

REARING CHILDREN

Country Bible Church

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REARING CHILDREN

1 Kings 1:6 - And his father [King David] had never crossed him [Adonijah] at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?"

This verse sets the stage for the following notes Pastor Mike Smith used to teach the Doctrine of Rearing Children, November 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2005. The audio lessons can be found on our web site: www.countrybiblechurch.us.

INTRODUCTION

1. Babies come in every size, shape and color. Some are cuter than others and some have more personality than others, but they all have one thing in common. Each is born with a very active Old Sin Nature.
2. No parent has to teach them how to be arrogant or how to misbehave. All of them want to get their way all of the time and will do anything and everything to have it: tantrums, crying, pouting, anger, acting hurt or sick, refusing to talk, withdrawing, playing one parent against another, and other manipulations. They want to

- run the show. They want to be in control.
3. Parents must realize this so that they can fulfill their job as parents. What is their job? To teach their children to respect authority and to develop genuine humility.
 4. The importance of this job cannot be overstated. The fate of each child, the family, and the entire nation depends on how well parents perform their job, **1 Sam. 2:12, 23-25, 3:13.**
 5. It is amazing that people can graduate from high school, college, even graduate school, and still not learn a thing about rearing children. Parents may be quite intelligent and well-educated yet have no clue how to properly train their children.
 6. Arrogance is the enemy. **GENUINE HUMILITY** is the goal, and it can only be reached by using a method of mandatory compliance that is called **ENFORCED HUMILITY**. Make no mistake about it, there is no other way to overcome your child's arrogance so that he becomes genuinely humble.
 7. **What is GENUINE HUMILITY?** It is reaching a state of self-control, self-discipline, obedience to rules, and submission to authority, not because you are forced into it, but because you want to do it. Parents are failures if their children have not acquired this humility by the time they leave the nest.

8. What is **ENFORCED HUMILITY**? It is humility forced upon a child by parents who have taken **measures to remove his arrogance.** Notice that the word "force" is found in enforced humility. This force should be used only when necessary and employed with love, never with anger.
9. Some may think that force and love do not go together, but they do, **Prov. 13:24.**
10. The first thing parents need to do is to make **RULES** for their children: what each child is to do, and what they will not be allowed to do.
11. These rules must be communicated to children so that they are clear. Make sure they have no questions about them. They must know where the boundaries are, what is permissible, and what is not going to be tolerated.
12. Each parent will have his own ideas about what should be on the "rules list," but it is imperative that a list be made. Why?

Prov. 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it

How can children possibly be trained without rules and boundaries being established?

REARING CHILDREN

GOAL - **GENUINE HUMILITY**
ACHIEVED BY - **ENFORCED HUMILITY**

METHODS

RULES AND BOUNDARIES
STRUCTURE AND ROUTINE
PRAISE AND ENCOURAGEMENT
CORRECTION AND DISCIPLINE
AFFECTION AND REASSURANCE

RULES/BOUNDARIES

(suggestions):

WHAT THE CHILD IS TO DO:

1. Always obey your parents!

Eph.6:1 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

Col.3:20 - *Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.*

Why do you have to obey? Because God says that your parents' word is the Law! Also, it pleases God for you to obey them. If you do, He will prosper

you and give you a long, wonderful life.

Eph. 6:2-3 - *Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise,³ that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.*

Ex. 20:12 is the 5th Commandment of The Ten.

2. Show proper respect when speaking to adults by using honorifics like "Yes sir, Mr. Smith", "No, Mam," or "Pardon me." Never use sloppy terms such as "Yeah," "Nawh," or "Huh?"
3. Always show your best manners because they indicate to people that you are not self-centered but are able to have consideration and thoughtfulness for others. Examples of Good Manners:
 - a. Saying, "**thank you**", "**please**", and "**please excuse me.**"
 - b. Using proper table manners like eating without smacking, talking without food in your mouth, sitting up straight, and keeping your elbows off of the table.
 - c. Being courteous. Looking people directly into their eyes when you greet them and giving them a firm handshake. Adults are drawn to children who are courteous and avoid the ones who are not. Always use the "Golden Rule," **Mt.7:12**, showing your unconditional love towards all people no matter how they

treat you, and even if they are rude or really mean to you.

