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What Responsibility Does the Parent Have in the Moral Training of the Child?

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"WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES THE PARENT HAVE IN THE MORAL TRAINING OF THE CHILD?"
Deut. 6:6-9; 20-21

I. We live in an unusual time.
A. Age of most rapid growth.
   1. Clip on growth—doubled in 70 years, will in 30 more.
B. Age of greatest prosperity. — Clip on strike.
   1. So much food it's a "national crisis".
   2. Teenage clip.
C. Age of greatest church membership.
D. Age of greatest crime.
   1. See clip.
E. We have our children in school and it's illegal to teach them the Bible there—Kreuchef praises us for our "secular" schools—says they are next best to Russia.
   F. Does it seem obvious there are some glaring gaps in our training?

II. I believe the Bible teaches its God's will the parent train the child.
   Eph. 6:5 "Ye fathers, provoke not your child;
   Motherhood is more than conception and fatherhood is more than begetting—else every beast of field is a real mother.)
   Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written,
   I Cor. 10:11 "Now all these things happened to
   And they were written for our
   (We clarify above by turning to O.T.)
   Deut. 6:6-7 "These words, which I command thee
   Deut. 6:20 "And when my son (not pupil) asketh
   Deut. 6:21 "Then thou (parent) shalt say unto

III. Let's think on this for a while. Are not these facts obvious.
A. The parent shall have the truth of God in
his heart.
1. He must be devoted, consecrated, identified with God's cause.
2. He must be genuine.
3. He must see his influence.
   a. Benson clip.
   b. Picture of father clip.
4. He must know the truth—if you don't how could you teach it and train kids in holy way.

B. Holding the Truth, He should train his children.
1. "Thou shalt teach them diligently:"
   a. Lit. "Thou shalt sharpen them to thy children:"
   b. Impress them, send into them like a sharp weapon.
   c. If you are full of it, it pours out quick and pointed.
   d. We shoot them full of everything else—how about the truth.
   e. Be diligent—painstaking and systematic.
2. From the first he's regarded as God's and is trained for him.
   Isa. 44:5 "I am the Lord's"
   a. What do you want yours to be? Endowed, learned, rank and power or to be internally and thoroughly righteous?
   b. Read Elder poem.
C. "But how am I going to do this—I'm busy."
1. Different "busy" all around country.
   a. Clip on travel.
2. First I'd say we'd better—by God and by results warning us.
3. This is God's order of conservation and perpetuation.
4. Nation good or bad according to home life.
5. You give tone, character and influence.
6. Schools can't.
   a. Illegal.
   b. We don't want religion taught!
   c. But do we want them moral? Certainly not immoral.
   d. We may differ on vital matters but do we on moral matters.
      (1) Catholic gamble and mental reservation.
          (a) Mark won cake walk.
      (2) Stanley Allen sold lease to 3rd National
          They said "Blackmail". He said "Any less is larceny."
7. God gave a way.
   a. Subject of conversation on fitting occasions--saturate him.
   b. Talk, exhibit, write!
   c. Through ear, eye, intellect, and heart.
   d. Day and night, in and out of doors.
   e. Ans. his qt.--kings hiway to wisdom--who dares block? "What mean these things?" v. 20
   f. If we are too lazy to study child's curiosity may force us.
   g. Naturally this means being together.
8. God's aim--our good.
   a. Pick marriage partner who'll help in this.
   b. Prosperity led prodigal away. Adversity brought him back.

West end 3/19/62 Mvs. At Nick's PM.
You have to travel around over the country to discover that Americans are not all alike, after all. For instance, in Kentucky fresh green beans are cooked with bacon, whereas in Maine they are prepared with milk. House ceilings are calcimined in Massachusetts, but papered in Iowa.

New Englanders cool off on the piazza on a warm summer evening, but Alabamans seek relief on the gallery and Westerners on the porch. Hot breads are considered wholesome in Arkansas, but slow poison in Wisconsin. And throughout the South the black-eyed pea is considered a cherished delicacy, but it is used as cattle fodder in the North.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports for 1960, compiled under the direction of Director J. Edgar Hoover, reveals serious crime last year reached a new all-time high, with an astounding 98 per cent increase over 1950 while the population increase during this decade was only 18 per cent.

