

INTRODUCTION

Our world is becoming increasingly ungodly and if you are going to be a godly parent, you are going to be looked at as strange or peculiar. I’m going to be asking every parent, potential parent and grandparent in this room to make a fresh commitment to be a godly parent or grandparent as you relate to these precious children, remembering God has given us the responsibility of raising them.

I don’t want to be like the preacher who finished seminary when he was very young and still wet behind the ears and didn’t have any kids. He decided his church needed a message on parenting. So he got up the first year and he said, “I want to give you some ways to raise your children,” and he preached 50 minutes on nine ways to raise well-behaved children. That year, he and his wife had their first child. A year later he came back and preached about 30 minutes on seven ways to raise a child. Another year rolled around and they their second child, and he came and he preached about 20 minutes on four or five things that may or may not work on raising children. The next year rolled around and he had a third child. He preached about 15 minutes on this topic, “How Can You Raise Obedient Children? Tell Me Please!” After another year he had another child and the time came for the annual sermon on parenting. He stood up and he said, “God bless you. Do the best you can. Go home.” I realize that as a father I am right now in the middle of parenting. I have a 17-year-old and 14-year-old daughters and so far, so good. They are great kids! But the jury is still out on what kind of a dad I am. You come back and check with me in seven or eight years and maybe I can understand a little bit more about what kind of father I am.

Does the time ever come when a parent begins to take a deep breath and breathe a little easier feeling like now their kids are doing okay? I have discovered that as a parent, no matter how old your children are, you still feel a sense of responsibility for them. The difficult thing about being a parent is that suddenly you become a parent and you don’t have any previous training. It’s different from other skills. When you go into the hospital and you’re going to have that young surgeon that you think is too young to perform surgery, remember he has been to four years of college, been to medical school, served as an intern, then served as a resident, perhaps even an attending surgeon before he operates on you. He is trained. When you get on that airliner that guy in the left seat of that cockpit has had thousands and thousands of hours of flying time. He has gotten his private license, his commercial license, his airline transport rating, and he served for many hours in the right seat as a first officer. He has been adequately trained. That’s not true for parents. Here’s a young couple in their early twenties, in love and giving each other a lot of attention and they have a little baby and when they bring that baby home from the hospital, they have absolutely no experience and suddenly they’re confronted with this little bundle of joy who is also a bundle of needs, constantly demanding their attention. To begin with, you just try to keep one end fed and the other end clean! Amen! Then as the child grows, there are more and more needs and the needs change.

In Ephesians 6:4, we find the principle on how to be godly parents. “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” When we have a parent commitment, I ask these parents, “Do you promise to raise this child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?” That comes from Ephesians 6:4. When I memorized that verse in the King James Version, it says, “In the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” That is the

requirement God places before parents. Why do you think Paul speaks to fathers and not to fathers and mothers? Because there was a problem in the early church, which also exists in our culture today—the absentee father. Worse than that is the presence of a father who neglects raising his children and leaves everything up to the wife. Paul is trying to encourage the men to take their God-ordained role as leaders of the family and raise their children, but it is a message both to fathers and mothers.

I. DEVOTION

1. Attention

What is it that you can give to your children? I want to share three things this morning that you need to make sure you give to your children. Number one. Give to them devotion. We learn that from reading the phrase, “do not exasperate” or “do not provoke your children.” The opposite of provocation is love or devotion. Your children need to know you love them, that you care for them. There is no substitute for love. Here are a couple of ways you can express your love to your children. First, you express it by giving them your attention your attention. You just give them your time. Many of you have made this statement: “I grew up when things were tough and I want to make sure my children and grandchildren have all the ‘things’ that I never had.” We shower “things” upon our children. Many times parents spell love T-H-I-N-G-S. Do you know how kids really spell love deep down inside? T-I-M-E They need the time that you’ll spend with them.

Many of you in my generation grew up hearing this song by Harry Chapin called, “The Cat’s in the Cradle,” and one of the verses goes like this.

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, “Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let’s play
Can you teach me to throw,” I said “Not today
I got a lot to do,” he said, “That’s ok”
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
And said, “I’m gonna be like him, yeah
You know I’m gonna be like him.”

And the cat’s in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
When you comin’ home son?
I don’t know when, but we’ll get together then son.
You know we’ll have a good time then.

The last verse of the song is very sad, because the man says,

I’ve long since retired, my son’s moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, “I’d like to see you if you don’t mind.”
He said, “I’d love to, Dad, if I can find the time

You see my new job’s a hassle and kids have the flu
But it’s sure nice talking to you, Dad
It’s been sure nice talking to you.”