- d. Admitting it when you are wrong, and NEVER making excuses! No one likes to hear excuses.
- e. Always apologizing to those you have hurt or wronged; this will keep you from losing your friends and loved ones.

WHAT THE CHILD IS NOT TO DO:

1. Never talk back or sass. Such talk shows impudence or disrespect for authority. Your tone and volume should always be respectful.
2. Never roll your eyes at someone who says something you don't like, because rolling your eyes is a nonverbal way of showing dislike or disrespect for them. It is a hateful gesture.
3. Never interrupt others when they are talking, especially adults. It is very rude and shows that you are only thinking about yourself and no one else.
4. Never argue with adults, try to correct them, or tell them that they are wrong about something.
5. Never lie. It is extremely important to earn others' trust by always telling them the truth, even if it may get you into trouble. If others catch you lying, they will have a hard time believing anything you tell them from then on.

6. Never cheat others or steal from them. They will loan their money or things to you if they can be sure you will promptly return them.
7. Never use foul language. You are not cute when you curse, and you offend other people. Other parents will think you are naughty and not want their kids to play with you.
8. Never tattletale on someone. You will never be truly happy by making someone else unhappy or by getting them into trouble in order to keep yourself out of trouble.
9. Never bully, push, hit, shove, spit or throw a fit in order to get your way. Only babies do that.
10. Never snoop or meddle into someone else's things, go into their home uninvited, or invade their privacy, like reading their diary or mail, or hiding, watching them, or listening to them without their knowing it. Criminals do these kinds of things.
11. Never whine, pout, sulk, or mope when you don't get your way.

STRUCTURE / ROUTINE

1. Children need structure in their lives. This means they need a **ROUTINE** and a **SCHEDULE** to follow!

2. The routine should be designed so that it develops a healthy work ethic and a sense of responsibility in children. This means that every child should have **CHORES** to do. The idea is to engender pride in a job well done.
3. The routine should also include time for **LEARNING** both secular and spiritual information. Hands-on instruction is important as well as **READING** to children or reading along with them. Strive to make learning enjoyable. Your own interest and excitement about things you are teaching will help to do that.
4. The routine must include scheduled **FUN TIME**, like playing outside, a little time for video games or TV, and sports or games where the whole family plays together, like dodgeball, board games, a baseball game, taking a nature hike, cooking together. . . Every family, including the teens, needs to get together for playtime at least one hour a week.
5. Parents must be alert to update the routine by making needed changes as the children grow and mature.

PRAISE/ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Children need loads of encouragement to stick to their routines. They need to hear reassuring words

like, **“You can do it!”** Praise is like air to the lungs for children. It is desperately needed. **“Great job! Way to go!”** is music to their ears. Your confidence in them will help them to develop self-esteem and confidence in themselves.

2. Always be on the lookout for something to praise. God is our example as to how to do this, **Matt. 17:5 - This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**
3. Acknowledge good behavior and any effort your child makes to please you.
 - a. Your child may not always do things perfectly, but it is his effort to please that is to be rewarded. It is his desire and effort to please that needs to be noticed and commended.
 - b. Your **GOAL** is for your child to desire to please God and you more than he desires to please himself.
 - c. The pain of disappointing you must be more powerful than the lure of succumbing to temptation and peer pressure. Disappointing you will be a form of discipline for him without you having to overtly enforce anything.
 - d. When this occurs, genuine humility has become a reality in your child.
4. Praise and rewards should only be given when deserved, otherwise they will be meaningless and