Mr. Hoover's report, based on data submitted by more than 7,700 police agencies, shows that lawlessness continued its upward surge with 1,861,300 serious crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny $50 and over, and auto theft reported in 1960, 14 per cent higher than in 1959, or 230,870 more serious crimes than in the prior year.

During 1960 a serious crime was committed every 15 seconds in the United States. A murder, forcible rape or assault to kill occurred every three minutes. The FBI report indicates that throughout 1960 there was a murder every 58 minutes, a forcible rape every 34 minutes, and an aggravated assault every 4 minutes.

Crimes against property, Mr. Hoover said, were generally much more frequent. A burglary was perpetrated every 39 seconds, a larceny $50 and over occurred every minute, a car was stolen every 2 minutes, and every 6 minutes witnessed a robbery during 1960.

Arrests of juveniles have more than doubled since 1950, while the population of youths aged 10 to 17 increased by less than one half.

Crime, for the past five years, has been rising over four times faster than the population. Since 1950 the crime rate (number of crimes per 100,000 persons) has increased 66 per cent.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation mentions seven contributing factors in juvenile crime. They are:
1. Neglect. (The action of the majority of young people is directly related to the conduct of their parents.)
2. Broken homes.
3. Unhappy homes.
4. Poor example. (A delinquent is often a minor caught mimicking his parents.)
5. Lack of discipline. (Criminals are made not born. J. Edgar Hoover said "Unless he learns the fundamental lesson of self discipline, trouble is inevitable.")
6. Doting parents.
7. Outside influences, (television, motion pictures, the mobility of people, close proximity with strangers all get us in trouble.)
I have not learned so noble a lesson as my son's life has taught...

by Ross W. Dye*

A wise son maketh a glad father," but few are the sons who do so unspeakable more than honor their parents and rejoice their hearts in this cruel world. Rare is the son who from preschool years manifests the Christian character lesser personalities cannot acquire in a lifetime. My wife and I knew early in Stanley's life that we were given a son who would do more for us than we could do for him. His loving kindness, obedience and conscientious life overawed us. We did not know — we do not know, but perhaps we entertained an angel unawares.

A boy of 13½ years is not a person whose council is sought by the world. But what hidden wisdom may lie within the heart of a boy who looks to his faltering daddy for guidance! So often 'tis daddy who doubts and son who trusts. Since I first became a Christian, I have not learned so noble a lesson as my son's life has taught.

There are numerous lessons he taught me. I purposed to teach him obedience, but it was he who taught me. On a hot summer afternoon I asked him to take the hose and water the grass along the curb because the sprinkler didn't do enough for that place. I said, "Stanley, I am going out for awhile. You keep watering until I return." He said, "Yes Sir," and I drove away thinking I would be back shortly. I was delayed and was gone three hours. When I returned, Stanley was where I left him. His mother had suggested that he had done

*Mr. Dye and his wife Norma live in San Antonio, Tex., where he is a minister. They have a son, Gregory, age 10. Their older son Stanley was killed in an accident June 13, 1961.
enough and should come in out of the heat, but he would not. He said, "Daddy said to water until he gets back." Oh, how I saw in him what it means to obey! His always unquestioning obedience taught me how to obey my Lord as I never knew before.

Stan taught me how to be thankful, for he so much appreciated the smallest matter. "Thanks, Dad — thanks a lot" were his words said over and over if I took him fishing or hunting, if I bought him an ice cream cone, if I took him to the zoo or to a restaurant. Never did he receive the slightest attention without personifying gratitude.

Stan taught me to protect my conscience because he was so conscientious. Anytime he felt he had done wrong, he told his mother and daddy. He told us even though he knew he might have to be punished or corrected in some way. I have learned by his example more fully the meaning of confessing our faults and baring our souls before the Lord in prayer.

