

## **Making Right Choices**

*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old*

*he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 NKJV*

The word train means to initiate or discipline: - dedicate, train up.

We as parents have good intentions when we begin to raise a family, and many times we have great expectations for our children.....and rightly so. Before we get married or before we have children we begin to watch the behavior of other parents and their children. Sometimes we see children that are well behaved and some are terrors on wheels! We see children who use temper tantrums, scream, use foul language and have all sorts of bad behaviors. I do not believe any parent wants a defiant child. I believe parents want their children to grow up being well behaved, respecting and honoring them. But that doesn't just happen. There are some things parents will need to do to have those kinds of results and, yes, it will require hard work and determination on your part.

So let's look at some things that will help us train up our children.

What do parents need to know?

Before the first child arrives parents should be discussing what they, as parents, want to teach their children. This is very important so that the child doesn't get taught two different viewpoints about their behavior. This will only confuse them and, not only that, but when they get a little older they will decide who they will follow and that can cause problems in the marriage and family.

Remember the scripture that says, "A house divided against itself cannot stand". It also says, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything it shall be done of my Father in heaven".

I was working for a certain company and the boss would tell me to do something this way and the foreman would tell me to do it another way and I'm standing there wondering what to do because I know that somebody is going to be upset no matter what I do. It caused me to be frustrated, it can cause hardship, bad feelings, even destroy relationships. All that needed to be done was for them to get in agreement and everyone would have been happy.

Stop and think a moment about how you would felt in a workplace situation like this and then think about a little child who is learning all kinds of new things every day.

A good example of this would be if a child comes to the dad and asks if he/she can do something and dad says to go ask your mother. The mother tells him/her what she desires and the child doesn't like the answer so he/she goes back to the

dad and says, mom said this. What is the dad to do? He should say, "Do as your mother said". This will teach the child several things:

1. Daddy is in agreement with mommy.
2. Teaches them to honor and respect what their mommy says.
3. Teaches them obedience without questing authority.

Ask yourself some questions:

Are we going to allow our children to sit on the table?

Are we going to let our children flip the T.V. channels whenever they want?

Are we going to allow them to scream, pinch, bite, hit, push other kids down?

Are we going to allow them to not pick up their toys?

Are we going to allow them to be disobedient, obstinate, belligerent?

There are many other questions we could ask, but I think you get the idea. The point is to ask the questions that you need answers to so that the both of you can be in agreement.

Take the time to sit down with your spouse and find out what they desire and come into agreement with each other. We also need to remember that it is never too late to start even though it may seem like an impossible task but you can win.

It is also important to write your rules down so that you can review them to make sure you stay on track. This will help your child greatly.

Don't get weary in well doing:

Don't get tired of doing what you know is right and good for in time you will see results if you won't quit. This requires commitment, faithfulness, dedication and determination on your part.

This is a decision each parent needs to make and we need to understand sometimes we as parents will be challenged by our children.

If we will get a vision for our family and come into agreement and write it down and keep it before us it will keep us from getting weary, and when things are not going well you will rise up and say, "No, I have vision, I have purpose, I have destiny", and even in the hard times you will dig in and not give in because you have a firm foundation upon which you stand.

Read Galatians 6:7-9

Always remember that principles not apply cannot work, so be a blessing to your

child and apply them. James 1:22