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
He’d grown up just like me.
My boy was just like me.

I never heard a man on his deathbed who said, “I wish I’d spent more time at the office.” but I’ve heard of many, many fathers who grew up regretting they had not spent more time with their children. They need your attention. Give them your attention! That’s how you express your love to them.

2. Affection

Number two. Give them your affection. Show them that you love them. Put your arms around your children. Hug and kiss your children. Studies have proven if an infant doesn’t receive physical touch, that baby can die. As they get older they continue to need to be hugged and held and shown that you love them. I came across a very interesting study as I was preparing for this message. Dr. Sheldon Inglett, a sociologist with Harvard University, conducted a 15-year study. They took a sampling of almost 1,000 5-year-olds, boys and girls, and tracked their lives until age 20. There were several bases of criteria about how they turned out good or how they turned out bad. Some of them became drug addicts, some criminals, and some juvenile delinquents. They looked at the ones who became successful, model citizens and said, “What in their upbringing set them apart from the other group?” They discovered there were three factors in the life of every one of these young people who made it. Number one was a father’s discipline. Number two was a mother’s attention and supervision, because the mother always knew where her kids were. Here’s the third one as it relates to what I am saying. In each one of these cases the mother and the father showed frequent affection to each other and to the children. In other words there was a lot of hugging and kissing in these families. Your children need your attention and affection.

Diane Loomans wrote an interesting little poem entitled, “If I Had My Child To Raise All Over Again.”

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I’d build their self-esteem first
And build the house later.

I’d finger paint more and point the finger less
I would do less correcting
And more connecting.

I’d take my eyes off my watch,
And I’d watch them with my eyes.
I would care to know less,

And I would know to care more.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious,
And I would seriously play.

I would run through more fields
And gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging
And less tugging

I'd see the oak tree in every acorn.
I would be firm less often.
And I would affirm much more.

I would model less about the love of power
And more about the power of love.

Your children and grandchildren don't care how much you know until they really know how much you care. So give them that devotion—don't exasperate them.

II. DISCIPLINE

Number two. All children also need discipline. That's where that word training in verse 4 where it says, “Bring them up in the training,” it is the word in Greek, *paideuo* (pahee-dyoo'-o). Anytime you want to know what a word means in the Bible, you find out how it's used elsewhere in the Bible. This is the word that literally means *punishment*. It means, *spanking*, because over in Hebrews, chapter 12 where it says, “whom the Lord loves, he chastens.” It's the word, *paideuo*. In Revelation 3:19, where Jesus is speaking to the church and he says, “Whom I love, I rebuke and discipline,” it's the word *paideuo*, talking about discipline and training in that sense.

We have all grown up at a time when punishment of children has become less and less popular. In 1946, Dr. Benjamin Spock wrote a book, *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*. He was the one who promoted the philosophy that said, “You never punish your children. You never teach them morals. You never teach them that anything is ethically right or wrong. You never give them spiritual values. Let them develop on their own.” Spock's attitude was, “If Junior wants to cut the leg off your dining room table; your job is to just make sure the saw is sharp so the little fellow won't be frustrated.” (This is not the same Spock with the pointed ears. This is Dr. Spock with the pointed head.) Forty million families read that book and practiced that book and I think we are suffering today from the bitter fruit of a generation of parents who didn't punish their children.

Dr. Spock has since changed his philosophy. He's 92 years old recently wrote, “I used to think all you had to do was to be a decent person and you didn't have to harp on morality or spirituality to your children as my mother did. But now I believe you have to!” Dr. Spock has

changed his philosophy, because he has seen the consequences of a generation of parents who did not punish their children. I know what I am saying is not popular today. (And kids, I know it’s not really popular with you for sure!) You’re probably wondering if I’m talking about spanking children. Yes I am. The world today seems to have gone in a different direction and I know I will get a lot of criticism for what I say about this, but I’m not afraid of criticism I’m committed to preaching the word of God and it’s in the word of God.

1. Lesson of love

Number one, when you discipline your children it is a lesson of love. The second wisest man who ever lived was Solomon and that’s what he says in Proverbs 13:24. “He who spares the rod, hates his son but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.” The Bible does not say, “Spare the rod; spoil the child”—Benjamin Franklin said that—but it is based on Proverbs 13:24. “If you love your children, you will discipline them.” Sometimes that involves spanking them.

