BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Of Parenting

A Bible Study Guide Workbook
by bud abbott
Preface

Many of the principles addressed in this study are principles that apply to the Christian in general, not only as it relates to parenting. This fact in no way diminishes their application in the realm of parenting. Furthermore, it should go without saying that the included list of principles is not exhaustive. Doubtless, additional insight can be accumulated as we seek God through prayer and consistent searching of the Scriptures.

Although it is not my design to create controversy, some of the principles of Scripture do just that. The problem, I think, lies in secular society’s unbiblical paradigm, not with the Scriptures. I believe it is time for believers and the Church of Jesus Christ to follow the words of Joshua and “choose whom you will serve . . .”

On a personal note:

Suanne and I had the first of our four children in 1975. When Josh was born, I set about the task of assembling Bible principles to guide our steps in this matter of raising our children to be men and women of God. The material in this guide is part of the fruit of that effort. I would encourage you to look at the actual Bible passages and meditate on their application as it relates to parenting. It is my sincere belief that doing so will result in the Word being *engrafted*

and will accordingly produce much fruit. Let me hasten to confess that, Suanne and I did not do everything right, but in spite of our mistakes and shortcomings, God used His Word. Though we erred, it was always our goal, hearts desire, and prayer to see God work in the lives of our four children as we tried to implement these principles. I pray that God will use these Bible precepts to build your house and heritage.
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

Bud Abbott

Introduction

This is an important philosophical foundation! Please Read!

Ps 127

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

1 It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.

2 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

3 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

4 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. NKJV

From this Psalm we observe that:

1. God is the One Who must ________ 1 the “house”. Thus we can say God IS a Builder!

2. The building project discussed in this Psalm is His __________. 2 One’s House refers to their family, i.e. the house of David, the house of Saul, etc.

3. In this Psalm about building the house, verse 3 tells us that children are a ________ 3 from the Lord. When we realize that the house is the family and heritage being built, we see that children are actually the building blocks of the house.

We should consider our role as parents to be an essential element of the building of God’s Kingdom and House.

Nothing in our lives can bring more joy or grief than our children. This fact is stated in the following Scriptures:

Prov 10:1 A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother. NKJV

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. NKJV

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Look up and READ the verse(s) that are referenced with the principles outlined below.

2. Meditation and prayer concerning these precepts will prove invaluable as you begin to incorporate them into the daily dealings with your children.

It is interesting to note that this Psalm is one of only two in the Psalter which are credited to Solomon, the King who built the first Temple. Christians should understand that the physical temple was a type of the spiritual temple, God’s people. (See 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; Eph. 2:21; 1 Pet. 2:5)
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Principles

I. The starting place is to **acknowledge God’s ** as the final authority on the matter (2 Tim. 3:16; Isa. 9:20)

Should one of the principles of God’s Word contradict a commonly taught philosophy of parenting, keep in mind that God’s ways are not our natural ways (Isa. 55:8; Prov. 14:12)

II. Occasionally we may have our own rationale for why we should handle a child issue in a way different than the Biblical exhortation. When this temptation occurs we must **Trust GOD NOT ** in how to raise children. (Prov. 3:5-6)

III. We need to **Realize that ultimately, our children belong to **; (Read Ps.100:3)They do not belong to the state; nor the school; nor society; no, not even to us as their parents! This means that they are a trust / stewardship given to us by God. This realization heightens our sense of responsibility to raise them up in the ways of God.

IV. **We Must Pursue God’s Goals for our children, and have His goals for them foremost in all issues of child rearing.** (Rom. 12:2; Heb. 13:21; I Jn. 2:17)

Some of God’s general goals for our children gleaned from Scripture are as follow:

A. ________________ (II Pet.3:9)

B. That they become like ____________ i.e. be a man / woman of God (Rom. 8:29) basically this means developing Christ-like character of obedience, faithfulness, holiness, humility, etc, etc.

C. That they develop a lifelong personal and close relationship with God. This includes learning to discern God’s voice, and principles of relating to God.

