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**By**

**Pastor Charles Storey**

**Teach the Children Wisdom...**

Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; Yes, he will delight your soul. Proverbs 29:17

Proverbs 29:17 provides instructions for parents to raise the future disciples; Godly children. In order to get a broader view of King Solomon’s wisdom being imparted in verse 17, as a guide for parents to raise Godly children we must summarize the key concepts for parents using verses 1-27.

 Before we wade into the deep, I think for ongoing clarity we need a working definition of discipline as it relates to child rearing. Discipline for children being raised by parents who are disciples of Jesus Christ is a little different from the carnal approach. These parents are being instructed to use a discipline that consists of guidance, structure, nurturing, scriptural introduction modeling and setting boundaries in a manner that respects the child as a gift given for a season, by God Himself. This type of discipline aids in the physical, mental and spiritual health of the child. This type of discipline cultivates responsibility and good behavior. This behavior pattern also helps the children make right decisions that are consistent with their parents’ teachings. Discipline of this sort lays a foundation for children to mature in understanding and become disciples of Jesus themselves at maturity.

Let us look at some child rearing concepts we can glean from Proverbs 29:1-27.

1. **Discipline and Correction**: Proverbs 29:1,15,17 emphasizes the importance of giving and heeding instructions in the parenting process. When parents correct the undesirable behavior, this can prevent children from suffering the consequences of bad choices. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:1,15,17
2. **Pride and Humility**: Pride is defined as self-elevation, self-centered and acting in a way to gain approval from others. Humility is the act of listening, thinking, and responding to life situations based on The Word of God. Parents are instructed to instill humility as they minister to their children. Humility leads to wisdom that jumpstarts their path to spiritual growth. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29: 2, 23
3. **Righteousness and Justice**: Righteousness for the disciple is defined as being in right or perfect standing with God based on the finished works of Jesus. Justice is defined as a love for God, (submission and obedience) and love for your neighbor (esteeming them more highly than myself). The word of God is an excellent tool, teaching the importance of righteousness and justice. The benefits to their character are a sense of fairness, compassion, empathy and moral integrity. **Scripture Reference:** Proverbs 29:4,7,14,16, 27
4. **Communication and Guidance**: Communication is verbal, written dialogue with respect between parents and children. Listening attentively to each other is sometimes an overlooked aspect of communication. Guidance is a set of rules, expectations, protocols and boundaries to aid the recipient in avoiding difficulties. With proper communication and guidance, children can learn to express themselves with confidence, operate with discernment and make righteous decisions. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29: 5,6,8,11,12,18
5. **Foolishness and Wisdom**: Foolishness in a child is disobedience, rejecting sound teachings and not adhering to discipline. Also rejecting the sovereignty of God and His word. Wisdom is a contrast to foolishness. Wisdom is a gift from God to yielded vessels that entails knowledge of God’s word and the discernment to apply it properly. Wisdom when received leads to sound decision making, exemplifying God’s word. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:9,20,21,22,24,25
6. **Respect and Obedience**: Respect is the act of treating everyone with high regard, even those deemed by others as being unworthy of it. Obedience is a willingness to submit to instructions or commands to the ones in authority. Respect is a valuable attribute for children to learn early in the life of a disciple in training. Respect starts with esteeming God, parents, and those in authority in their lives. Submission and obedience to authority is one of the ground rules of anyone in authority. Respect and obedience are crucial in training as a disciple, who in the future that will operate in the authority of Acts1:8. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:10,13, 26
7. **Guidance while a Youth**: Guidance is the protocols, instructions, teachings and boundaries instilled in children especially in their formative years. Spiritual guidance helps the children develop Christ like values, character and a sense of purpose. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:16
8. **Consequences of Parenting**: Raising children up in the love, reverence and obedience to God is the basic requirement for Godly parents. The operating instructions for this gift from God to parents must be adhered to at the risk of spoiling the child. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:15,17,27
9. **Character Development:** By instituting the word of God as a guide in the Child rearing process children will develop compassion, honesty, and humility. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:21
10. **Provide an example to Model**: The best tool for parents to use in ministering to children as future disciples is providing an example to follow. A good motto for parents discipling children is “follow me as I follow Christ”. **Scripture Reference**: Proverbs 29:18

These concepts in Proverbs 29:1-27 can serve as a useful guide for raising up children in the basics of discipleship. These processes will lead to children being wise, respectful and well prepared at maturity to become faithful disciples of Christ.