

# Parenting - Instruction

**TGI Biblical Counseling and Discipleship**

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**THE GOSPEL  
INSTITUTE**

# Teaching your Children

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline and instruction** of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

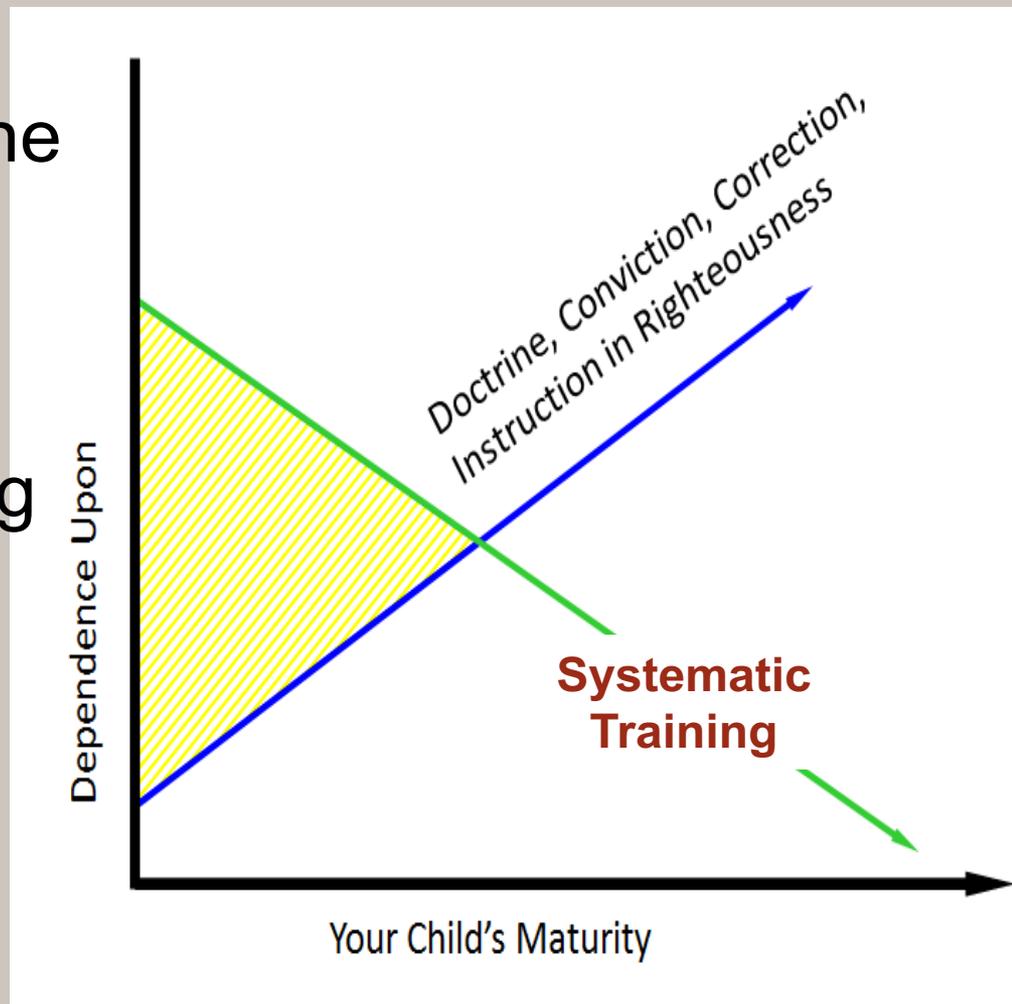
- The question isn't, "Are you a teacher?", it's "What kind of teacher are you?" Parents can be hopeful because it is "*the instruction of the Lord.*" that they are to be giving. God stands ready to give all the grace, wisdom and insight that parents need to obey Him!
- ***Discipline*** - systematic training
- ***Instruction*** - putting the Word of God into the heart of your child

# Teaching your Children

Consider these questions:

1) What will happen if a child receives all discipline and no teaching?