My dad used to spank me and I got a lot of spankings when I was a kid. I am a middle child, all of you middle kids know how difficult it is. I always got punished when my older sister got punished and I would get punished when my younger brother got punished. My dad spanked me more than any of the other kids and he always said, “I’m doing this because I love you.” and I would say, “Don’t love me so hard, Dad.” or “I know you love me more than anybody else because I get more spankings than everybody else.” I promise you, as a kid, I did not believe him! I thought he was lying. When he spanked me he would say, “Son this is hurting me more than it hurts you.” I said, “I can’t believe that, Dad.” but as a parent I know he was telling the truth. I know how much pain it caused him to do that. At the time I did not think he was showing love to me but looking back, I know that’s why he did it, because he really loved me. If you really love your children, discipline is a part of showing that love. It’s a tough love, but it’s a love they need.

2. Roots out rebellion

A second thing Proverbs tells us about discipline is that it roots out rebellion. Punishment roots out rebellion and it’s right there in the Bible, just as plain as you can read it. Proverbs 22:15. “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.” I know some of you want to disagree with this but in every child there is a sinful, rebellious, stubborn, self-willed nature. The Bible says, we are all born in sin. We are sinners by nature and by choice. I know some of you parents will say, “Oh, no not MY precious little child. I know many more of you grandparents are saying, “Not in MY precious grandchild. He or she is just a precious little rosebud that is just waiting to unfold and develop.” If you are not careful that rosebud will grow up and blacken your eye and disgrace your family. Rebellion is in the heart of every child and the rod of correction it says drives it out of them.

My mother used a switch on us when we were little. She kept it above the oven. It was hanging there and she used it a lot. In fact, right underneath that switch there was a potholder that had a little message on it that said, “I need thee every hour.” I grew up thinking it was talking about the switch not the Lord. I didn’t know that was a hymn. “I need thee every hour.” She used it a lot but do you know what she was doing? She was trying to drive that rebellious nature out of me

and out of my brother and my sister. She did it, I think, according to the scriptures. When you punish your children, you are teaching them a great moral lesson. Set limitations or boundaries in the lives of your children. Let them know “This is right; this is wrong. If you stay on this side of the line, you receive my blessing. You step over the line and the consequences of that disobedience is punishment.” When you do that, you are teaching your children a very valuable lesson that they are not a law unto themselves. That is a lesson that will help them all throughout life to learn that in every area of life there are boundaries limitations and stepping over that boundary you must suffer the consequences. Discipline roots out a rebellious, self-willed, stubborn nature.

A couple of years ago we went to Panama City Beach and were at one of our favorite restaurants, Captain Anderson’s, waiting to pay the bill. As we were waiting at the register, there was a man and his little boy, who was about 7 or 8 years old in front of us. The boy said, “Daddy, buy me some candy,” and his father said, “No, we’ve just eaten a big meal and you had dessert. No candy.” The little guy screamed it this time. “I SAID I WANT SOME CANDY!” The man said, “No, no you don’t need any candy.” “Ohhhhh, Daddy!” He got louder and louder. We’re all just standing there. I’m backing up and I’m not doing anything. Of course, I wanted to throttle the kid, but he’s not mine I can’t do that. I have no reason or authority to do it. So I’m just standing there watching and wondering, “Who’s going to win this?” Because there is a battle of wills between a 200 pound, 35-year-old man and an 80-pound 8-year-old kid. Who’s going to win this fight? I’m sorry to say that in that case the little kid won the fight. The dad bought him some candy just to shut him up. I thought to myself. “Uh oh. I don’t know anything about this family and I don’t know anything about this little boy but that father has not yet successfully driven out that spirit of rebellion and stubbornness that is in the heart of every child.

Those of you who have taken, “Experiencing God,” know Henry Blackaby tells a terribly tragic story in one of his lessons about his church in Canada. There was a young family with a 4-year-old girl. He was visiting in their home one day and they said, “Pastor, watch this.” They said, “Susie, come here.” The little girl stomped her foot and said, “NO!” and turned and went in the other direction. Henry Blackaby didn’t think it was cute. The tragic part of that story was that not long after that she was playing out in the yard. The gate was open in front of a busy street. The mother cried, “Susie, come here.” She stomped her foot and said “NO!” and turned and ran out into the street. Henry Blackaby said that was the first funeral he ever had to conduct. Those parents thought disobedience was cute. That kind of stubbornness and self-will is not cute—it’s dangerous. If you love that child you’ll work it out of them.

3. Steers them toward salvation

The third thing according to Proverbs that good biblical discipline does is steers them toward salvation. Proverbs 23:13-14 says, “Don’t not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.”

