

The 1st Principle of Parenting Heavenward is Heart Motivation. The next 5 principles for parenting starting with Eph. 6:2: “Honor your mother and father (which is the first commandment with a promise.)”

- 2) **Respectful Submission:** V2, the command to honor your parents is continued in the NT.
 - a. What does it mean? To hold your parents in the highest respect as unto the Lord. To hear them. To listen. To respect in the mind & heart. With: a) reverence: with a healthy fear of parents as you would the Lord. b) obedience: to parents. c) gratitude: and thankfulness.
 - b. What are the effects of honoring parents: i) Parental honor models honoring God (Matt. 15:1-14, God is honored as we honor our parents). ii) Parental honor models honoring all authority. iii) Parental honoring models honoring all people, Eph. 5:21. iv) Parental honoring provides family satisfaction. Prov. 27:11, a man with a wise son can respond to those who accuse their child.
 - c. How do I as a parent encourage honor?: a) Give physical affection, embrace them (Gen. 48:10), b) Require respectful speech, c) Honor children the way I want to be honored, don't humiliate them in public, or gossip about them, Eph.6:4, do not provoke them, d) Control family time, e) Listen to children who are frustrated and want to make an appeal, f) Make family traditions, g) Give individual time, h) Use stories, build memories, i) Make children work, do chores, j) Verbally express love continually.
- 3) **Teach the Principle of Natural Outcomes:** 6:2, comes with a promise, “so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long in the land.” Our children need to know how God responds to obedience and how life responds to obedience. **4 Lessons about consequences in life:**
 - a. Live longer, V3, Prov. 20:20, the lamp will go out in the darkness if you curse your parents.
 - b. Live better, V3, “may be well,” this is quality. Help them understand self-inflicted pain. They can listen to parents or live with bad choices and broken relationships with parents and others, Prov. 23:22, 10:1, 17:21, 17:25.
 - c. Live Respected: What do people say about my children? What do they say about me as a parent? Discipline your children to preserve their reputation, Prov. 20:11.
 - d. Live Wisely: show them that life is loaded. There are blessings and punishments that result from their actions. Obedience equals good outcomes and less pain. Disobedience equals consequences and more pain.
- 4) **Principles of Gracious Relationship:** 6:4, “do not provoke,” parenting is to be a gracious and nurturing relationship.
 - a. Do not abuse your power: show tenderness over domination, Paul's example, 1 Thess. 2:11.
 - b. Create an emotionally safe atmosphere: Do not exasperate or frustrate to the point that it breaks their spirit, and they lose heart. Don't set arbitrary rules, excessive rules, or made-up rules. Prov. 15:17, love in the home is better than plenty.
 - c. Treasure your relationship: Your children are not a burden; they are a treasure. Ps. 103:13, God has compassion on His children. Be soft, cherish them, and greet with love.
 - i. Treasure them through physical affection, play time together, and pride in their individuality.
- 5) **Principle of Consistent Consequences:** V4, “bring them up in the discipline of the Lord.”
 - a. What is the discipline of the Lord: to correct them of unwanted words, behaviors, and attitudes.
 - b. What is “of the Lord?” we are to correct them with commands and truths from Scripture alone.
 - c. How do I discipline them? being tempered not abusive, a) Do it early in hope, Prov. 19:18. b) Do it spiritually, using the rod to drive foolishness from their heart when they can't properly reason with sinful behavior, Prov. 22:15. c) Discipline painfully, Prov. 23:13-14, “although you strike him, he will not die.” Hard discipline will create a soft heart, soft discipline will create a hard heart. d) Generously discipline, Prov. 29:15, to give wisdom, to scour away evil (Prov. 20:30), to show them the right way to go.

- d. Why does God discipline? a) Heb. 12:5-6, because of love towards Christlikeness. b) Heb. 12:6, to prove we belong to Him. c) Heb. 12:7-9, To enjoy the favor of God and live. c) Heb. 12:10, to be taught the greatest joy which is to be made holy like our Father. e) Heb. 12:11, to enjoy life and the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
- e. Why do we discipline our children? a) Because we love them. b) They belong to us and are our children. c) So, I can enjoy my children. d) I can teach the greatest joy in life which is holiness. e) Make them enjoy life as they grow older.
- 6) **Divine Truth:** 6:4, “instruction of the Lord.” This is teaching to correct behavior and attitude. It requires the parent to live their life as an example.
 - a. How do I do that? a) Bible reading and teaching. b) Value the preaching of the word of God. c) Pray with them using theological concepts of sin, justification, holiness, purity, sovereignty, etc. d) Lead family discussions often. e) Proclaim the gospel continually, pray the gospel continually.
 - b. Prepare them to be godly husbands and wives from what Scriptures commands. Men provide for their families, doing what you love isn’t always the goal, providing is commanded. Women are to love their husbands, their children, and to work at home.
 - c. What about the king verse of all parenting? Prov. 22:6, “Train up a child according to his way, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
 - i. Prov. 22:6 is a warning. “His way” is used 17X in reference to a child going their own way. 10X it brings a negative outcome. 7X it is a warning of what happens if they continue on their way.
 - ii. The immediate context of V5 is a warning to the crooked. The post-text in V7-16 provides many examples of rejecting wise council and righteous living.
 - iii. The word “child” in Proverbs when used, as in Prov. 29:15, does not speak favorably of that child. Children have foolishness bound up in them, they bring shame, they bring grief to their parents, Prov. 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, 22:6 (a way they won’t depart from).
 - iv. What is the warning? If I am inactive in a child’s discipline and instruction, he will go his own way and eventually be ruined and unable to correct course. Do not forsake the discipline of your children and correct them according to God’s word.

Further Discussion and Application

The applications of this sermon are many. How can we continue to encourage our children and grandchildren as they grow older? How can we teach them God’s word and God’s commands? Even if our children are grown, how can we still be an encourager and teacher to them?

What is the believer in Yahweh to do to prepare for the great responsibility of raising children? How can you help prepare other young men to handle the responsibility and the marathon of caring for children? What is the Lord calling you to do and be as a parent? Are you guaranteed of the outcome? How can you order your life to be assured that you are doing what the Lord asks you to do as a parent? What is the goal of parenting?