2) What will happen if a child receives all teaching and no discipline?



# I. Why Do Parents Need To Teach Their Children?

A. Each parent will give an account to God. How do the following verses help parents understand their responsibility to teach their children?

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children (Deut. 4:9)

# I. Why Do Parents Need To Teach Their Children?

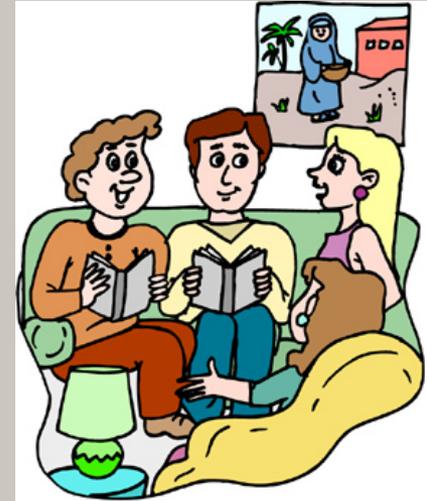
B. Each child has a sin nature and needs to be taught

- Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Rom. 5:12)
- “Total depravity” doesn’t mean we’re as bad as we might be, but that *every aspect* of the person (thinking, motives, emotions, actions, etc.) are affected by the curse of sin.
- Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. (Pr. 22:15)
- A child left to himself brings his mother to shame. (Pr. 29:15)



# I. Why Do Parents Need To Teach Their Children?

C. God's way of life is best and essential for a blessed life.



Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

(Ps. 1:1-3)

# I. Why Do Parents Need To Teach Their Children?

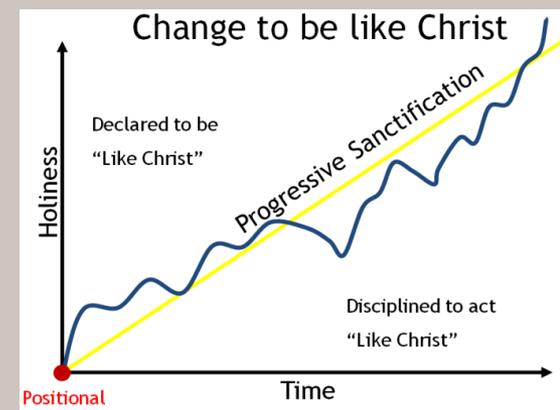
D. A parent is a “disciple-maker.”

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Matt. 28:19-20)

This has discipling applications to the church AND to the home!

Why is the home both the *starting* place and *most effective* place for discipleship?



## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

“And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deut. 6:6-7)

At what times does this text tell us parents are to teach?

Teaching is more than relating information, it requires time, involvement and modeling.



## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

### Know your child's learning styles and abilities

#### A. Foundational principles

1. Be Christ-like (TGI Class 22 & 23)
2. Be quick to listen, slow to speak (TGI Class 22 & 23)
3. Seek the biblical goals of soul care (TGI Class 1)
  - a. Perspective – shape a biblical perspective
  - b. Purpose – teach biblical purposes of life and trials
  - c. Person – teach them to embrace the identity of Christ and their own, biblically defined identity
  - d. Responding – train them to respond in ways that please and glorify God

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

- B. Gather information wisely (TGI Class 9) Ask “S.M.A.R.T.” questions that teach & correct, don’t attack, assume or lecture.
1. **S.** Ask questions that describe the **Situation**, what was going on?
  2. **M.** Ask questions to reveal the **Mind** – Can you tell me what you were/are thinking at the time?
  3. **A.** Ask questions that describe their **Actions** – What did you do as a result of your thoughts?
  4. **R.** Ask questions that reveal the **Results** of their thinking & actions
  5. **T.** Ask, “Did you get what you wanted?”, i.e. the **Trophy**. “Did God get what God wanted from you in that situation?”

