

Train Up A Child

We have become a society that makes excuses for bad behavior in children.

American kids tend to be overindulged, overweight, overmedicated, and over entertained. - Along with being undereducated, underachieving, and under-disciplined. Many are disrespectful, spoiled, with a sense of entitlement. Don't believe it? Then you aren't paying attention.

Then, again, maybe it's not the kids we need to fix. Maybe we need to fix the parents. After all, kids learn (or don't learn) acceptable behavior from their parents. Meaning? Messed-up society = messed-up parents.

We don't want to hear that. Fact is, it's easier to blame-shift to everything else. The book of **Proverbs** speaks to the problem with simple truisms:

- ***"My son, do not forget my teaching..."***3.1. Here was a pro-active parent who taught his kids.
- ***"He who loves his son disciplines him diligently..."***13.24. Good parents don't look the other way.
- ***"Discipline your son while there is hope..."***19.18. Does there come a time when it's too little and too late? Yes.
- ***"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it..."***22.6. Well, what do you know...parental responsibility.
- ***"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him..."***22.15."Rod" is "switch." In other words: spanking. Horrors! You mean...
- ***"The rod and reproof give wisdom..."***29.15a. Sometimes you get their attention with a spanking; sometimes you get their attention with strong words. Regardless, you have a right to expect and demand obedience.
- ***"A child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother..."***29.15b. Indeed.

Hmm. Maybe the problem isn't so much with the kids as it is with the parents.

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