

1 Practical Steps in Discipling Your Children

I have been asked to share my own insights on discipling children - since I am old and my sons are raised.

This is not easy to do because:

I remember with guilt & sadness my failures I wish I had been as wise & knowledgeable about motherhood as 38 yrs. of being a mother has made me - no one starts being a mother with maturity & wisdom - that's where we end up with God's help & many failures

But let me share some of the principles I learned + I pray you can implement them more quickly & effectively than I did. Let me caution you not to put yourself under a legalistic rule of motherhood.

Prayer - lots of prayer - and is the only way to survive victoriously. Pray daily & consistently for your own spiritual growth towards maturity and pray for help. Pray for each child individually - pray specifically - intercede for them before the Lord & this is where "Pray without ceasing" bears fruit. God honors praying mothers & fathers by working in miraculous ways to accomplish what you cannot in your child's life. GOD very often loves you when you have failed in certain areas.

Faith + Vision

Faith is vision in 2 ways

1. Being a realist about your child - his sin areas - weaknesses - capabilities (i.e.) what he's really like - not a rose-colored, self-protective unreal viewpoint (we try to ignore his sins + exaggerate his capabilities because it reflects on us)

2. Be godly optimist - see what he can become
 Create a vision: a mindset fixed firmly in your mind - about how to inspire him to go out and live victoriously using his potential for the Lord. And then impart that vision of his wonderful future to your child @ encourage
 ⊕ inspire him - ⊕ help him achieve it.

⊕ Pray for him

Love + Friendship

To love sacrificially and build a genuine friendship with each child is absolutely necessary
 Some necessary steps are:

→ 1. Listening - don't ever be too busy to stop + really listen to your child - listening is not time wasted (household chores can wait)

→ 2. Patience - is defined as victorious endurance it is the steadfast ability to "bear with the failings of the weak" (Rom. 15:1) - and do it cheerfully

3. Wisdom - the right application of the Word + God's perspective in all the perplexing + complicated relationships + situations of your child's life -
 @ world system, education, peers, opp. sex, music, career choices.

Self-Reflection

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Pray for him

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□ Training

□ Patience

□ Wisdom

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⑦

carefully

compassion

in love

It's difficult to know God's mind - in fact, wisdom usually takes years to acquire + you just don't have it when you are a young mother
 → Seek mature counsel - + pray a lot.

4. Discipline - is a vital part of True love but is one of the most difficult areas of child-raising. We tend to either (a) discipline in anger-harshly, or (b) overlook the child's sin and excuse him - permissively.
Biblically we need to

- (a) separate the sin from the sinner - but be realistic
- (b) discipline firmly - explain Biblically + lovingly
- (c) be consistent with every sin every day
- (d) remember you are training him up to be + R
 i.e. to submit to authority + respect you
 → to be responsible for his actions
 → creates an attitude of giving + serving rather than taking + demanding (since most discipline involves selfish acts which hurt others)
- (e) discipline is one of the most necessary elements to bring your child to see his need for Christ as his savior - and to help him mature

Two reasons this generation fails in the area of discipline

1. Most are relativists - no understanding or acceptance of God's values - sin is not sin to them
2. Most do not believe in total depravity - do not view their children as born in sin - born with a double dose one dose from each parent - your own sin is the one you hate to see publicly displayed in your child