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

C. Use specific questions to teach and reveal the heart.

- 1. What are some possible reasons God orchestrated this trial?*
- 2. What do you believe God is trying to teach you?*
- 3. What will be the results when you have a job and don't obey authority?*
- 4. What did your friend do to cause you to come to this conclusion about him/her?*
- 5. What will be the result if you make that decision?*
- 6. What will be the result if you don't?*
- 7. What prevented you from obeying me/God?*
- 8. Do you see the "Law of the Harvest" in this situation?***

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

D. Intentional [systematic] training to shape thinking, attitudes, responses, etc. thru normal life situations

### *Model, Model, Model*

1. In crisis, e.g. school problems, fights, peer pressure to drink or be sexually active, rebellion, etc.
2. In conflicts between siblings, family, friends, culture, news events (teach why we do what we do, idolatry vs. true worship, (Ja. 4)
3. In decision-making, show discernment while considering options, college?, job?, career?, stewardship of time, talent, treasure, temple.
4. Modeling trust, meekness, contentment vs. complaining & coveting (handling materialism, coveting clothes, etc.), model how to respond to the 3 general areas of human temptation (Gen. 3; Matt. 4; Lu. 4; 1 Jn.2:15-17)

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

D. Intentional training thru normal life situations (cont'd)

5. Dating and friendships (offending someone or being offended, personal dating standards, etc.)

6. Other parental teaching opportunities:

- a. Work (work ethic, working conditions, expectations, etc.)
- b. Homework and school projects (completing assignments on time, being organized; respecting others)
- c. Church, relationships (serving, listening, blessing, prayer)
- d. Birth of a sibling (opportunity to serve, be a good example, etc.)
- e. Vacations (who gets to do what and when, places to go, purpose of the trip, cost, etc.)
- f. Death of a loved one or physical illnesses

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

E. The effects of your examples in the following areas..

1. Marital unity?
2. Church involvement and ministry?
3. Anger?
4. Giving?
5. Thankfulness?
6. Returning good for evil?

“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Phil. 4:9)

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

- F. Consistent, intentional family “worship time”
  1. Seek unity as a couple – communicate about the best time, methods, etc.
  2. Choose a good time and have some alternatives in mind.
  3. Provide age-appropriate materials, timing, scenarios, etc.
  4. Be clear on expectations for involvement from your children.
  5. Settle any unresolved conflicts before you begin (Matt. 5:23-24).

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

F. Consistent, intentional family “worship time”, cont’d.

6. Be Prepared and holistic

- a. Keep it simple.
- b. Study, be prepared, discuss specific verses or principles regarding specific needs and goals.
- c. List each child’s strengths and weakness, encourage strengths, offer practical suggestions for growing in areas of weakness.
- d. Vary styles of family worship (singing, testimonies, Bible verses, current events, etc.).
- e. Formal, family worship is only one aspect of training

## II. How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

G. Use other sources as a **support, not a replacement**

You may choose the home, private school, public school, or any combination for teaching, however you are primarily responsible. Your child's Sunday School teaching does not replace your home as the *primary* site and responsibility for biblical instruction.

### III. What Is a Parent To Teach?

“This book of the law [i.e. God’s Word] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” (Josh. 1:8)

- A. Salvation and Christian growth (sanctification)
- B. Foundational truths
- C. Practical, age-appropriate truths for everyday life
- D. Discernment and finding God’s will

## III.A – Teaching the Gospel & Growth

- A. The character of **God** and Christ (Eph. 1-3; Ex. 34:6)
- B. The depravity of their hearts (**Man & Sin**)
- C. Their desperate need of a Savior (**Christ**) (Rom. 1-3)
- D. How to be saved (**grace & response**) – Repent and Believe the Gospel (Rom. 3:9-25; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-9; Jn. 1:12; Rom. 10:9-13)
- E. How to grow to become more like Christ. (**results**) (Ja. 1:13-15; Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 6:11-13; 1 Tim. 4:7)

## III.B - Teaching Foundational Truths

- A. The Word of God is the complete revelation of God to your child and as such is the “final and ultimate, authoritative source”<sup>1</sup> of truth, and any and all other relevant sources of information must be used in accord with Truth. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Ps. 119:9-11; Jn. 17:17)
- B. Build on your child’s created awareness of God (Rom. 2:12-16) and *cultivate* the awareness of God as Creator, Truth-giver, Sustainer, Savior and Judge.
- C. Intentionally nurture the environments described in “The Goal of Parenting”, (TGI Class 26); [T.E.A.C.H.]