- achieve nothing towards character development.
5. Find out what your children really want to do and what they would really like to have, then use this information as your arsenal of rewards. Have them make you a list in the order of importance as to what they would like. Use these as incentives to encourage and motivate them into commendable action!
 6. Take care not to overdo rewards. You are not paying or bribing your children to be good. You don't want them always asking, ***"If I do it, what will I get?"***
 7. A hug, a kiss, a pat on the back, clapping, or ***"WOW! What a sweet girl you are!"*** is usually all that is necessary to incite great behavior.
 8. This will help to engender a sense of pride, self-worth, and a healthy self-esteem like nothing else will.
 9. Money may be used on occasion as a reward, but if you resort to it too often, you run the risk of instilling money lust or greed in your children.
 10. It is also a good idea from time to time to give them gifts that they have not earned in order to teach them the principles of grace and generosity.

CORRECTION / DISCIPLINE

1. Why discipline is necessary:

- **God commands it.** What good are rules and boundaries if they are not enforced?
Prov. 3:11-12, 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:17, Heb. 12:6-10.
 - **Prov. 1:4-5;** Children are naïve, in need of knowledge, and must learn discretion.
 - **Prov. 7:7;** They lack good sense.
 - **Prov. 22:15;** Foolishness is bound up in their hearts.
 - **Prov. 29:15;** An untrained child becomes a source of humiliation and embarrassment.
 - Discipline brings an end to the child's guilt.
Psa. 23:4 - Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
2. **NEVER discipline in anger!**
 - a. Stay calm, keep your voice very calm, and don't lose control. Your tone should match the seriousness of the infraction but not be loud or raised to a frantic pitch. You cannot teach your children to control themselves if you can't control yourself.
 - b. Therefore, never shout or scream. Remember, you are training your child, not getting revenge.
 - c. Take time to cool down if necessary before administering discipline.

3. **DISCIPLINE MUST BE CONSISTENT** if it is to be effective !
- a. Never, never, never issue a command or a warning without carrying it through.
 - b. **EXPECT INSTANT OBEDIENCE** from your children. Instant obedience will only be gained when correction is immediate and consistent. Don't fall into:
 - The trap of repeating commands to your children two, three, or four times before you take action or until they finally obey.
 - The trap of repeating your child's name over and over and over again until you explode into anger or become exasperated.
 - The habit of raising your voice in order to force or scare them into compliance.
 - Saying, ***"You'd better mind me by the time I count to three!"*** The child will never learn instant obedience this way.
 - c. The child must know without a doubt that he is to obey the first time you give him an order, and that he cannot get away with acting like he didn't hear you.
 - d. Children must know without a doubt that they will be disciplined when they break the rules. They must learn that it is simply not worth it.

- e. Don't discipline your child for something today and let him get by with it tomorrow. This is confusing for a small child, will cause him to develop the habit of ignoring you, and will reaffirm this habit in older children who have learned that they don't have to mind you most of the time.
- f. Don't get discouraged if your attempts to discipline don't seem to be working. Don't give up! Our job as parents is to continue to do what God says and to leave the results to Him, **Prov. 3:5**.
- g. Both of the parents must be consistent and active in disciplining their children, and they must be in agreement. A child should learn that if he gets a ***"No"*** from his mother, he better not try to get a ***"Yes"*** from his father.
- h. ***"Wait till your father gets home and then see what happens!"*** Making Dad the only disciplinarian in the home undermines the mother's authority and makes Dad a terrible monster.
- i. Discipline must be consistent regardless of whether the child is tired, ill, or bored. ***"Oh, he's just misbehaving because he's had a long day and is tired."*** This is no excuse for skipping the discipline. If you do, your child

