

Introduction

Train Up a Child

*Prov 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

1. The Command

Who are we training?

When you have a baby, God has an expectation for you.

What are you to do?

"Initiate the child at the opening (the mouth) of his path."

How will this training (initiation) look? (Adam Clarke)

1. Show him the duties, the dangers, and the blessings of the path.
2. Give him directions how to perform the duties, how to escape the dangers, and how to secure the blessings, which all lie before him.
3. Fix these on his mind by daily inculcation, till their impression becomes indelible.
4. Lead him to practice by slow and almost imperceptible degrees, till each indelible impression becomes a strongly radicated habit.
5. Beg incessantly the blessing of God on all this teaching and discipline.

2. The Path

What is the way?

1. The way of truth and righteousness
2. The path best fitted for the child

The proverb enjoins (to prescribe a course of action with authority or emphasis) the closest possible study of each child's temperament and the adaptation of "his way of life" to that.

Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament

“The instruction of youth, the education of youth, ought to be conformed to the nature of youth.

The matter of instruction, the manner of instruction, ought to regulate itself according to the stage of life and its peculiarities.

The method ought to be arranged according to the degree of development which the mental and bodily life of the youth has arrived at.”

3. The Result

Word Study

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary

“Childhood is pliable; maturity is hard and unimpressible.

The seed sown in childhood may seem lost for a time, but if it have been sown in faith, it will develop itself ‘when he is old.’

Timothy, taught in Scripture as a child, was not fully converted until he was a man (1 Tim 1:2).

The seed is to be sown in youth; the harvest is not to be expected until manhood.”

Whose job is it?

1. Dad
2. Mom

What do we know, and what should we do?

- 1. God has an expectation for parents.**
- 2. Parenting is not easy.**
- 3. Each child has his own path.**
- 4. Trust God for the harvest.**

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery