

Right and Wrong Parenting Styles

I. Authoritarian or Impatient Parenting

- A. “Do it or **else**. Do it because I said so.”
- B. Parents expect perfection. Forget/don’t comprehend that the child needs to be trained.
- C. No encouragement. Instead they **berate** and **belittle**.
- D. Pragmatic approach. Do whatever it takes to get the desired result.
- E. Idols in the parents’ hearts often are:
 - 1. Respect. “You will respect **me** if it’s the last thing you do.”
 - 2. “Why is this happening to **me**? I have a right to a problem-free child.”
 - 3. Appreciation. “Look what **I’ve** done for you.”
- F. Effects of this parenting style:
 - 1. Children don’t learn the “whys” behind the rules.
 - 2. They fail to **internalize** their parents’ values. Outward obedience only.

II. Permissive Parenting (Passive)

- A. “It’s no big deal. It’s just a **stage**. They’ll grow out of it. They’re only children.”
- B. “My child would not do that.” Illustration of “ring and run.”
- C. “It’s wrong, but it’s **cute**.” “He is too young to learn.”
- D. Don’t correct for fear of “harming” them. Parents don’t understand the sin nature.
- E. The child gets very little **direction** and is on his own most of the time.
- F. Effects of this parenting style:
 - 1. Children that will not **obey** or respond to authority.
 - 2. Children that do not listen or pay attention to others.

III. Child-Centered Parenting (Active)

- A. The child is allowed to make most **decisions** for himself/herself.
Examples: What he will eat, what he will do, where he will go, etc.
- B. Child often determines family decisions.
- C. Parents **consistently** ask a child to do things rather than instruct him.
“Will you take out the trash?” vs. “Please take out the trash.”
What will you do if he/she says “no”? Was it really a question?
- D. Child is allowed to view himself as the center of the family.
- E. Parents and siblings are there to serve **his** needs.
- F. The child is allowed to **interrupt** others and often changes the subject.
- G. The family’s schedule falls around the child’s schedule.
- H. Effects of this parenting style:
 - 1. Children are very **self-centered**.
 - 2. Children go to extremes if they don’t get their way.

IV. 10 Characteristics of Biblical Parenting

- 1. The husband/wife relationship has the **priority**. **TPT**. Genesis 2:24.
 - a. The adult left the **T**emporary relationship with their parents.
 - b. The husband/wife relationship is a **P**ermanent relationship and therefore has the highest priority.
 - c. Child is a welcome **T**emporary member of an already-existing family.
 - d. Husband **must** require the child to be respectful to his wife.
 - e. The child is not allowed to interrupt others for non-emergency requests.
 - f. The child’s schedule is **subject** to the schedules of the parents.

2. Parents accept their **responsibility** to train the child. “Bring Them Up.” Deut 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 22:6,15.
 - a. The responsibility to train the child **cannot** be delegated to teachers, schools, counselors, Sunday School teachers or the church. While each of these people/groups carry responsibility and are important, the parents have the primary responsibility.
 - b. Make wisdom/obedience **attractive**. Teach the whys behind the instructions.
 - c. As the training progresses and the teen years approach the parents must slowly, consciously give up the control of their child’s life and allow them to begin making decisions for themselves.
 - d. Children are trained to obey their parents and other authorities. Ephesians 6:1-3; Romans 13:1-7 ; I Peter 2:13-17.
 - e. Children are trained to **esteem** and **respect** others. Philippians 2:1-11.
3. Parents identify ways in which they are **provoking** their children (see list) and work to change their behavior. Ephesians 6:4.
4. Parents bring **pressure** to bear in the child’s life for the purpose of bringing about righteousness using the rod and related consequences.
5. Parents understand that God gives **authority** to carry out **responsibility**.
6. Authority is balanced with an Appeal Process (see attachment).
7. Parents are **goal-oriented** and have proper goals (Christlikeness). Rom 8:28-29.
 - a. What is my child like now?
 - b. What training must take place in knowledge, character and wisdom before they become adults?
8. Parents realize that God uses **trials** to make them and their children more Christlike. James 1:2-4. If we avoid the trials, we will never grow stronger.
9. Parents pray for wisdom and for their child. James 1:5
10. Parents **express** love for their child and spend **time** getting to know them. Luke 18:15

V. The proper place of **authority**.

A. God always gives authority to carry out **responsibility**.

1. Parents & children. Ephesians 6:1-3.
2. Human government & citizens. Romans 13:1-7.
3. Elders & laity. Hebrews 13:17.

B. God gave you authority to accomplish **His** purposes (train your children).
Not your own.

C. God has made you an authority. **Act** like it.

1. You set the example and submit to the authorities God has put over you.
2. God put you there to direct their lives, not give them choices and let them decide. You make good choices for them when they are young so they can learn how to make good choices when they become teenagers.
3. You must intervene in your children's lives. Don't let misbehavior go. Stand forcefully against it.

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