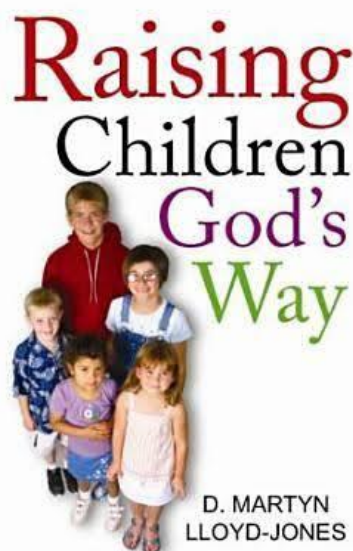


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What I Have Learnt from the Book 'Raising Children God's Way' by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones

When my 2nd daughter Chloe was born 12 years ago, Pastor Jack gave me this book 'Raising Children God's Way' by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones. It instantly appealed to me because of the phrase 'God's Way'. With my eldest daughter now a teenager, I realize my need to re-read this book and hopefully put more into practice than what I had previously.

This book contains the five sermons preached in Westminster Chapel by Dr Lloyd-Jones, who was then pastoring the church. The basis for his sermons was the scripture text Ephesians chapter 6 verses 1 to 4 which says '*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*'

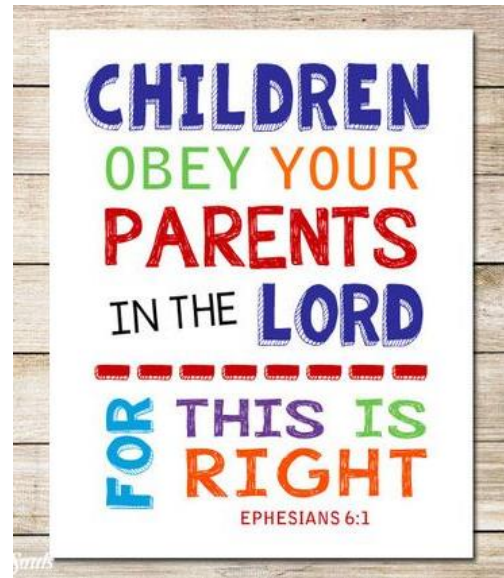


The following are my key learnings from this book:

1. At a time of gross godlessness and irreligion such as now, one of the most striking manifestation of the lawlessness is 'disobedience to parents' (Rom 1:30, 2Tim 3:2). Unrighteousness is always the result of ungodliness (Rom 1:18). Therefore the only hope of getting back any measure of righteousness into our life is to have a revival of godliness, starting from within our homes and starting with us fathers.

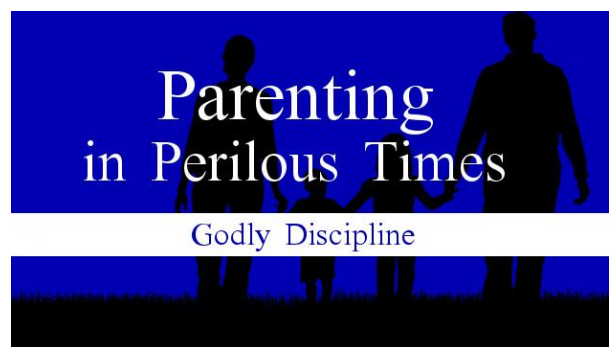


2. Children, when called to obey their parents need to listen as one under authority. They are to realise their position as subordinate and how this obedience should be governed by the word “honour” which means ‘respect’ and ‘reverence’. This is so that children observe not just the letter but the spirit of obedience as well; that it be not a mechanical and grudging obedience. The reason for such an obedience is because ‘for this is right’, i.e. that it is righteous, it is something which is essentially right and good in and of itself. Why? Because the whole of life and the whole of nature indicates this. For an offspring to be rebellious against the parents and to refuse to listen is unnatural, ridiculous and foolish.



3. In addition to nature and the law for reasons to obey parents, the ultimate reason is because of the phrase ‘in the Lord’. Children are to obey their parents because it is the commandment of the Lord, and children are to obey it for Christ’s sake and to please our Lord and Saviour. By so doing, they are also showing that they belong to Christ and have the Spirit of God in them, and are different from the children of the world.

4. On matters of discipline, the modern position is to view human nature as essentially good, and therefore what is needed from parents is to encourage, and to develop the child’s personality. This view posits that there must be no punishment because this tends to be repressive and if there is any sort of punishment, it must be reformatory rather than to exercise retribution. As such the rod, or cane must be scrapped. This however is contrary to what the Bible teaches. The biblical teaching is that because man is a fallen creature, because he is a sinner and a rebel, he must be kept in order. Sinners are to be punished, and are to feel their punishment. When God gave his law, it was accompanied by sanctions which were to be applied following a transgression. God does not give a law and say that disobedience to its requirements does not matter. God carries out his law. With this in mind, parents have the responsibility to

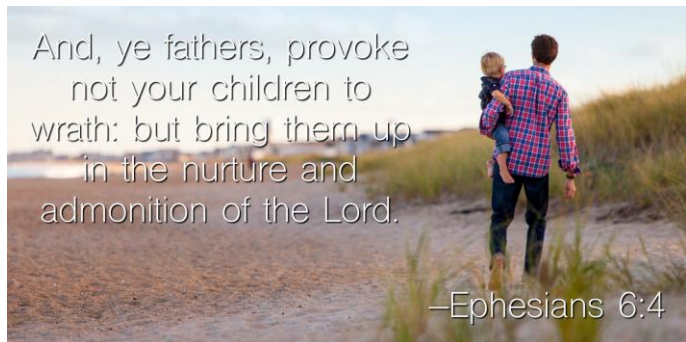


discipline their children and to punish when they disobey. The key for parents is how to exercise discipline such that we don't do more harm than good.

