

TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN

-- BRIAN BELL --

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roverbs 22:6 tells us to “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” As a soon-to-be parent these words hang heavy over my head. While I am pumped about the idea of becoming a parent, I recognize that with that role comes great responsibility. Sadly it is a role that is deteriorating in today’s family units.

Too many parents today are concerned with being their kid’s best friend rather than being their parent. This has led to a lot less parenting, a lot less training, and a generation without biblical values or a desire for godly things.

In my years of youth ministry, I have heard many parents lament over their children and the choices they make. They want to know how to make their kids care about spiritual things, or worse, they want to put that responsibility on my shoulders. Let me address that first by saying that it is not the responsibility the elders, pastor or youth pastor to train up any other children other than their own. That is not to say that church leaders shouldn’t be concerned with the spiritual maturity of the church members; it simply means that the responsibility of training up a child should be upheld by the parents first and foremost.

So what does it mean to train up a child? How do parents raise their children to love the Lord and follow after him? Here are several things that parents should do:

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1. *Be an example.* Kids learn a great deal by simply observing their parents, maybe even more than they learn from listening to them. What kind of example are you to your kids? Do they see you pray and read your bible (outside of church)? Do they see you enjoy going to church? Do they see you being a godly husband or wife? Can they tell you love the Lord by your actions and choices?

2. *Discipline your kids.* I am not going to lay out guidelines for how parents should discipline their kids. I am going to say that children should receive discipline (unless your children are perfect and never do anything wrong). The book of Proverbs is full of verses that talk about the responsibility of parents to discipline their children – 13:24; 22:15; 23:13. The purpose of discipline is guidance. When God punished his children, it was never out of cruelty but out of a desire for correction. When parents discipline their kids, there should always be a conversation about the need for punishment which can be turned to a conversation about sin and how it affects our relationship with God.

3. *Preach the gospel to your kids.* Too many parents wonder what happened to their children when they get older and begin turning away from God, saying “he/she was always such a good kid.”

Parents should stop worrying about their kids are “good” and begin worrying about their kids being lost. Don’t rely on the church to tell your kids about salvation and the message of the gospel. Find every opportunity to teach them about their lost condition without Christ and the good news of the cross.

4. *Trust the Lord.* No matter what you do as a parent, you have to ultimately trust that your children are in the Lord’s hands. No amount of teaching, correction or discipline is a match for the sovereignty of God. This doesn’t give parents an excuse to skirt their responsibility to “train up” their children but it should provide a desire to pray for their children and teach them to live under the control of a sovereign God.

FEATURED PHOTOgraph



ARTIST: ALLISSA BELL

September 4
Church Luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALSO...

TUESDAYS: Prayer Meeting, 6:30 PM

THURSDAYS: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-8:00 PM

FAVORITE recipes

Italian Meatloaf

VIRGINIA ALLISON

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 egg
- 1 Tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 Tsp. salt-free Spike (optional)
- 1 small can sliced black olives
- 6 slices of mozzarella (or cheese of choice, but I don't recommend cheddar)

Favorite sauce for topping (I use Prego).

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Beat egg, and add Italian seasoning, and spike. Mix well, and add to ground beef. Roll the beef mixture out onto a sheet of wax paper until it is oblong and approx. 1/4" thick.

Sprinkle more Italian seasoning over the beef, scatter black olives over it, then layer with the cheese slices, putting more in the center section. Roll it up like you would a jelly roll, and crimp along the length and on both ends. Pour your favorite sauce on top, just before done.

Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until done. Enjoy with garlic bread!

Financial
Peace Revisited

By,
Dave Ramsey

RECOMMENDED READING

CATHY WATSON

Do you agree with this statement: "You either control your money or it controls you"? Whether you agree or not, the simple fact is that Christians need to be stewards of what God has given us. The aim of this book is to give people guidelines to manage what they have well. The message is geared toward families, couples, singles and children.

The author has experience in the issues he presents, as he has lived through having it all and then losing it all. He states that he has put into practice everything he writes in the book.

Two words stand out to me: Discipline and Control. At the outset he maintains that having a budget and sticking to it is of utmost importance, and gives guidelines as to how to set one up.

He lists the top priorities of the budget (or cash flow plan), giving, saving, shelter, and food. In addition, he is an advocate of living debt free. That is, to pay cash for everything you buy, except perhaps your house, but to pay off your mortgage as soon as possible.

A list of "Peace Puppies" ends each chapter. Some of them are: Live substantially below your means; Don't develop "stufitis" (worship of stuff); The difference between saving and hoarding is attitude, and Sacrifice now and have peace later. Worksheets are provided in the back of the book to help accomplish the task of getting control of finances.

It is not necessary to go out and buy this book as this one (as well as many of Ramsey's other books), is available at the Deschutes Public Library.

