

# Built By the Lord

By Edwin Crozier  
Adapted by Ron Vick

## Chapter 13

# Parents: Bring Them Up

- I. A Blessing from God - Psalm 127:3-5
  - A. As with any gift from the Lord, we must be good stewards.
  - B. We should raise our children in a way that glorifies the Lord.
  - C. How are we doing? Here is an example of bad parenting, Judges 2:10
- II. Bring Them Up
  - A. Ephesians 6:4 → “to nourish up to maturity.”
  - B. Few parents sit down to determine what their goal as parents are.
  - C. Most parents do not measure their success based on the progressive maturity of their children.
  - D. The author calls this a paradox. One extreme is to raise children to be happy, care-free, and always pursue pleasure. The other extreme is to be harsh, apply stern rules, and raise them to be miserable.
  - E. True happiness - Hebrews 12:11 - True happiness does not come from what is pleasurable in the moment. True happiness comes because of doing what is right, responsible, and mature. These actions are not always pleasurable.
  - F. Physical maturity is the smallest aspect of our goal.
    - 1. If you keep a child fed and exercised... they will grow up physically. How we raise them will be what leads them to a goal.
    - 2. We may send them to school for mental maturity. And for spiritual maturity we may bring them to church. The hard truth is that these responsibilities do not belong to the government or the church but to us as parents.
- III. Do Not Provoke
  - A. Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21 → “Do not provoke your children”
  - B. It is too easy for parents to get so caught up in their own life that they neglect their children and their emotional needs. A result will be that they have exasperated or provoked them as children.
    - 1. The author uses as an example the Disney movie, “The Kid.”
    - 2. In reality, our adult children will not be able to travel back into time and see exactly what happened in their childhood and why.
  - C. Do not misunderstand.
    - 1. This passage does not teach that if our children become angry with us, we have failed as parents.
    - 2. Sometimes, if we do our jobs properly, our children WILL become angry.
    - 3. They may say painful words like “I hate you” or “I never want to see you again.”
    - 4. If we have been treating them properly, our children are becoming angry

without REAL provocation.

- D. Titus 2:4-5 → This is the opposite of provocation.
  - 1. Matt. 5:43 says that we are to love our enemies. This “love” is from the Greek word “agape.”
  - 2. If it is “loving our enemies,” we want to seek their highest good. If it is loving as family, we still want their ultimate good rather than a short-term pleasure.
- E. What does it mean to provoke our children to wrath?
  - 1. How would we do this if we tried? Pretty much the way anyone is provoked to wrath or exasperated.
  - 2. Provoke = stimulate or give rise to (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone.
- F. The author gives 20 examples of how to provoke your children to wrath, via: Crozier, Edwin. Built by the Lord: A Study of the Family (pp. 104-106)

#### IV. Discipline and Instruction

- A. Ephesians 6:4 → “...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- B. Discipline → Training with action  
Instruction → Training with words
- C. “Discipline” likely brings to mind training with the rod. Hebrews 12:5-6  
“Spare the rod and spoil the child.” See: Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15
- D. Please use some common-sense guidelines when applying the rod.
- E. Another action-based training is to let the children face the natural consequences of their action.
  - 1. Proverbs 1:24-29
  - 2. Consider what are creative ways to teach consequences of their actions.
- F. Practicing good behavior is a good way to train through actions.
  - 1. Sports teams having training camps. They perform drill after drill after drill.
  - 2. How do we train children? Deuteronomy 6:7
  - 3. How did Jesus train the apostles?
  - 4. 2 Timothy 4:2 - “Reprove, rebuke, and exhort” → If we can treat our brother in Christ this way, we can treat our children this way.
  - 5. Galatians 6:1 – “...in a spirit of gentleness.”
- G. Finally, remember that they are children.

#### V. Raising kids is not always easy.

- A. It takes planning, preparation, and perseverance.
- B. Lastly, kids really are amazingly resilient.
- C. Follow God’s word, admit when you messed up, apologize, and do your best again tomorrow. You and your kids will make it.

#### VI. Today’s Response

- A. Parents, what will you do this week to specifically help lead your children further on the road to maturity?
- B. When your children leave home... How do you want them to behave? ...to know? ...to be important to them? What do you need to do to bring this goal about?