- will learn how to play sick or pretend to be tired in order to avoid punishment.
- j. Discipline must also be administered outside of the home in public, in social settings, and at church. Take your child somewhere private so that others will not be disturbed.
 4. Make absolutely sure that the child is guilty before you discipline him. Consider all mitigating circumstances.
 5. Explain to him why he is being disciplined. Ask him if he understands why you must punish him, then have him explain it back to you.
 6. For young children, get down on their eye-level, make them look at you while you speak, and change your tone to one that is slow, low, and intensely SERIOUS.
 7. The purpose of discipline is to humble the child so that he will admit his wrongdoing.
 8. The discipline must match the infraction. It should be creative. A few ideas: stand him in the corner, have him write, ***“I will not talk back to my mother”*** one hundred times, wash out his mouth with soap. A picture on the internet showed a mom sitting in a lawn chair beside her son whose punishment she was overseeing. He was standing on the side of a street and held a large sign that said, ***“Hi, I’m 13 years old. I STEAL***

I want to go to prison to be with my dad.”

9. **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, “TO SPANK OR NOT TO SPANK?”, THAT IS THE QUESTION.**
 - a) First, a few facts. Spanking and violence are not the same. **VIOLENCE** *is the exertion of physical force so as to injure or abuse; intense, turbulent, or furious, often destructive action or force.*

	SPANKING	VIOLENCE
The Act	<i>A few swats to the bottom.</i>	<i>To punch, kick, strike, or choke</i>
The Intent	<i>Training, to correct bad behavior</i>	<i>To injure, hurt, or to abuse</i>
The Attitude	<i>Love and concern</i>	<i>Anger, malice, cruelty</i>
The Effects	<i>Good behavior</i>	<i>Emotional or physical injury</i>

- b) According to a recent Voter/Consumer research poll commissioned by the Family Research Council, 76% of the more than 1,000 Americans surveyed said that spanking

was an effective form of discipline in their homes when they were children.

- c) When effective spanking is removed from a parent's disciplinary repertoire and the primary disciplinary measures have failed, the parent is left with nagging, begging, belittling, or yelling. These work to defeat all previous training.
- d) Spanking is supported by history, research, and a majority of primary care physicians.

GOD AND THE ROD:

What does the Bible say about *THE ROD*? The rod is the biblical symbol for authority and discipline in the form of disease, famine, military defeat, flood, earthquake, spanking, and execution.

Job 9:34 - *Let Him remove His rod from me, and let not dread of Him terrify me.*

Psalms 89:32 - *Then I will visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.*

Hosea 6:1 - *Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.*

Lamentations 3:1 - *I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.*

Psalms 23:4 - . . . *thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.*

Heb.12:6 - *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.*

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND THE ROD:

1 Corinthians 4:21 - *What do you desire? Shall I [Paul] come to you with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness?*

CIVIL AUTHORITY AND THE ROD:

Sometimes the rod is not symbolic but literal.

Prov. 26:3 - *A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.*

2 Samuel 7:14 - *I will be his father, and he shall be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.*

Psalms 89:32 - *I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging;*

Prov. 10:13 - *On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding.*

Proverbs 14:3 - *A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.*

PARENTAL AUTHORITY AND THE ROD:

Proverbs 13:24 - *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

Proverbs 20:30 - *Stripes that wound scour away evil, and strokes reach the innermost parts.*

Proverbs 22:15 - *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.*

Proverbs 23:13 - *Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.*

Proverbs 23:14 - *You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from Sheol.*

Proverbs 29:15 - *The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

Spanking is not necessary for every act of disobedience, but certainly, it should be used when there is open defiance. For very compliant children, milder forms of correction will suffice and spanking may never be needed. The discipline must match the infraction. Discipline, especially spanking, would not be necessary in the following circumstances:

- a. Spilt milk
- b. Poor grades
- c. Exploring his/her sexuality
- d. Making mistakes or errors
- e. Failure to win the trophy or to make the team

MECHANICS OF SPANKING:

Proverbs 23:13 - *Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.*

BEAT, Heb. NAKAH (hk'n"_) Hiphil, to smite, strike, beat, scourge, clap, applaud, give a thrust. English Definition: to strike or hit repeatedly in order to inflict pain. It is not used here in the sense of beating up someone, thrashing, battering, abusing, or injuring them. Nor would punching, kicking, biting, stabbing, or shooting apply.