## III.B - Teaching Foundational Truths

<sup>1</sup>“Evangelical, systematic theology is the comprehensive study and coherent organization of what can be known (primarily from scripture, that is, theology’s only final and ultimate, authoritative source and secondarily from any and all other relevant sources) about God and his relation to the created universe in a manor that is understandable and applicable to contemporary audiences; to the end that God’s people will be strengthened and satisfied in Him to the praise of his glory of his name.”

Bruce Ware *Theological Prolegomena*

## III.B - Teaching Foundational Truths (cont'd)

- D. Teach them that they live every moment in the face of God (Acts 17:28) and will stand and give an account to God
1. applies to all humanity, in all of life - "Thou God seest me" (Gen. 16:13 KJV)
  2. applies to believers at the *Judgment Seat of Christ* (2 Cor. 5:10)
  3. applies to unbelievers at the *Great White Throne* (Rev. 20:11-15)
- E. Teach them that God guides with His Eye on them.
1. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. (Ps. 32:8)
  2. Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose (Ps. 25:12)

## III.C – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths

Parents take hope, God gave one source of truth for parenting all ages of children...contrary to popular belief, all children come with an instruction manual!

The focus of parenting in all ages is the heart!

1. For children (0-5 YOA), focus on obeying authority
2. For youth (6-12 YOA), focus on developing character qualities
3. For teens (13-18 YOA), focus on training for gospel-controlled life-skills for independence and ministry!

## III.C.1 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (0-5 Year-olds)

- a. Focus on training to respect and obey **Authority** – we must teach them how to be a person under authority (Eph. 6:1-2).
- b. Focus on training for **Obedience** – teach them to live in submission to God’s authority that results in obedience...doing what he/she is told – the first time and without excuse, complaint, or question.
- c. Focus on training them to show **Honor** – as they submit to God’s authority that results in speech towards his/her authorities with respect for their role as God’s agent for change, direction, and discipline.

## III.C.1 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (0-5 Year-olds) (con't)

- d. Never allow a child to be in authority over the parent
- e. Forbid speaking in “command mode” to parents (or anyone in authority), call them names, use unloving or bitter tone of voice, show disrespect (like facial expressions), or a lack of submission.
- f. Refuse to reward manipulation, whining, pouting or rebellion.
- g. Result - blessing from being under the umbrella of authority, ***commandment with promise***

## III.C.1 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (0-5 Year-olds) (con't)

### h. Implications of authority-submission

#### Submission to God's Authority

##### ***Protection***

*Obedience*

*Honor*

*Humility*

*Spiritual Growth*

*Learning*

*Grace*

*Stability/Assurance*

#### Rebellion to God's Authority

##### ***Reproofs of Life***

*Disobedience*

*Dishonor*

*Pride*

*No Spiritual Growth*

*Stubbornness*

*Wrath*

*Uncertainty/Fear*

## **III.C.2 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (6-12 Year-olds)**

This could also be called the age of communication. Children in this age group are capable of quickly understanding and learning quickly voluminous amounts of information.

Intentionally respond to their questions, turn their curiosity towards practical application of biblical precepts and principles.

Habits can be quickly established and/or broken.

## III.C.2 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (6-12 Year-olds)

Focus on developing the character of the heart

- a. Attentiveness - Showing respect through giving undivided attention to others in conversation
  - Opposite: Lack of concern and love, disrespect
- b. Initiative - Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before being asked
  - Opposite: Unresponsiveness; lack of love/concern

## III.C.2 – Teaching Practical, Age-appropriate Truths (6-12 Year-olds)

Focus on developing the character of the heart

c. Contentment - Meek realization that God provides everything needed for my joy

- Opposite: Covetousness, discontentment, greed

d. Grateful - Intentional thanksgiving to God and others for blessings received; awareness of blessing and goodness.