Stanley had a way of saying the few words that count in life. Never did a day pass when he failed to show his love for his mother and daddy. He kissed us both morning and night even when he was 13. He taught me how easy and beautiful it is to show our love for one another instead of taking so much for granted.

Stanley taught me to pray. It was easy for him to lead our family prayers and make them personal. Only because of his beautiful prayers have I learned to really pray with my family and give utterance to the tender feelings of the heart which are so precious and personal. How much more meaningful are our prayers when they are truly the thoughts of our hearts and not mere words.

Stanley taught me so much in his life that I can mention only a few of the lessons. But it was in his death that he caused his daddy to do the deepest soul-searching in all his years of Bible study and preaching. Better than I could ever learn by reading words, I have learned in this tragic experience the meaning of life. At four o'clock the morning after his funeral, my wife Norma and I were on our knees praying. We groped for words, but He who makes intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered was by our sides. We have been given a peace which nothing can destroy. We are no longer our old selves. The Lord has taught us how to do. Maybe that was Stanley's mission in this world. Perhaps He wants Stanley's work to be done through us. Maybe he was meant as the instrument of the salvation of those he loved most and through us the bringing of many to glory.

Stan left this world as he lived. He was happy in life and died doing what he had looked forward to for many months. He was driving a tractor on his grandfather's farm when he was instantly killed. He never knew what happened, and the doctor assures us that he felt no pain. For this comfort we are thankful.

I baptized Stanley with my own hands. His mother and I told him about the Lord, but it was Stanley who brought us to the threshold of heaven. I feel the Lord's presence as I never have before. The Lord is our strength and our rock. He will not fail us. A hundred times this day have I called to mind the words of faith, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

The first place I turned in the Bible when I received the crushing news was II Samuel 12:23, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." I said to Norma, "Maybe Stanley had to go first so he could bring us to him." Who knows the hidden wisdom of God!

Norma and I have warned ourselves against putting Stanley in Christ's place as we think of heaven. We will not. We honor our Lord and thank Him that He sent Stan to us for awhile. We want to see the Lord in glory, but we know Stanley will brighten the grand meeting.

The Lord has not left us empty. We have another son who in his unique way is just as fine as Stanley. When I came into the room to write these words, I asked Gregory to let me sit where he was. As both our boys always did, he arose at once and said, "Yes Sir." I know he will never fail us. Norma and I must not allow ourselves to spoil him because of our aching hearts.

God fashioned a special jewel, and while I grew to young manhood half a continent away my
Lord prepared her for me. By the providence of God I met Norma. She gave me my sons and taught me the way of the Lord more perfectly. She is in my every thought and makes all my work possible. I am blessed above measure.

We cannot count our friends and loved ones who weep with us. Their prayers comfort us, and we thank God.

I pray that parents may learn the real values. So easily do we put our ambitions for our children in this world before the Lord and the church. Children are not mature enough to be the judge of whether they are at church Sunday night and Wednesday night. It grieves me to see people inclining their children in the way of indifference and worldliness. I always said that if my boys were Christians it mattered little what else they were. This is not to say we did not want other things. We saved for Stanley's college but used those funds to bury him. We gave him piano lessons, Little League, Scouting, numerous books, many things. But the one thing that has lasting meaning is the fact that he was taken to church every time there was a service from the time he was ten days old. Oh, that parents could see this need!

I know not what the future holds of joy or sorrow. I only know my Savior's love will make our burden light enough to bear. When our work here is ended, we will understand all and praise our Redeemer's name with the saints of all ages in that land where no sin, sorrow or death can come.

Two Prayers

LAST NIGHT my little boy confessed to me some childish wrong, And kneeling at my knee He prayed with tears —
“Dear God, make me a man like Daddy — wise and strong;
I know you can.”

THEN while he slept, I knelt beside his bed,
Confessed my sins
And prayed with low bowed head —
“Oh, God, make me a little child like my child here —
Pure, guileless, trusting thee with faith sincere.”

—Author Unknown