



Parents Rule With Love, Part 1

There is an old adage popularized by Benjamin Franklin in Poor Richard's Almanac that says "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." There is nothing wrong with that saying except that it is incomplete. If we are to be "healthy, wealthy and wise, it will require more than a regimented bedtime. We must honor the Word of the Living God. If our children are to be "healthy, wealthy, and wise" they must also honor the Word of the Living God.

One of the most important principles of scripture that promotes health and abundant life in our children is "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."¹ Did you notice as you read these verses that obedience pays? Through obedience and honor, children can have "well" days. And we want them to have "well" days. We don't want them to have long, miserable days. We want them to be "healthy, wealthy and wise." But here is the essential truth, well days are rooted in submission and honor.

In every home, parents are in charge. The scripture wouldn't say "children obey" if mom and

dad were not in charge. Instead, it would read "parents obey your children." Although it often it appears that children are ruling, the Word of God is clear. Parents rule. Children obey. Families are destroyed when parents abdicate their God-given responsibility and children rule. Mom and dad are in charge when a child is 2; when a child is 12; and when a child is 16.

A child is like the delicate cocoon you might find in your garden. Inside this cocoon something beautiful is being conceived. One day the cocoon will open and a gorgeous butterfly will emerge. In every child's life there is a day of independence, a day of wisdom and sufficiency. Until that day, parents are in charge. To open the cocoon prematurely, to grant freedom before full development, is to court disaster.

As a child grows, the scripture declares "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."² The word "nurture" means to instruct, tutor, and discipline. The instructions and discipline of a nurturing parent provide nutrition for spirit, soul and body. Nurturing parents train their children so they will have a strong body, a sound mind with stable emotions, and a heart after God.

Parents who train their children in God refuse to yield to pressure. Unlike the mother who fed her child cake icing for supper, they provide good

nutrition. Instead of allowing hours and hours of television or computer games, they encourage activities which promote exercise. They express interest in their child's school progress, overseeing what comes into their mind. They read the Bible and pray with their children. These nurturing parents are in charge – spirit, soul and body. They are “ruling well their own house, having their children in subjection.”³

These parents always walk with God. With God working mightily in them, they are examples to their children. Their home provides an atmosphere of peace where each child can grow strong in the Lord. And as these children grow in God, they honor the instructions of their godly mom and dad. We will hear them say, “Oh, that’s what momma said.” We’ll hear them quote good old dad as if they thought of it themselves. Why? They are learning the ways of God! They are listening to mom and dad as they provide good things for the child’s spirit, soul, and body! The Scripture is working! “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”⁴ Mom and Dad, you are in charge!



¹ Ephesians 6:1-3

² Ephesians 6:4

³ 1 Timothy 3:4

⁴ Proverbs 22:6



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Train Up Your Child

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord:
for this is right.*

Ephesians 6:1

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