- Opposite: Covetousness, discontentment, greed

## IV. Where to Begin? - with Yourself

1. Ask God daily for grace to help you model these principles to your children with humble patience and wisdom, (Matt. 7:1-5; Tit. 2:11-12; Jonah 2:8; Ja. 1:1-5)
2. Measure progress in baby-steps of personal growth (2 Cor. 3:18)
3. Review and compare your circumstances against biblical precepts and principles.
4. Choose one area you believe God might say is most important for you to be growing as a parent.
5. Repent to God, your spouse and your children.
6. Communicate clearly one aspect of change you will focus on and commit to clear, measurable, baby-steps toward the goal.
7. Seek to model change before you ask your child to change.

## V. Where to Begin? - with Yourself (cont'd)

8. Clarify the difference between biblical principles & precepts and your “House-rules”
9. Clearly identify the primary expectations you plan to implement as a couple.
10. Communicate your new paradigm in age-appropriate ways.
11. Post rules in prominent places
12. When challenged or questioned, refer to your posted rules to reinforce previously defined expectations.
13. Be consistent, predictable, repetitive, undaunted
14. Expect obedience the first time
15. Train your children like a good animal-trainer does, with intentional time-blocks with expected changes.

# Where to Begin?-with your children

1. **Shepherd** them to become attentive, obedient and to honoring to you and others in authority – (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:13-24; Rom. 13:1-7)
2. **Shepherd** them to learn and understand important truths
3. **Shepherd** them to be good stewards – (1 Cor. 4:2; Matt 25)
4. **Shepherd** them to learn to communicate to solve problems (Eph. 4:15, 25-32)
5. **Shepherd** them to make decisions based on God's Word (Josh 1:8)
6. **Shepherd** them to handle temptation biblically, (Eph. 6:10; Matt 4; 1 Thess. 4:1-8)

## V. Where to Begin?-with Your Children

7. **Shepherd** them to love and serve others –  
(1 Jn. 3:18; Phil. 2:5-11)
7. **Shepherd** them to begin the day with praise – (Ps. 118:24)
8. **Shepherd** them to handle trials biblically – (Ja. 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1; Heb. 12:5-15)
9. **Shepherd** them to return good for evil, (Rom. 12:17-21)
10. **Shepherd** them to seek and grant forgiveness –  
(Matt. 5:23-24; Eph. 4:32; Matt. 7:1-5; Matt. 18:15-17)
11. **Shepherd** them to deny himself/herself – (Lu. 9:23)

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Attentiveness</b>	<i>Unconcern</i>	Showing respect for a person by giving undivided attention to what he is saying.
<b>Obedience</b>	<i>Willfulness</i>	Freedom to be creative under the protection of divinely appointed authority
<b>Contentment</b>	<i>Covetousness</i>	Realizing God has provided everything I need for my present happiness
<b>Orderliness</b>	<i>Disorganization</i>	Preparing myself and my surroundings for greatest efficiency

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<b>Orderliness</b>	<i>Dis-organization</i>	Preparing myself and my surroundings so that I will achieve the greatest efficiency
<b>Reverence</b>	<i>Disrespect</i>	Awareness of how God is working through the people and events in my life to produce the character of Christ in me
<b>Forgiveness</b>	<i>Rejection</i>	Giving up my right to remember, or get revenge for, a hurt done to me.
<b>Gratefulness</b>	<i>Unthankful</i>	Making known to God and to others in what ways they have benefited my life