D. List other good godly goals:

V. **The Bible teaches that PARENTS (NOT SURROGATES) are given the RESPONSIBILITY to raise children.** (Read: Deut. 4:9; 6:6-9; and Joel 1:3) note that virtually all the Scriptures we will look at are words to the parents who are to take care of the respective responsibilities.

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6 Titus 2:4-5 addresses the issue of women at home (if that becomes a contest)
VI. The Bible outlines **DUTIES** which God has delegated to parents:

A. Parents have a Duty to _________ 9 (Tit.2:4)

B. Parents have a Duty to ____________ 10 for (II Cor.12:14)

C. Parents have a Duty to Protect (this is gleaned from the example of our Father-God and how He protects)

D. Parents have a Duty to _________ 11 (Deut. 4:9, 6:6-9; Joel 1:3)
   1. Parents must teach the ___________ 12 of God
   2. Parents must teach the ___________ 13 of The Lord (Ps.34:11)
   3. All issues of wisdom (see Proverbs)

E. Parents have a Duty to ___________ 14 (Prov. 22:6)
   Training requires planned consistent effort. If a dog can be trained to do a trick, or to be housebroken, surely our child can be trained in behavioral matters! Training involves repetitive doing and consistent reinforcement.

   As many of you may know, my son Josh, and his wife Carolina are missionaries to Latin America. A large part of their work involves recruiting partners with whom they build relationships. This often means that they will visit in the partner’s home for anywhere between thirty minutes to an hour or so. When my grandson Caleb was born, they began to take him on many of these visits.

   As Caleb began to grow mobile, Josh and Carolina felt that they should train Caleb to sit quietly for up to around an hour at a time. Although many people felt this was impossible with a small child, (especially after getting to know how active Caleb is), Josh and Carolina began to institute a regular “training time” as they called it. They would instruct Caleb that he had to sit still on the couch for a specific time, and they would enforce it. At first it was only a small amount like five minutes. This became a regular daily routine and before long Caleb was trained to sit still for up to an hour.

F. Parents have a Duty to ____________ 15 their house / children (I Tim. 3:4, 12)

G. Parents have a Duty to ____________ 16 (Prov. 13:24) and to ____________ 17 (Prov. 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, 17)

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*d This necessitates that the parent be a student of the Word themselves!
*e The Book of Proverbs is probably the best book in the Bible for practical wisdom which can be related to parenting. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs and a very helpful plan is to read the chapter that corresponds with the calendar date each day. I recommend that this be done every day for at least a year until you have become very familiar with the principals of wisdom found in this book of the Bible.
*f No amount of discipline will compensate for a lack of training.
*g In reality, we are always training our children whether we realize it or not, either for good, or bad.
1) In Heb 12:6-11 we are told that God, as our Father chastens us, His children. In this section of Scripture, several principles can be gleaned.

Hebrews 12:6 makes it clear that God’s motivation for the discipline He administers is __________. 18

This must also be our motivation for all we do as parents. In truth, parents often do not really have love as the prime motivation for immediate corrective action being taken. Often the REAL motivation for the action taken to discipline is anger, or frustration.

Let me give an illustration: Dad is watching his team and the game is getting exciting. Little Johnny begins to behave in some inappropriate manner. Dad is into his game and does not want to address the problem right now. Little Johnny continues to misbehave and Dad gives him an order to stop. Little Johnny does not stop so Dad repeats his command. . . .and gets the same result. This continues a few more times until finally Dad is so agitated that his veins begin to bulge. Another angry command is met with the same indifference as the previous ones, and, in a rage. Dad jumps up, snatches Little Johnny and deals with the matter in anger.

Had love really been the motivation, Dad would have wanted to train Little Johnny to obedient THE FIRST TIME. Not only would this lesson save Little Johnny from being yelled at, and from having fellowship broken, it would also make him a child that non family members would enjoy seeing come around. Had love really been the motivation, Dad would have desired to instill the habit of instant obedience in Little Johnny so that when he grew up, he would be conditioned and obedience to God would be easier. In truth, Dad’s comfort and convenience, and his game were actually more important than Little Johnny’s character development.

Dad did, however train Little Johnny. He trained Little Johnny that misbehaving can be done right up to that point where Dad’s veins start to bulge. h

Accordingly:
* It is vital that we learn to correct in love
* This means that we must learn to correct / discipline unsselfishly
* When we apply the rod of correction, we must keep in mind it is for correction rather than revenge i

2) To accomplish our mission we must deal with conscience; seek a brokenness, We should aim for __________ 19 (Prov, 3:1; Ps. 51:16-17)

h He also modeled how to loose his temper in relating to others.

i “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives”.

- The Greek word for chasten is paideuo (pahee-dyoo’-o); to train up a child, i.e. educate, or (by implication) discipline (by punishment): KJV—chasten (-ise), instruct, learn, teach.- The Greek word for scourge is mastigoo (mas-tig-o’-o); to flog (literally or figuratively): KJV—scourge.
H. Parents have a Duty to ____________²⁰ (we must encourage and not frustrate, embitter, exasperate or destroy) (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)

To further illustrate the concept of parental nurturing consider references to the nurturing way God loves His children:

Ps 103:13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him.

Prov 3:12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. NKJV

Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! NKJV

Ex 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.' NKJV

I. Parents have a Duty to use the __________²¹ to bless and build up and not to destroy (Prov 15:2, 4, 18:21)

J. Parents have a Duty to be an ____________²² (I Tim. 4:12; Jn 13:14-15)

Parents should model godliness
Parents should model love toward spouse, kids, others
Parents should model repentance and asking forgiveness
Parents should model work
Parents should model how to deal with conflict

*Remember: We are training our kids by our example in everything that we do!

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¹ Eagles nurture and train their young by pushing them out of their mile-high nest and then swooping down to bear them up on their backs, thereby teaching them to fly.
VII. There is a *LAW OF THE HARVEST* taught in Galatians 6:7.

This passage teaches that we reap what we ________ As we parent, we are sowing / planting seeds and cultivating a crop. When the crop matures, it will reveal what we have sown and cultivated. Accordingly, parents who do not concern themselves with God’s goals and ways should expect a harvest of problems with and in their children.

My limited experience with gardens has taught me three truths about sowing and reaping:

1. *You reap what you sow.* (When I sow corn, I get corn.)
2. *You reap later than you sow.* (It takes a season before I get the harvest.)
3. *You reap more than you sow.* (For each seed kernel of corn planted, I get 3-5 ears of corn which have several hundred kernels each)

Applied to parenting, I have observed that parents who sow and cultivate loving, nurturing, discipline and training, together with a life that models the character of Christ and His teachings tend to see a harvest of adult children who are great blessings. (For Scriptural support of this see also Prov. 15:20, 23:24, 29:17).

VIII. THERE ARE MANY GODLY PRINCIPLES OF HOW TO TEACH, INSTRUCT, IMPART WISDOM, AND CORRECT FROM WHOLE BOOK OF PROVERBS (see the “my son” Proverbs in the Addendum for specifics)

IX. WE CAN OBSERVE PRINCIPLES OF CHILD REARING *(Some good, some bad)* THAT ARE DEMONSTRATED BY PARENTS IN THE BIBLE

A. **ABRAHAM** demonstrates the following
   1. In Genesis 22:8 Abraham gave Isaac an example of **Faith**, as he declared that God, would ___________ a lamb and would keep His promise to bring his **Seed** through Isaac.
   2. **Obedience was modeled** by this event also.
   3. In the twenty-fourth chapter of Genesis, Abraham demonstrates **A concern for future marriage and posterity of his son**.

B. **HANNAH**
   1. **purposed** that her child, Samuel would be a man of God (1 Sam. 1:11)
   2. **Dedicated**, Samuel to God (1 Sam. 27-28)

C. **Eli**
   In 1Sam. 2:29 and 3:13 we see that Ely was **too permissive** and did not discipline his sons. God told Eli that Eli had more ____________ for his sons than for God. (Hummm? Perhaps we should ponder if we may be guilty of this)
D. DAVID
1. In the closing days of his life, David __________26 or instructed Solomon in Godliness (1 King 2:1-3; 1 Chron. 28:9, 20)
2. First Kings 1:6 shows David as a bad example of a parent who is too indulgent with his son Adonijah as he (David) had not __________27 him at any time. (The results were disastrous)
3. In First Chronicles 29:18 David __________28 and intercedes for Solomon.

E. EUNICE
1. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul speaks of the genuine __________29 that was in Timothy which dwelt first in his grandmother and then in his mother, and was accordingly modeled by these godly women.

2. In 2 Timothy 5:15 Paul reminds Timothy that from ______________30 he had known the Holy Scriptures. From this we deduce that Timothy’s mother, Eunice and grandmother, Lois had demonstrated being students of God’s Word, and had instructed Timothy in the Scriptures.

X. EXAMPLES OF HOW GOD OUR FATHER DEALS WITH US WHICH WE CAN TRANSPOSE INTO PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING:

A. From John 3:16 we see that __________31 was the motivation for the sacrifice He made for our redemption. Furthermore the desire to redeem us, to bring us into fellowship with Himself, and to reconcile us to Himself is in itself something that we parents can apply to our role of parenting.

B. Hebrews 12:6-10 and Revelation 3:19 teach that love is the motivation for all correction and ____________32. Again this demonstrates that real love is willing to confront and bring correction.

C. Phil. 4:19 tells us that God supplies all our __________33 As parents we should provide for the needs of our children, including training and preparation for life.

D. God gives ________________34 to us, his children. (Mt. 7:11; Lk. 11:10) We should do likewise.
APPENDIX

“MY SON” PASSAGES OF PROVERBS

(Proverbs 1:8) My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; NKJV

(Proverbs 1:10) My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. NKJV

(Proverbs 1:15) My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;

(Proverbs 2:1) My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

(Proverbs 3:1) My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;

(Proverbs 3:11) My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction;

(Proverbs 3:21) My son, let them not depart from your eyes — Keep sound wisdom and discretion; NKJV

(Proverbs 4:10) Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

(Proverbs 4:20) My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

(Proverbs 5:1) My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding,

(Proverbs 5:20) For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? NKJV

(Proverbs 6:1) My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, NKJV

(Proverbs 6:3) So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. NKJV

(Proverbs 6:20) My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. NKJV

(Proverbs 7:1) My son, keep my words And treasure my commands within you. NKJV

(Proverbs 19:27) Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you will stray from the words of knowledge. NKJV

(Proverbs 23:15) My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice — indeed, I myself;

(Proverbs 23:19) Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. NKJV
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

(Buk Abbott)

(Proverbs 23:26) My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.

(Proverbs 24:13) My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; NKJV

(Proverbs 24:21) My son, fear the Lord and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; NKJV

(Proverbs 27:11) My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, That I may answer him who reproaches me. NKJV

ANSWER KEY FOR BLANKS

1 Build
2 House
3 Heritage
4 Word
5 Self, or our own understanding
6 God
7 Salvation
8 Christ
9 Love
10 Provide
11 Teach
12 Word
13 Fear
14 Train
15 Rule or Control
16 Discipline
17 Chasten or correct
18 Love
19 Heart
20 Nurture * Most modern translations say train. However, the Greek word is as follows: NT:3809 paideia from NT:3811; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: KJV - chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture. Here, again we see an emphasis on the role as trainer
21 Tongue
22 Example or model
23 Sow / Plant / Cultivate
24 Provide
25 Honor
26 Charged
27 Rebuked
28 Prays
29 Faith
30 Childhood
31 Love
32 Rebuke
33 Needs
34 Good things / Holy Spirit