5. Apostle Paul's exhortation to parents has two sides. One is the negative side where parents are told to "Provoke not your children to wrath" and then the positive side: 'Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.'

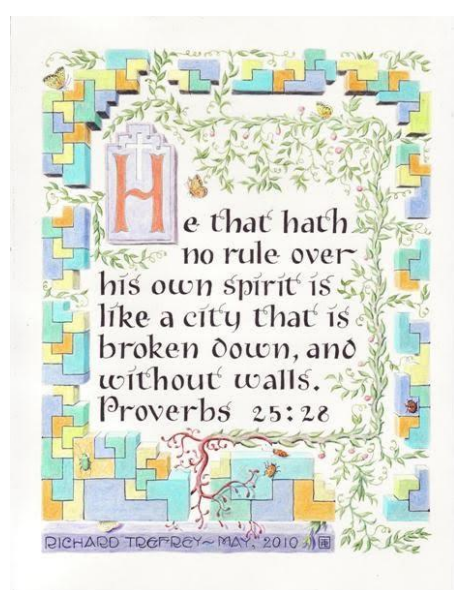
'Provoke not your child to wrath'

- a. 'Provoke not your child to wrath' means not to exasperate, irritate or provoke them to become resentful when we are disciplining them. To succeed in such balanced discipline, the author points us to the great



principle laid down by Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 5, verse 18 which says 'And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;'. A Christian who lives in the Spirit is always characterized by two main things – power and control. This is very unlike that of a drunkard who is easily provoked, lacks balance, has no judgement, is controlled by his instincts, passion and lower nature and guilty of excessive reaction. Therefore parents must first be filled with the Spirit so that we can exercise self-control and discipline our own tempers. This will enable us to deal with the situation in a balanced and controlled manner.

- b. Secondly, we parents must never be capricious, whose moods and actions are unpredictable. We must not be such that one day, we are in a good mood, and indulgent and allow the child to do anything but flare up in a rage the next day over the same action by the child. Such parents will quickly lose their children's respect.



- c. Thirdly, parents must never be unreasonable and unwilling to hear the child's case and deny him a chance to explain. There might be misunderstandings, wrongful reports or circumstances which we may need to consider before disciplining.

d. Fourthly parents must never be selfish or possessive, to impose a personality upon the child and fail to recognise that the child has his own life and personality too. Such parents have a wrong notion of parenthood, and fail to realise that we are but guardians and custodians of these lives, that they do not 'belong' to us and that we do not possess them nor have absolute right over them.

e. Fifthly, parents must never administer punishment and discipline in a mechanical manner. True discipline is based on understanding; there must always be a reason for it, and that reason should always be made plain and clear.



f. Sixthly, discipline must never be too severe. We parents must be careful not to administer the maximum punishment for all offences, great or small. Rather it must be meted out such that 'the punishment fits the crime'. Failure in this aspect will inevitably give the one being punished a sense of injustice, a feeling that the punishment was so out of proportion to what was done that it constitutes an act of violence rather than sane chastisement which inevitably induces the 'wrath' mentioned in the bible.

g. Seventh, we must never fail to recognize growth and development in



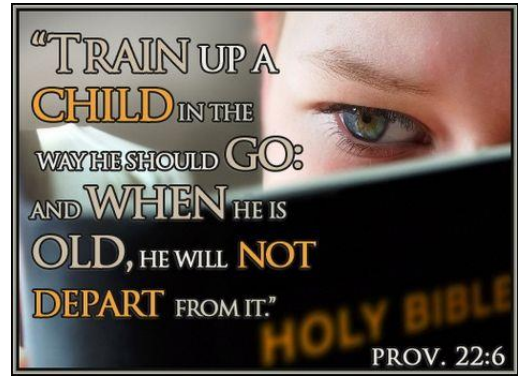
the child. Whilst we may be able to insist upon our children up to a certain age, we should never foist our views upon them especially when the children have reached adolescent age. Rather, we should try to win them, to show them the excellence and the reasonableness of what we believe.

h. Finally discipline must always be exercised in love. The purpose of discipline is not to keep up to our standard, like how it's done in the army. We must not think of ourselves primarily but of the child. The child's good is to be our controlling motive in discipline.



'Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.'