Quality	Opposite	Definition
<b>Faith</b>	<i>Presumption</i>	Using God's Word to understand how He wants me to respond to a given situation and acting in harmony with it
<b>Truthfulness</b>	<i>Deception</i>	Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts
<b>Security</b>	<i>Anxiety</i>	Structuring my life around what is eternal and cannot be destroyed or taken away
<b>Meekness</b>	<i>Anger</i>	Yielding my personal rights and expectations to God
<b>Cautiousness</b>	<i>Rashness</i>	Knowing how important biblical thinking and planning is in accomplishing right actions
<b>Patience</b>	<i>Restlessness</i>	Accepting a difficult situation from God without giving Him a deadline to remove it.
<b>Dependability</b>	<i>Inconsistency</i>	Fulfilling what I consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice
<b>Courage</b>	<i>Faintheartedness</i>	Purposing to accomplish God's goals in God's timing regardless of opposition

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Punctuality</b>	<i>Tardiness</i>	Showing respect and high esteem for other people and their time
<b>Discernment</b>	<i>Judgment</i>	Knowing the difference between good and evil, wise and foolish, prudent and silly
<b>Loyalty</b>	<i>Unfaithfulness</i>	Confirming commitments to all whom God has called me to serve, even if it costs me
<b>Compassion</b>	<i>Indifference</i>	Concern for others demonstrated by actions that carry burdens & help them grow and glorify God
<b>Alertness</b>	<i>Unawareness</i>	Anticipating God-honoring responses to people and circumstances
<b>Thriftiness</b>	<i>Extravagance</i>	Refusing to allow myself or others to spend in ways that violate biblical precepts and principles
<b>Responsibility</b>	<i>Unreliability</i>	Knowing and carrying out the biblical expectations of God and those in authority
<b>Virtue</b>	<i>Impurity</i>	Purity of thought and actions that are produced in my life from obedience to God's Word

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Fairness</b>	<i>Partiality</i>	Making a decision after carefully and biblically evaluating the viewpoint of each person involved
<b>Tolerance</b>	<i>Prejudice</i>	Viewing others as unique expressions of specific character qualities in varying degrees of maturity
<b>Joyfulness</b>	<i>Self-pity</i>	The satisfaction that results from genuine harmony with God and biblical relationships with others
<b>Wisdom</b>	<i>Natural inclinations</i>	Seeing and responding to life situations from God's frame of reference
<b>Humility</b>	<i>Pride</i>	Thinking and acting in ways to show how God and others are actually responsible for the achievements in my life.
<b>Love</b>	<i>Selfishness</i>	Giving to others without having as my motive personal reward
<b>Initiative</b>	<i>Unresponsiveness</i>	Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it
<b>Disc- retion</b>	<i>Simple- mindedness</i>	Learning to identify and avoid words, actions and attitudes which are not honoring to God

Quality	Opposite	Definition
<b>Diligence</b>	<i>Slothfulness</i>	Recognizing every responsibility is a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it
<b>Decisiveness</b>	<i>Double-mindedness</i>	The habit of making difficult decisions and basing them on biblical principles
<b>Creativity</b>	<i>Underachievement</i>	Approaching a need, a task, an idea from a new perspective that is guided by biblical principles
<b>Endurance</b>	<i>Giving up</i>	Using God's grace to continue pleasing Him in both routine and difficult circumstances
<b>Sincerity</b>	<i>Hypocrisy</i>	Eagerness to do what is right with transparent and pure motives
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	<i>Apathy</i>	Expressing with my words, actions and attitudes the joy and excitement of serving the Lord

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Opposite</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Self-control</b>	<i>Self indulgence</i>	Bringing desires under obedience to biblical precepts and principles
<b>Generosity</b>	<i>Stinginess</i>	Realizing that all I have belongs to God and choosing to use it for His purposes
<b>Deference</b>	<i>Rudeness</i>	Limiting my freedom in order not to offend those God has given me the opportunity to serve
<b>Sensitivity</b>	<i>Callousness</i>	Being observant of the condition of others and being sensitive to their needs, concerns, limitations, etc. with a desire to help them please God

# Going Deeper

Withhold not Correction  
 Teach them Diligently  
 Don't make me count to three  
 Shepherding a Child's Heart  
 The Heart of Anger  
 Your Family God's Way  
 Age of Opportunity

Bruce Ray  
 Priolo  
 Plowman  
 T. Tripp  
 Priolo  
 Mack  
 P. Tripp