1. **THE ROD:** SHEBET (jb,ve) rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, scepter; notice that the hand is not to be the instrument of discipline. The rod could be a switch, a ping-pong paddle, a ruler, a belt, or a serving spoon. The target must always be the child's bottom, never the face. Slapping is not permissible because it is usually done impulsively, done in anger, is insulting, and can easily injure the child.

2. The idea is to inflict pain but not to injure. Temporary redness or whelps are OK, but not bruises. Children will cry and sometimes scream to make you think that you are killing them so that you will stop. But the best time to stop is when the child has changed his mind and is humble. Spank him, not too hard and not too easy. Don't overdo it or underdo it.
3. It is best to train the child to bend over; hence came the warning, ***"I'll bend you over my knee!"*** The child may need to be restrained if he tries to wiggle away, but he must understand that his discipline will be worse if he resists or tries to fight you.
4. Some parents say that they could never spank their children because they love them too much to hurt them. These parents need to understand:
 - a. Spanking is a command, ***Prov. 23:14*** - ***You shall beat him with the rod.***
This is not optional, it is mandatory!
 - b. Parents who will not spank their children in reality hate them, ***Proverbs 13:24*** - ***He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.***

c. In most cases, if a parent is doing his job correctly, spanking will rarely, if ever, be required.

5. How serious is God about instilling respect for authority in children?

Exodus 21:15 - ***And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.***

Leviticus 20:9 - ***If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.***

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 - ***If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, ¹⁹ then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his home town. ²⁰ "And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹ "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear of it and fear.***

Proverbs 30:17 - ***The eye that mocks a father, and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.***

6. A nation is in trouble when parents refuse to discipline their children. Everyone suffers. Crime
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rates soar, streets become unsafe, the number of prisons increase, riots, looting, and insurrection become commonplace.

AFFECTION/REASSURANCE

1. When the discipline is over, get on the child's eye-level, make eye contact, make him acknowledge that he did wrong, and have him apologize to anyone he wronged or harmed. Then dry his tears, give him a hug, and tell him that you love him. Tell him how great he is for taking responsibility for his behavior and not trying to excuse it.
2. Children must realize that punishment is not retaliation or revenge. They have to understand that you are not getting even with them but are training them. Tell them that you didn't want to discipline them but you had no choice. If you didn't discipline them, then God would discipline you.
3. When discipline is over, it's over. Tell them it's over, and then show them that it's over by not harboring a grudge or a bad attitude against

them. It's time to move on and for the incident to become ancient history.

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4. Don't allow your children to pout, sulk, or mope after their discipline. If they see that you have put it behind you and are moving on, it will help them to do the same. They will not be prone to mope and brood if you have told them that you still love them and that everything is fine now.
5. Reassure them that they will never again receive discipline for what they did unless they try it again.

GENERAL ADVICE

TIME and ATTENTION

There are two aspects to the issue of making time for children:

1. The proper rearing of children takes time. There are no shortcuts. So, plan on spending a lot of time with your children. You'll never regret it.
 - a. Don't just set aside a wee segment of time to be with them and call it "quality time". Be part of their life, go to their baseball games, swimming meets, tennis matches, school plays, etc.

- b. Take them fishing, hunting, shopping, hiking, and skiing with you.
- c. Know your child well enough to recognize when something is wrong, and then talk to him to find out what it is so you can show him how

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to deal with it using Bible doctrine and divine viewpoint.

- 2. A couple once asked a pastor, "What's the best way to raise a two year old?" The pastor said, "Pay more attention to your marriage than you do to your child."
 - a. Children must understand that the parents are the center of attention in the family, not the children.
 - b. The parent must teach the child, "***When I want your attention, you have no choice but to give it to me. But when you want my attention, I have a choice whether to give it to you or not.***"
 - c. If the child truly needs the parent's attention, he should receive it, but if he only wants attention, there is a distinct possibility that he will have to wait awhile or do without it.
 - d. Translation: "***I am the center of your attention. You are NOT the center of mine.***"
If access to parental attention is unlimited, and if a child can demand his parents'

attention at any time, then, in the child's view, there are no limits to what he can demand and what he can get from them.

