

5:11 - Mon, 14, 82 - P.M

"REARING CHILDREN GOD'S WAY

Proverbs 22:6

Struggles go on in the home -- you are not alone.

If you have difficulty rearing children - welcome to the club. We are all in the same ball park.

I think about what Mark Twain had to say -- "There is only one way to raise teenagers. When they turn thirteen, put them in a barrel and put a lid on the barrel. Feed them through the knothole. When they turn sixteen, plug up the knothole. No, that is not my philosophy, but sometimes I have thought about doing that.

The family is under fire. There is a struggle going on. Home under fire, disintegrating, battered wives, abused children.

Because we have not abused our children. It is very difficult for us to understand those that do.

4 out of 10 children born in 1970's spent part of their childhood in (single) parent families.

17% of all American children currently (live) with (single) parents.

1.8 million children are called ("latch-key-kids"). That means they go home to an empty house.

15% or more born out of (wedlock).

May 15, 1978 Newsweek dedicated to the family -- it was entitled "Saving The Family". 20% of all the Police Officers in America killed in the line of duty are killed while answering calls involving family fights. The University of Rhode Island describes the home as "the most dangerous place to be, outside the riots and wars."

Home must be in bad shape. We need to pull off survival in the 80's.

Need an approach for rearing children God's way.

Proverbs 22:6 reads "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it." Familiar verse - you know it.

What did Solomon mean.

## I. TRAIN UP

As taming a wild horse - bringing into submission. As midwife helping with birth the infant would take a finger and dip into cup of crushed grapes and reach inside the mouth and massage the gums of the child to create a taste, sucking sensation, bringing into submission.

Word child - used several ways Old Testament. Newborn infant - I Sam. 4 weaned. I Sam. 1 Preteen years. Gen. 21 Teenager (Joseph). Gen. 37 Young man. Gen. 34.

Word not referring to a tiny infant in diapers only. It is referring to any child living under your roof. Birth to marriageable age. Your business to create submission.

## II. WAY HE SHOULD GO

Looks like this verse says you know the way he or she ought to go.

From cradle to marriage you fix that child in that direction.

(New American Standard Bible) "Train up a child according his way."

The preposition means in accordance with his way. His way. God says not your way but his way.

When a child is deposited into your care at birth, that child comes with a set of characteristics - or bents.

Look at Prov. 30:18-19 - the use of the word "way". There are four things which I do not understand.

The way of an eagle in the sky.

The way of a serpent on a rock.

The way of a ship in the middle of the sea.

The way of a man with a maid.

These four things capture your thoughts.

High in mountains - watch an eagle in the sky - not follow a particular path - 3  
miles straight - left 2 miles - turn right and you have your nest. He soars.

Same thing is true serpent on a rock - ship on the sea - beautiful expressions.

Psalm 11:2 - Uses the word described in bending a bow.

The thought is putting down on the foot so as to make a path.

Idea of bending the bow by putting your foot on the bow and then stringing  
it.

That helps us - a way or a path or a manner and is describing as bending of the  
bow.

Amplified Bible renders the verse "Train up a child in the way he should go  
(and in keeping with his individual gift or bent.)"

This means that each child deposited in your care comes with a unique set of  
bents!

One may be creative - lazy - perfectionist - happy - quiet - aggressive.

Some people raise like they are in Marine Corps, shape up, use same approach on all.

We tend to think "I know what is best for the child". I know the way he is to go and he is going to go that way, if its the last thing I do. You understand what I'm saying.

When did you begin to rebel in your home? When thought parents did not care about you? When noticed another member was more gifted? Sally and Susie are alike. As a boy said, my brother who had a high I.Q. brought home the most monotonous report cards. Mine had variety - I had a choice, you know.

Why aren't you like Sally? Because I'm not Susie.

A child is bent a certain way - and parents must find out how he is bent.

Prov. 22:6 - Train up a child, create a thirst, cultivate a taste, build submission.

### III. WHEN OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT

What does it mean - when he is old - when he has hair on his chin, beard on his face.

When does a young man have beard on his chin, at 80 - 70 - (no), before he is 20.

When he reaches young adulthood, he will not depart from it. That is a promise.

That makes sense - there need not be a sowing of wild oats.

There are two questions which arise.

First - how can I know the bents of my child? How can I know his characteristics?

