

When a Child Rebels *Erwin Lutzer*

I. Introduction. David had to pay a tremendous price for his sin with Bathsheba.

II. Three mistakes David made with his children.

A. He was passive—he became angry but did not act. (II Samuel 13)

1. Amnon raped his sister and his brother Absalom killed him.
2. David was angry but did nothing.
3. Not all anger is sin. One should not blow up or clam up. One must do what he can within his power.
4. Perhaps David did not act because he had committed the same sins.

B. He had reconciliation with Absalom without forgiveness. (II Samuel 14)

1. Absalom should have repented first.
2. Forgiveness should only be granted if the offending party asks for it.

C. Sentimentality without strength.

1. David asks Joab to deal gently with his son despite his evil. (II Samuel 18)
2. This was weakness on David's part because Absalom had done so much evil.

III. God...

A. Is not passive.

B. Does not reconcile with us without our repentance.

C. Is not just sentimental—He has strength to discipline us.

1. God has children who rebel.
2. God did not judge Samuel for his rebellious sons unlike Eli because Samuel attempted to discipline his children.

Application questions:

1. Is repentance required for forgiveness in your opinion? Explain.

2. Why is it important to be strong with discipline as a parent?

3. Is a parent's character always reflected by the discipline of his or her children? Explain.