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- e. When the child calls for his mother, the mother is not required to come running, but when the mother calls the child, the child should drop everything he is doing and run to her.
 - f. The child learns to be more independent and develops self-esteem when mommy and daddy are NOT at his beck and call.
- 3. Parents should always know where their children are and what they are doing. Remember when the nightly news program started with, "***It's 10:00 o'clock, Do you know where your children are?***" If you have to invade their privacy to find out what is going on, do it!
 - 4. Show your children that you love them, and tell them that you love them.
 - 5. Be ready to apologize to your children if you have wronged them in some way.
 - 6. Don't be overprotective. Allow your children to experience defeat and rejection but always comfort and encourage them when they need it.

7. Parents are the authority. They make commands not requests. Don't add the word "please" to your commands because your children need to learn to take orders.

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What about someone other than yourself disciplining your children? This can be a very sensitive and emotional subject.

GRANDPARENTS: are notorious for spoiling their grandchildren and then turning them back over to the parents to deal with. They should know better. The grand- children must show the same respect and obedience to their grandparents that they show to their parents.

FRIENDS: If you leave your children in the care of a friend, it is best to discuss disciplinary procedures before you leave. Example, ***"If Johnny misbehaves, you have my permission to spank him."***

If you are keeping someone else's child, find out what correction the parents prefer. If their child misbehaves, you should relate this to them later as well as the disciplinary action you took.

What do you do if your friends and their children visit your home, their children misbehave, and the parents do nothing to keep them from tearing up

your property or mistreating your pets? Tell your friends in a cordial tone that you do not allow children to do that in your home. Be very specific. No need to be apologetic. You have the right to set the rules for all who live with you or visit your home.

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AT SCHOOL:

Most schools employ corporal punishment. The state of Texas allows it, although some schools, as a courtesy, ask for the parents' authorization to use the paddle on their children.

Some schools give students the option of receiving "swats" or detention. Many times, students will take swats in order to have their punishment over with.

AT CHURCH:

Children at Country Bible Church are taught the importance of obeying the rules and good behavior while in class. As soon as church is over, children are back under the supervision of their parents who should make sure that their kids demonstrate the proper manners and decorum that were taught to them.

TEACHING RESPECT:

Don't be a hypocrite before your children, like telling them not to smoke because it is a nasty habit as you are puffing on a cigarette. How can they respect you?

There is no magic pill for raising terrific kids. Teaching them to follow great principles won't be easy at first. You have to discipline yourself to apply these principles in this booklet. The good news is that they work ! They will make your life and your

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children's lives so much better. You will become so much closer and actually enjoy each other's company.

Some parents are afraid that if they enforce these principles on their children, their children will hate them. Wrong! The truth is that children cannot love you until they first respect you. This high regard, esteem, honor, and deference is the wonderful bonus you will enjoy for expending your time and effort to make them obey orders and adhere to rules.

Nothing is more worth the effort. Because your children are truly humble individuals, respectful, and good followers, it will be a lot easier the rest of their lives adjusting to authority, relationships, and responsibilities. They will be happy, have confidence in themselves, and derive pleasure from meeting difficult challenges in life with principles you taught them to follow. People will like them, even respect them, and more importantly, they will like and respect themselves.

You will have developed in them the capacity to appreciate and love you, their friends, and their God. How could they not be ever grateful to you?

Financial Policy

No money is requested for tapes or publications furnished by Country Bible Church. Anyone who is positive towards God's Word should receive it regardless of his or her financial status.

This grace ministry is entirely dependent upon the free will of believers who are able to give and who are properly motivated by their own appreciation for God's grace and growth in the Word.

*“Freely you have received,
freely give.” Matt. 10:8*

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Pastor Mike Smith

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