How can I know the way the child has been prescribed by God? What are his possible bents.

Proverbs 20:11 - When child is born - he looks like many others but soon discovers he is different. We are told "It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his conduct is pure and right."

New American Standard Bible - "It is by his deeds that a lad makes himself known."

Look at that - by the deeds of a child you will discover the way he has been bent.

V. 12 - "The hearing ears and the seeing eye, the Lord has made both of them." Given 2 ears, 2 eyes, and one mouth. We overwork the one and underuse the other two. Look at and listen to your child - he is a living display of his bents.

That is why one kind of discipline works on one child but harder with another. That is why at times only a firm spanking works.

Did you hear about the child - his knapsack over his back walking fast out of town. Policeman pulled up. Where are you going? I'm running away from home? Why are you running away from home? Mother and Dad won't mind me anymore.

Habits are hard to break - like eating - "Diets are for people who are thick and tired of it."

It takes more than helping with homework, feeding, clothing, hauling to and from school. You must assist in the process.

Takes concentration - investment of time -- prayer.

Psalm 139:13-16 - Help us answer what are the bents? Watch, learn, listen, hear. Note the marvelous things David tells us. "Thou didst form my inward parts." Not nature, but Thou, God."

Form and put together, fix together my vital organs. Kidneys - he put those together in my mother's womb.

That is expression used for working with fine tapestry, making the veil in the Temple. God was at work laboring, weaving together those little things that made me become what I was to become.

Dr. Ben Howard in Midwest was not a Christian for a number of years. He looked at little babies at birth and began to think, that just couldn't happen, there is something else there, tiny little eyelashes, fingernails, toenails. Beautiful story. What he saw was God at work.

David - "I am fearfully and wonderfully made. V. 15 - My bony substance was not hidden from Thee. My height was determined back there. My, that is fantastic.

That ought to help some, are determined that my son is going to play football. He is not built for football. He loves piano. He is going to teach him to play ball. Not interested.

Co-operate with God's plan.

A man told an interesting story. At Christmas received a red plate as a gift. Hand painted. On the border of the plate printed, "you are special today."

It is for some one in the family who does something significant, person gets the red plate - one of the children works hard on an assignment. Does his best and declares I did it - guess who gets the red plate that night.

Birthday, etc.



Psalm 51:5 - There are good set of bents - also, remember bent toward evil.  
"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."  
I am a sinner by birth, by choice, nature.

Have you ever been around a dog that is undisciplined, he will eat you up.

Try being around a child undisciplined and it is maddening.

Story - Jim Dobson - A 10 year old named Robert. Dr. William Slonecker said they dreaded the days Robert was scheduled.

He would grab instruments, files, telephones. His mother could do little more than shake her head.

During one physical examination. Noticed cavities in Robert's teeth. He knew he must refer him to a Dentist, but which one? Finally he sent him to an older Dentist, who understood.

Robert arrived and prepared for battle.

"Get in the chair, young man", said the Dentist. "No chance," replied the boy.

"Son, I told you to climb into the chair, and that's exactly what I intend for you to do."

Robert, replied, "If you make me get in the chair, I will take off all my clothes."

Dentist, calmly said, son take them off.

Robert forthwith removed shirt, undershirt, shoes and socks, and looked up in defiance.

All right said the Dentist, now get into the chair.

"You didn't hear me," sputtered Robert. I said if you made me get in that chair, "I'll take off all my clothes."

"Son, take them off," replied the man. Robert proceeded to remove his pants and shorts, finally standing totally naked before the Dentist and his assistant. The Doctor said now get into the chair. Robert did as he was told.

Robert was co-operative, cavities were drilled and filled. When the procedure was finished, he told him to step down.

"Give me my clothes now," replied the boy.

"I'm sorry", replied the Dentist. "Tell your mother . . . she can pick them up tomorrow."

"Can you comprehend the shock of Robert's mother when the door to the waiting room opened? The room was filled with patients. Robert and his mother walked past them into the hall - to a public elevator, and to a parking lot.

When Robert's mother came back the next day to get the clothes, she asked to

speaking to the Dentist. You don't know how much I appreciate what happened here yesterday. You see, Robert has been black mailing me about clothes for years. In public place, if I didn't buy immediately, he threatens to take off all of his clothes. You are the first to call his bluff and the impact on Robert has been incredible.