

“Sins Parents Commit Against Children!”

Genesis 42:22; Ephesians 6:1-4

Intro. – Story is told of a factory worker who refused to sign for a group insurance offered at his work. The insurance was a fine plan, but the company offering it required *every* employee to sign before the insurance took effect. Fellow workers begged him... foreman spoke to him... Finally, owner of the business called Joe into his office and said, “Listen you hardhead, either sign up or you’re fired!” Joe immediately signed. He went out onto the floor and told the others he signed up. “How come?” they asked. “Nobody explained it to me like the owner did!”

Maybe nobody will ever explain to you what I’m about to explain. My point is this, I’m going to make today’s subject matter just as clear as I know how. I have no revolutionary insight, nor do I claim to uncover deep mysteries. I simply want to make a clear cut distinction about what sinning against our children is.

Nothing touches us quite so close to home than when we start talking about our kids. Our lives are invested in their lives and if they aren’t they really should.

Event behind Genesis text tells us something about what I am trying to communicate through this title. At the time Joseph was sold to slavery, Rueben warned his brothers against doing it. Now they are confronted with Joseph and note it is Rueben who says, “*I told you... I told not to sin against the child.*” What they had done to their brother, we as parents/grandparents do to our kids.

Purpose: to look at ways parents commit sin against children

This message is vital. It involves every member of the family... Note: not claiming to be an expert on child rearing, but am saying I’m a student of God’s Word... I believe Bible instructs us in how to raise our kids!

I When We Fail to RESTRAIN Them

A. Is It Really a Sin?

1. Spoil, pamper and far too permissive with them
2. 1 Samuel 3:11-17 (read...) I feel like Samuel... the Bible speaks... I must relay what it says!

B. Fundamental Concept Needs Learning

1. Children are a gift from God – read about this throughout Scripture...
2. Parents are responsible for their upbringing:
 - a. social behavior learning – standards of conduct must be *imposed*
 - 1) kids must learn live in world of restraint – Illus. baby cries... must/mature/learn restraints
 - 2) restraints will bring blessings – Illus. U of Michigan campus riots... study of leaders revealed not one of them remember ever being taught restraints/discipline...
 - 3) grandparents do not have the right to spoil:
 - Illus. – J. Clayton – Oscar, called into principal’s – mother was talking and kid said, “Shut up!”... father speaking and Oscar says, “And who asked you?” Mother: “I don’t understand how he can be so disrespectful and cause so much trouble.”
 - Illus. – if I ever came close to talking like that I would be selling pencils...
 - b. Proverbs 29:15,17 (read) – God knows more than Dr. Spock
 - c. Proverbs 23:13-14 (read) – certainly not to beat or abuse... but a stick behind legs or board on the rear end gets attention and the point across...
 - d. lack of discipline indication as lack of care/love on parent’s part... “Didn’t love you wouldn’t spank you...” – thank the Lord for godly parents who say “no” and stick by it!

II By PROVOKING Them to Anger

A. Children Often Become Whipping Posts

1. Parents are upset with pressures and emotions... often take it out on their kids...
2. Kids, however have a great sense of fairness/justness – they know when they deserve and when they are simply the whipping posts. Behove parent to know/make clear distinction!

- B. We Must be Intelligent Correctors
 1. Don't nag or nitpick...
 2. Need to let kids be kids without them *running the show*... give kids opportunity to be kids...
 - Illus. – have few rules but enforce *consistently* what you have – e.g. make beds before going to school or be called home to make it.

Again, don't provoke by nagging or being inconsistent in enforcement of these rules...

III By Neglecting Their SPIRITUAL LIFE

- A. Child's Spiritual Life is Vital
 1. We have no right having kids/rearing them and then neglect most important part of their life...
 2. God will call us into account for such matters...
- B. We Have a Neglected Generation of Youth
 1. May be the best fed, clothed, educated etc. but they are still neglected.
 2. Avg. parent today is selfishly preoccupied with their own pursuits, leaving no time for kids...
 3. Worse still, average parent today is too ignorant of Scriptures and spiritual principles to be the teacher and example their kids need.
 4. Just how does your home fare spiritually – what kind of standards do you set for your kids when it comes to Christ and His Church?
 5. Just how does the local church fare in this area? Everything we do should communicate to kids that our greatest concern is to provide the very best spiritual training we can!

IV When We Place the Wrong Set of VALUES Before Them

- A. Wrong Value in Money
 1. Parents often give wrong value to things/money – put so much into so little (temp things of world)
 2. Do you demonstrate to your kids your hearts are in heaven “*where treasure, there is heart*”...
 - Illus. – folks audited in 1960 because red flagged gave so much so little income... taught me where parent's heart/treasure were when I was a young boy...
 3. To what do we attribute a college education's advantage? To get a good job to earn big money or to better prepare to serve our God? When asking parents about kids... “Good job... making \$...”
- B. Wrong Value Given to Church
 1. Do your kids hear and see your feeble excuses for not attending or being involved...?
 2. Where are you placing your standard where the church is concerned when kids hear you criticizing the leadership... etc.
 - Illus. – how many times I've heard/observed “So and so is at home because they're doing their homework... etc.

V When we Rob Them of Our TIME

- A. Kids Need Our Time
 1. What is more important in this life to give kids our time?
 2. Illus. – Brooks Adams, son of Charles F. Adams (grandson of J. Quincy Adams), had a deep respect for his dad. However, Charles (the dad), who was an American Ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War, was kept far too busy and thus made little time to spend with his son. One day he took Brooks fishing. Young Brooks was so elated he wrote in his diary, “Went fishing with Father. The most glorious day of my life.” On the same day Charles wrote in his diary, “Went fishing with my son. A day wasted.”
- B. Kids Deserve Our Time
 1. One most precious privilege we're given is to be responsible for the rearing of a human soul...
 2. If we're too busy to give our kids/family needed time, then we are simply too busy!

Conclusion: As the human body needs minerals, vitamins etc. to be strong and healthy, every human being, especially in the formative years, needs proper portions of emotional/spiritual undergirding. This includes the following: love, discipline, faith assurance, encouragement, trust, direction, understanding, hearing, restraint, example, denial, permission, responsibility, etc. etc. etc>

Wise and loving is the parent that makes/takes the time to understand God's Word on this subject. "Sins Parents Commit Against Their Children!"