

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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Train Up A Child, Part 3

There are two very important principles that were made real to Wayne and I as we were raising our children. The first dawned on us when we read the Scripture, “let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay”.ⁱ As a parent, this means I must consider my words before I speak to my children. I’m thinking very carefully about my decisions because once committed, unless I find out I’m wrong, I can’t be begged into contrition. If our children can beg and change our mind, we need to shape up. So I’m thinking about it.

Once, a father came over with his son and asked to speak to us privately. I appreciate that. He said, “I’m going to take the boys to the beach and we want Joel to go with us.” I didn’t know much about this man, but I thought he was a “drinker”.

So I asked him, “Sir, will you be

taking any alcohol?”

And he said, “Yes.”

I said, I’m sorry, but Joel can’t go.” Parents have to take a stand.

Now don’t be begged into contrition. No is no. Yes is yes. When you say, “You can’t go to Larry’s because we’re going to have supper in thirty minutes,” don’t back down.

I’ve heard children say, “Oh please Mom, please Mom. I’ll be right back! I’ll be right back!”

After a while, they beg and plead and we say, “Okay, okay just make sure you’re back in thirty minutes.” I wonder, wouldn’t it be better to consent at the beginning?

We are God’s representatives on the earth. Children learn first of all from us about God. We can teach by our actions that God can be talked out of a good idea.

But, His Word is immutable! His counsel is true and enduring! So, “If any...lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally...and [upbraids not].”ⁱⁱ All we have to do is follow His wisdom. We cannot compromise if God has spoken.

The second helpful tip from Heaven came to us as we pondered our key scripture for these lessons “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”ⁱⁱⁱ Oh, how wonderful is revelation from our God! By the Holy Spirit, we are taught all things. Years ago, here is what I came to understand about training. “I will do it for you. I will do it with you. You can do it by yourself.”

In the beginning, we do all things for our children. All they do is watch.

Every morning from the time our children were little, I made their beds and they watched. If you live at my house, you make your bed. Well, they watched and I did it for them. Then when I thought they were old enough, I did half and they did half. Now listen, do not undo and correct their half. All that does is teach, “You are inadequate. You can’t please me.” I don’t care how it looks. I believe you should leave it alone. Eventually, the day comes when they can make the bed properly by themselves.

I remember the day I told Joel to make his bed. He kept looking out the door to see if I was coming. But I wasn’t coming because “I did it for him, and I did it with him.” Now it’s his time. Of course, God is a merciful Father. We believe in being merciful.

So, at our house if you did well Monday through Friday, I would make the beds on Saturday. They would say, “I did okay, didn’t I?” That means, “Do I have to make my bed today?” Well, that’s my rule. You don’t have to live by my rules. You can find out what the Holy Ghost will say to you, what works at your household. Your household is not like mine. All we have to do is obey Him.

This is the way we potty train our children. As a baby they have no responsibilities whatsoever. You remember that, don’t you? When the time is right, you work with them. You sit and read a book. You eat a cookie. You buy “pull-ups” But the day always comes, when they are responsible.

Wayne said the most interesting

thing the other day. I thought, “Now that is the truth.” He referred to the “culture of families”. Families have cultural habits or patterns of response, all of them. If you go to a Combee family dinner, you will notice they always speak softly. Well, one day I was reading the scripture, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”^{iv} Now I don’t think God put that scripture in the Bible to make you legalistic, but I decided when I got angry, I would whisper. I was doing that to help me. This was Becky Combee’s self-help program by the Word and the Spirit. I did it so much that if I spoke quietly the children froze. They knew if I whispered, I was mad. Why did I go to such an extreme? I did it because I’m going to conform to the Word of God and set an example for my children. This is another avenue of training. They must see God working in my life. They need to see the Word working mightily in us.

Do you remember Jacob and Esau? Jacob was the twin brother of Esau and the second child of Isaac and Rebekah. As the second born, he had no birthright. The birthright brought great respect, paternal blessings and authority in family decisions. Although the birthright belonged to Esau, over time, Jacob bought it and by deception received the blessing of his father, Isaac. Afterwards he travelled to Padanaram to find a wife.

Many years later, Jacob determined to return home. Because he did not know if he would be received peacefully, he sent messengers with gifts to Esau. He sent several parties of servants with presents. But the day came when he must go to Esau himself. Esau, however, instead of being mad, embraced Jacob and urged him to go to Seir with him. Here, the Scripture says the most magnificent thing. To paraphrase, Jacob said to Esau, “The lambs, the sheep, are carrying young and my children are tender. I must not over drive them. I must lead softly.”^v Oh, I just love this word from Heaven. It prompts me to ask this question, “Are we leading softly?” On the one hand, we can be too rigid. We can “over drive”. That’s why the Scripture says in the New Testament, “provoke not your children to wrath”.^{vi} On the other hand, if we don’t train our children, if we don’t teach them, if we don’t correct them, they’ll be a disappointment.

Listen to this wisdom from Proverbs. “Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”^{vii} Oh, what a comfort. When we train our children, we will be able to say, “This is my son in whom my soul delights.” But we must “lead softly”.

ⁱ James 5:12

ⁱⁱ James 1:5 NKJ

ⁱⁱⁱ Proverbs 22:6

^{iv} Proverbs 15:1

^v Genesis 33:13-14

^{vi} Ephesians 6:4

^{vii} Proverbs 29:17



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