack of love.

It also mentions “promptly” and this is important so that the foolish act and the discipline are firmly related in the young mind.

Every act of discipline must be followed with an act of love, a hug and words of love will then link the discipline with the love you have for the child.

Proverbs 29:15 [New King James] *“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”*

A child that has **not** been disciplined when young will by the time they are teenagers be bringing shame to the family, for they lack the wisdom that correct discipline can bring them.

Proverbs 29:17 [New King James] *“Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.”*

Right correction of a child when young will bring to their parents peace of mind and pride when they become adults.

Hebrews 12:5-11 [New King James] *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

Our Creator God believes in discipline to the extent that it is an expression of His love for each of us.

As with the discipline we receive from our physical parents it may **not** seem pleasant while it is happening, but the self-discipline, that is the God-like character that is the end product, is well worth any pain, physical or mental, that is involved.

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 [New King James] *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”*

Jesus Christ introduces Himself as the Good Shepherd who is willing to lay down His life for the sheep.

Isaiah 53:6 [New King James] *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

All humans, like little children, have acted the same way as sheep, too often following wrong leaders and getting into trouble and need rescuing.

Notice that Jesus Christ said that in order to be a Good Shepherd He had to *“give His life for the sheep.”*

Parents, as good shepherds for their children, have to give their lives for their children.

The parents' life is their time, good children rearing does demand a lot of time given to the children if it is to be effective.

John 10:12 [New King James] *“But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.”*

To hire someone to raise your children is not a good choice. Why?

John 10:14-15 [New King James] *“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”*

The only way we really come to know our children and they know our deep love for them is to spend time with them.

John 10:16 [New King James] *“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”*

To bring other similar age children in contact with our own is good, as long as we are there with them to supervise what is happening.

Psalms 23:1-3 [New King James] *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.”*

If we spend time leading and course-correcting our children when young, we will help to prepare themselves for adult life.

Ezekiel 14:20 [NIV] *“as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness.”*

Parents can never save their children from the personal judgement of their lives by the Eternal God, they can only place them on the right path and heading in the right direction.

This we do by showing our love for them when young through discipline.