

Role of the Parents

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6.

B. From the very beginning it was God's intention that believers be unique.

II. God gives children. (Genesis 4:1, 25; Ruth 4:13, 1 Samuel 1:20, Psalm 147:3)

III. Children need to be disciplined in order to be healthy.

A. Children are sinners.

B. They cannot be permitted to continue in their self-centered world view.

IV. If we do not work to make our children obedient, we will share in the pain the world has.

V. The only way to make the children obey is to have them pay the consequences for misbehavior.

A. If we do not discipline children, parents will suffer consequences. That child will be a grief. (Proverbs 10:1, 15:5, 17:21, 19:13, 19:26, 28:24, 29:15)

B. Children need to be cared for because they are mentally and spiritually inadequate.

C. Discipline, supervision, affection and time spent together are necessary to raise a child well.

VI. Do not provoke your children...

A. By smothering them.

B. By favoring one over the other.

C. By pushing them too hard.

D. By discouragement.

E. By making them feel that they are in the way.

F. By demanding perfection in ideas.

G. By neglect.

VII. Build children up.

A. Nurture them through discipline and chastening them. (Proverbs 22:6)

B. Reward and punish.

C. Admonish.

Application Questions:

1. Will godly discipline always produce a godly child?

2. What are some healthy ways to put discipline into action?

3. Which pitfall of provocation do you feel is most harmful? Explain.