On the positive side of Paul's injunction, parents are to 'Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord'. We must first realise our responsibility to 'Bring them up' meaning to rear and nourish them to maturity and to train them in the way they should go. The distinction for Christian parents is in the phrase 'of the Lord'. Our children are given to us by God for a while and we are to be their guardian and custodian of their soul. Our main ambition for them is that they may come to know him, whom to know is life eternal (John 17:3), that they may know him as their Saviour and that they may follow him as their Lord. Parents are to regard this as the greatest business in life, the greatest matter which any parent can undertake. The primary tasks of parents are therefore quite clear.



What are parents to do? Parents are to:



- a. Instruct our children in all moral and spiritual matters, including the Ten Commandments.
- b. Supplement the teaching of the church, and to apply the teaching of the church at home
- c. Conduct ourselves such that our children should always have a feeling that Christ is the Head of the house or home, and they themselves are under Christ, that Christ is their Head.
- d. Engage in general conversation and to see to it that the Christian point of view is always brought in. When this is done, the children will become aware of the Godly governing principle in the lives of their parents, how the thinking and everything else about us is different from all that they see and hear in the unbelieving world.

e. Know the Bible and its teaching so that we can answer their questions about life and even to introduce the gospel, and be able to 'give a reason for the hope that is in you'.



f. Guide their reading so that their minds are turned in the right direction especially when reading good biographies of godly men. Biographies will familiarize and inspire them with the glories of the Christian faith in action.

g. Return thanks always to God, especially during meal times so that the children become accustomed to hearing us thanking God and returning thanks.

h. Have a family devotion regularly where the family meet around the Word of God, so that the children hear God's word regularly.



i. Make Christianity attractive to them and create in them the desire to be like us; to enter into the same knowledge and have the same joy, and have the highest privilege possible in this world, that of serving the Lord and living to the praise of the glory of his grace.

Finally whatever we do as parents, we must remember to do all things to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31), and in that way we will bring up our children 'in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord'.

Eugene Ooi

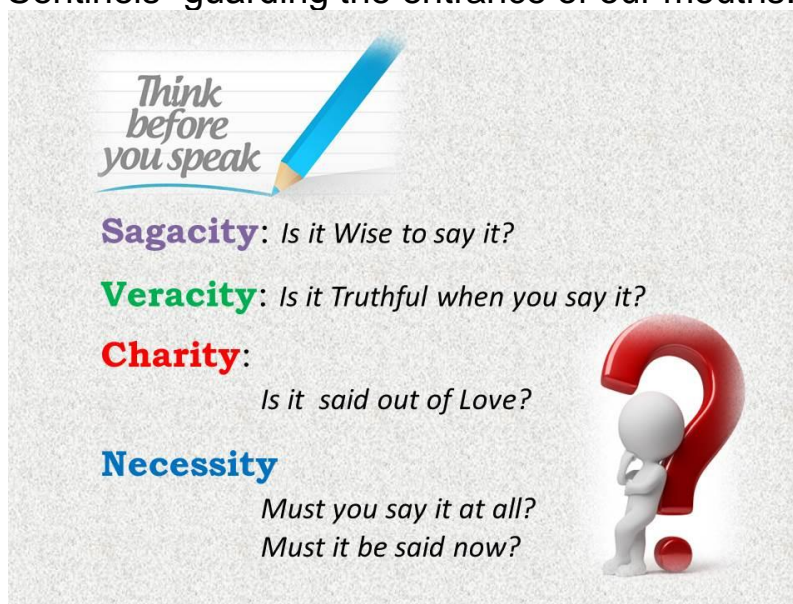
Rules for Edifying Communication

Inter-personal communication is important for human relationships among people even in this circuit breaker when we are all staying at home. We can still keep in touch whether it is via WhatsApp, email, a phone call or a Skype or Zoom meeting with our colleagues or family members. Even though we are to stay at home, it does not mean we cannot continue to reach out and relate to one another in a meaningful manner.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
Ephesians 4:29



Here are “4 Sentinels” guarding the entrance of our mouths:



We can exhort and encourage one another in different platforms and communicational means. Ponder deeply how you can be effective in your communication with others during the MCO or circuit breaker and beyond. Words can heal someone or they can hurt others. Make sure that your words edify and exhort. Be a blessing to others. Use your lips to worship and serve God and in sharing of the gospel, and also use God honouring words to edify others as the Lord leads.

Remember what Paul says in Eph 4:29, “*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*” and Col 4:6, which says, “*Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*” Read also James 3:1-10

Jack Sin

Memory Verse

Dan 8: 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power:
and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise,
and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

Announcements

1. We thank God for many who are participating in our Facebook Live streaming worship service which will continue till further advice.
2. Pastor Jack is preaching at the live recording worship service of Emmanuel BPC this morning.
3. Rev Peter Goh speaks today on “A Vision of the Past, Present and Future” (Dan 8:1 - 26).
4. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on “The Supplication of a Godly Saint” (Dan 9:1 - 24).
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
7. Those who would like to serve the Lord in any area in the church, please see the Pastor or the Deacons.
8. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
9. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mailed to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Our SHopefuls,
Dr Kwong Leen & Chan Ping,
Kin Kheng & Say Poe and Kin Hoong,
at our Facebook Live Worship Services.