Discipline won’t hurt them. They won’t die if you use a rod on them, although they’ll make you think they’re dying. Punishment will keep them out of hell. It literally says in the Hebrew, “Punishment will deliver their soul from *Sheol*, which is the Old Testament word for hell. I am not talking about child abuse. There is no excuse for child abuse and I think anyone who abuses a child ought to be tied up and whipped themselves. But I think there are people who don’t

understand what child abuse is. There are people out there, so-called experts, who would say my father abused me. What I say he did is he loved me. There are people who would say to me that I have abused my children when I punished them but I say “No, I did it because I love them.” Today we are living in a society where children are often given the rights and even encouraged to sue their parents if the parents follow the Biblical teaching about discipline. That’s why I said, “If you are going to be a godly parent, you’re going to be an oddball today.” But you’ll be thankful down the road. I really believe I’m not talking about abusing a child and repeatedly hurting them. I truly think most kids only need about three or four good spankings in their childhood. Now me, I had about three or four *a day* when I was growing up, but most kids only need about three or four really good, scriptural spankings to do what the Bible says and root out that rebellion. The Bible says you are also directing them toward salvation. You are delivering their soul from hell. You are showing them that there are consequences for their behavior. The spiritual truth of this is there are consequences for disobedience against God which is hell but in repentance there is the benefit of eternal life and salvation.

How do you discipline your children? I know some of you are feeling real sense of frustration because you maybe have a rebellious teenager or a rebellious young adult and there’s not a whole lot of punishment you can do for somebody that old. It’s about 15 years and 100 pounds too late. I’m talking mainly to some of you young parents and maybe to some grandparents who have to participate in the discipline of your grandchildren because of the way families are structured today. What are some tips for how to punish your children biblically? Let me give you 4 “nevers.”

IN LOVING PUNISHMENT:

1. Never use your hand

Number one. In loving punishment never use your hand. The Bible says, “the rod of correction.” a neutral object. It breaks my heart every time I see a parent slap a kid or even hit them on the arm. I really think you should refrain from using your hand. Many of you might have used your hand up to this point, but why don’t you just stop and instead use a neutral object a “rod of correction.” At our house we’ve always had a little thing which is called “the trouble stick.” It is a little paddle about so long and it’s kept in a drawer. I checked this morning just to make sure it is still there and we still use it to threaten. I don’t think we will ever have to use it again, but it’s there just in case. When our girls willfully disobeyed us, they had to go get the trouble stick and bring it to us and we would use it. The journey to go get that thing is punishment itself. Like I said those of you who are parents understand this. It is easier for a parent not to punish your children. It used to make me physically sick. The easiest thing is just to let them get by with it and not punish them or maybe do some other kind of punishment. It makes you sick to do it. It’s easier to let them get off, but it’s something you need to do and something they need. So never use your hand!

2) Never break a promise

Number two. Never break a promise in the context of punishment. When you threaten to punish them for disobedience, you are doing greater harm if you don’t follow through on your promise.

Here’s the scenario. A lot of times a parent will say, “Stop that! Don’t do that again! If you do that again, you’re going to get it!” and the kid does it again. “All right now. I said don’t you do it again! If you do it one more time, you’re going to get it!” They do it and get away with it. “One more time, now!” You are teaching them that they can get away with disobedience in life without having to suffer the punishment for it. They need to know their boundaries and what happens when they cross them. “Nothing is going to prevent you from getting it! If Jesus comes to rapture the church, I am going to be spanking you on the way up to Jesus! Whatever it takes you’re going to get it!”

3) Never punish in anger

Number three. Never punish in anger. The reason you punish a child is not because you are angry. You punish a child because they are willfully disobedient. So make sure you are not angry; practice self control when you punish. Also never punish in public. Public punishment humiliates a child and humiliation is not the goal of punishment. You are trying to rectify their behavior, not humiliate them. That’s one of the things where it says, “Fathers, do not provoke, do not exasperate your children.” Public punishment does that. Take them off somewhere, get them alone wait or until you get home. That’s even tough sometimes. I heard about the kid in church who was just acting up and crawling over everything and making noise and wasn’t paying attention. Finally, his mother threatened him and said, “If you don’t sit down and be quiet, I’m going to take you out of here and spank you.” So he kept on and she picked him up and put him over her shoulder and as she was walking out to the back door of the church of course, everybody had been disturbed and everybody saw her doing that and the little kid was screaming out, “Y’all pray for me! Pray for me!” but she was doing it right. She was taking him out to do that privately.

4) Never punish without talking and hugging

Number four. Never punish without talking and hugging. This is the principle that the Lord gives in Revelation 3:19 where he says, “Whom I love I rebuke and discipline,” meaning, “I talk to you before I punish you.” Punishment should be bracketed with talking and communication. Before you punish your child you should say, “This is what you have done wrong and I love you and because you have disobeyed, this is what I am going to do.” So, you talk to them and then administer the punishment. Then, after the punishment, you talk to them again. Now because they are usually crying it may not be the time to do it. You may need to let them settle down for a moment but then you go back and put your arms around them, even if they don’t put their arms around you and assure them you love them and you did that because you want them to turn out to be good people. There must be communication with the punishment. Silent punishment humiliates and it exasperates and it is very dangerous, so always communicate with them.

III. DIRECTION

Finally, not only do you give them devotion and discipline, you also give them direction. Every child needs direction. According to Proverbs 22:6, the role of a parent is to, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Underline that word, *train* and then underline those words *the way*. This is one of the most misunderstood verses in all the

Bible. Some of you feel guilty because you took your kids to church, tried to teach them right and wrong and now, they are they are not even going to church. They’ve drifted away from the Lord and doesn’t the Bible say, “Train ‘em up and when they’re old, they won’t depart from it”? This verse does not say if you take your child to Sunday School, children’s choir, mission activities, worship, Wednesday night activities that when they grow up, they’ll be great little Christians. That comes from confusion about the meaning of that word *train*. That word, *train*, literally to means to create a desire to stimulate. It is the word used actually of a midwife who after delivering a child would clean the child off and then the Hebrew midwife would take her finger and dip it into a little mixture of water and sugar. She would slip her finger into the mouth of that newborn and massage the gums and the roof of the mouth of that little baby and the baby would start sucking. To the Jewish midwife they thought they were stimulating that baby to suck to receive nourishment. We know today that sucking is probably an instinctive action, but back then they thought they were making it happen so that’s where that word comes from. It literally means to “create a desire.” So parents that ought to change the whole perspective of that verse. It’s not your job to line them up and say, “Okay, there are ten ways to do this; ten steps to Christian maturity.” It means your job is to create in them a *desire* to be spiritual. Then the other part of that verse is “in the way they should go.” that’s misunderstood too. A lot of parents think, “Here’s the road. Here’s the straight and narrow way. If I doing my job, I say, ‘Okay, kids. You are going down this pathway! It’s this it’s this it’s this. That’s the way you go on it.’” No the words, *the way* there literally mean “their own way according to their way,” meaning every child is different. Every child has their tendencies and personality. This means to create in them a desire for God according to their own particular personality. That’s what it literally means. Parents, it is up to you to devise a different strategy, because no two children are alike, but it is your goal to create in them that desire for spirituality.

1. Create a desire to love the Lord

So what should you be doing? Number one, create a desire in them to love the Lord. You don’t do that by just preaching to them, “Love the Lord.” You do that by loving the Lord yourself, because it is not taught, it is caught. If your kids see you loving the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, that’s how you’re going to create in them a desire to love the Lord.

2. Create a desire to love His Word

Number two, you create in them a desire to love His word. What’s more important than you reading the Bible to your children is for them to see you reading it for yourself. When they see you loving the word of God and obeying the word of God, it’s going to have a greater impact even than when you read it to them.

3. Create a desire to love the church

Number three. You create in them a desire to love the church. You don’t do that by just taking them to church. You do that by loving the church yourself. Kids know whether or not you love the church. That’s like the little kid who went with his parents to church and they were visiting a church and when they left, the father was criticized everything in the service. “The sermon was

too long. I didn't like what that guy said.” The mother criticized the service too, saying, “The music was too loud. It was off key.” “The hymns were unfamiliar.” “We didn't like it.” The little kid, who was sitting in the back seat, had seen what his father had put in the offering plate, and said, “Dad. It was a pretty good show for a buck though, wasn't it?” Parents do your kids know how much you give to support Green Acres Baptist Church? That's how you're going to show them and teach them to love the church more than anything else you say about the church. Now, our kids know we are tithers and always have been. Laura Grace has been raising \$200 to go on a trip during Thanksgiving with her school. When she raised \$200 for her part of that, she knew \$20 of that money she raised went to Green Acres Baptist Church. She knows we love the church not only because we say we love the church, but because we support the church. Moms and dads, you train up a child not by teaching them with your mouth, but by teaching them with your life. Parents, the greatest thing you can do is lead your child to Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

A few years ago I was preaching at a Revival in central Alabama and on Sunday night there was a beautiful little girl sitting on the front pew all by herself before the service. The choir was rehearsing and I found out one of the ladies in the choir was her neighbor and she had brought this little girl to the service. I went and sat down next to her and introduced myself to her. She said, “My name's Jennifer.” I said, “Really. I have a Jennifer too.” I said, “How old are you?” She said, “9 years old” and at that time my Jennifer was about 9 years old. I looked at her and I said, “There's something else that you and my daughter have in common. You are both beautiful girls.” This little Jennifer looked at me with eyes so full of innocence that I knew her next statement was true. She said, “Nobody has ever said that to me.” She was a beautiful little girl, we just became friends. You know how you build up a friendship with someone like that. She was there every night. Tuesday night when I did my “Gospel Magic Show” and talked to them about how to accept Christ, she was one of the ones who prayed to receive Christ. On Wednesday night, the last night of the Revival, I preached the final message and everybody was walking by shaking the preacher's hand saying, “Great job, preacher. We enjoyed the Revival.” (What they really mean is, “We're glad it's over.”) She was waiting until the very last and when everyone else had finished, Jennifer came up to me and gave me a hug. I bent down and hugged her and she said, “I have something for you.” She had a picture for me that she had drawn. I'm looking at this and I'm thinking, “This is King Kong. She drew King Kong,” because he had big teeth. She said, “Why, Brother David, that's you.” but at the bottom she had this little note that said “Dear Brother David. Thank you for telling me about Jesus.” I kept that picture for a long time and I valued it much more than I would an original Norman Rockwell. The very sad part of that whole story is it's sad, isn't it that some preacher from out of town had to come tell her about Jesus. Where was mom? Where was dad? Tell your child about Jesus Christ!

Some of you may not be ready to tell your children about Jesus, because *you* don't know Jesus. I do know this about every mom and dad in this room: Unless you are mentally ill or psychotic, every one of you—Christian or not, Green Acres member or not—I really think deep down inside you want what's best for your children. The first thing you need to do is to make sure you accept Jesus as your own Lord and Savior, because you cannot be the leader of a Christian home unless you are a Christian. Some of you in this room you really want the best for your family but you are not a member of a local church, at least you are not actively involved in a church locally.

One of the best things you can do for your children is to join this church and say, “I want to be a part of Green Acres Baptist Church and all the activities and the ministries.” You are teaching your children something very valuable when you do that. So our prayer the prayer of every parent and grandparent in this room is “God, help me to lead this precious children in the way that you want them to go! God, build strong Christian homes.”

OUTLINE

I. DEVOTION “do not exasperate”

1. Attention
2. Affection

II. DISCIPLINE “training”

1. Lesson of love

“He who spares the rod, hates his son but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.” *Proverbs 13:24*

2. Roots out rebellion

“Folly or foolishness or rebellion is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.” *Proverbs 22:15*

3. Steers them toward salvation

“Don’t fail to correct your children; discipline won’t hurt them! They won’t die if you use a rod on them! Punishment will keep them out of hell.” *Proverbs 23:13-14*

In loving punishment, never:

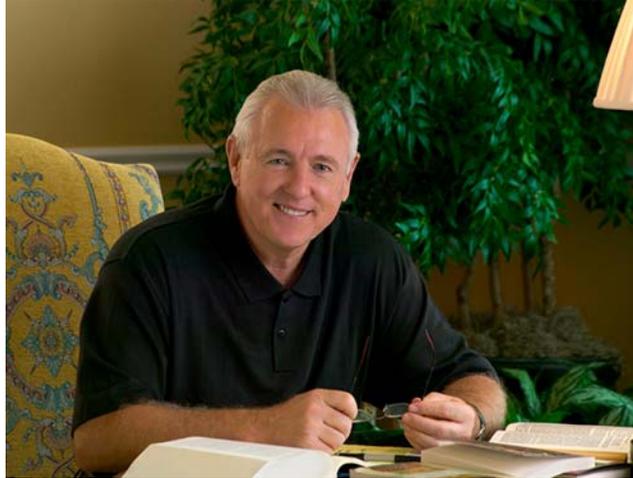
1. Use your hand
- 2) Break a promise
- 3) Punish in anger
- 4) Punish without talking and hugging

III. DIRECTION

“Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it.” *Proverbs 22:6*

Create a desire to

1. Love the Lord
2. Love His Word
3. Love the church



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For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes