

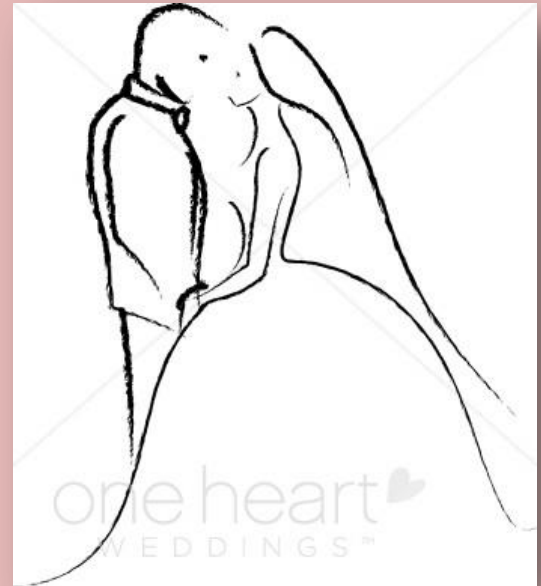
# CHILD REARING





Children are a joy.  
They are a source of happiness.

These are the two commands of God to the first couple, Adam and Eve: A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife and the twain shall be one flesh and go forth and multiply.



A good marriage  
with delightful  
children is a  
constant source of  
joy and blessing.



Family is a  
wonderful thing –  
it is warm, comforting  
and a loving  
environment.



## Psalms 128

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. <sup>2</sup> You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. <sup>3</sup> Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. <sup>4</sup> Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. <sup>5</sup> May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

As **responsible** and **caring** Christian parents, we endeavor to bring up our children in a Christian environment with God at the center of family life.

**God** is the priority in  
a Christian  
family/home.



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We nurture our children in God's grace  
and love through knowledge,  
guidance and discipline.

We want them to grow up well  
adjusted, loving, caring, responsible  
and most of all God-fearing.



We must teach children the most important thing in life – **salvation**. That is our primary responsibility as a parent.

They say that “the family  
that prays together stays together.”



Personally, I believe this.

It is the foundation of a happy  
Christian family – having one faith and  
one hope, one God and Father of all.

Today, we hope to share with you seven (7) principles on Christian parenting. With the aim of making us better parents with the role that God entrusts to all of us.

**7**

Principles



# 1. (Purpose)

Children are a heritage from God.  
Psalms 127

a. For us to become effective parents  
**we must know our role.**





First and foremost  
we must realize that  
the children are not  
our own.



They come through  
us but not completely ours.  
They are God's creation.

We give birth to our children  
but it is God who gives life.

**God is our Maker**  
– the Father of us all.

b. Children are a **heritage**  
from God.



They are our inheritance  
and legacy from God. Our role as  
parents is stewardship. We are the  
guardians of God's creation.



Realizing that our children are sharer of eternal life. Our role as parents is to nurture and bring-up the children in the knowledge of the Lord.

We as human parents  
are entrusted with great  
responsibility to save our children.



c. Realizing this vital role of parenthood, we should look at our children as God's very own.

# They



are God's treasured possession  
entrusted to us, to care,  
to love and to nurture.





d. While they are with us,  
**children are a joy**  
and should be the source of delight.

They are indeed blessings from God.



They are not to be looked upon as  
burdens but are “arrows” (as the  
Scripture described them)  
in the hands of the parents.



They are a delight  
and comforting to us.

e. Remember, children are a heritage  
from God  
and sharer of the divine nature.



Our role as parents is to bring them up  
in the knowledge of the Lord.  
This brings us to principle number 2.



2. **Teach** children about God.

## **Deu. 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children."

## **Psa. 34:11**

**11** Come, my children, listen to me; I will  
teach you the fear of the LORD.





a. Our primary responsibility as parents to children about God.



**They** need to know their Eternal Father – The Creator. They must be able to build a relationship with Him while under our care and stewardship.

As parents, we are the conduit  
between God and them.

We have the duty to teach  
children about the love, plan and  
purpose of His creation.



b. Children must be able to see hope in their life.

They must realize their God ordained destiny. As parent, we cannot fail them in this aspect.

Once a teacher was lecturing about God's creation and she came to the account of Adam and Eve. She said:

“Mankind is created in the image and likeness of God.”

A boy interrupted saying:

“My father said that we came from apes.”

The teacher responded:

“Roy, we are not talking about your family.”



d. Introduce our children to God and share with them God's ultimate plan for mankind.



If children see their God ordained  
destiny, their life will have meaning  
and purpose!



e. God expects no less  
from all parents.





### 3. (Teach)

Teach God's laws.

## Deu. 11:18 - 22

<sup>18</sup> Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,

<sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. <sup>22</sup> If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him—

## Proverbs 4

<sup>1</sup> Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. <sup>2</sup> I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. <sup>3</sup> When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, <sup>4</sup> he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. <sup>5</sup> Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. <sup>6</sup> Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

## Proverbs 4

<sup>7</sup> Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.  
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.  
<sup>8</sup> Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace  
her, and she will honor you. <sup>9</sup> She will set a  
garland of grace on your head and present you  
with a crown of splendor." <sup>10</sup> Listen, my son,  
accept what I say, and the years of your life will  
be many. <sup>11</sup> I guide you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along straight paths. <sup>12</sup> When you  
walk, your steps will not be hampered; when  
you run, you will not stumble.

## Proverbs 4

<sup>13</sup> Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. <sup>14</sup> Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. <sup>15</sup> For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall. <sup>16</sup> They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.



## **Proverbs 4**

<sup>19</sup> But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. <sup>20</sup>

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. <sup>21</sup> Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; <sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. <sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

<sup>24</sup> Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. <sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. <sup>26</sup> Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. <sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

a. Children need to reflect the **character** of the parents.





In this case, the very character of God. Therefore, the third principle of parenting is to teach God's laws. Teach children to imitate Christ and His righteousness.

b. The best time to teach children is while they are young.



The scripture says:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6.



c. We want our children to grow up  
wise and full of wisdom and  
discernment.

A wisdom that is not of this world, but wisdom that comes from God. This wisdom can only come from God's words. Again the Bible says that:

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Psalms 111:10**





d. God's laws are the embodiment of Godly wisdom. Hopefully, they can be as wise as King Solomon.

A child who is brought up in God's ways  
and laws will likely be more successful  
and trustworthy  
and well-adjusted.



Thus, less likely to go  
astray or commit a crime.  
Wisdom indeed comes  
from God's laws. Teach  
our children to learn  
them well.





## 4. (Lead)

Set God's standard in the family

a. The fourth principle is to practice God's standard at home.



Experience is the best teacher as they say. **Children learn from what they see.** As parents, we must be true and sincere in what we teach our children.

Our children should see the principles in parents – in the practice of their everyday life.

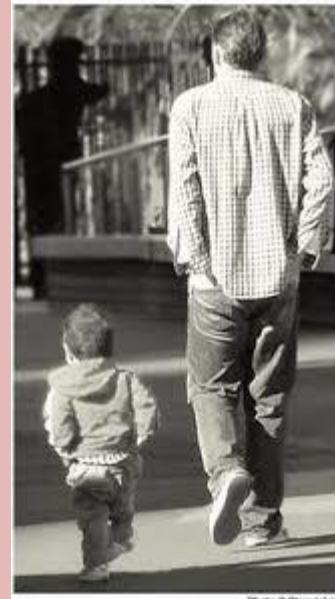




b. Parents are to **lead** by **example**.



Parents are like  
“God” to the  
children. They  
mimic what  
parents do. To the  
children, the reality  
is the family.



And the family setting  
reflects on  
their upbringing,  
their personality  
development and  
character formation.





c. Use the Ten Commandments as the **standard of morality in the home.**

# **The Ten Commandments is the perfect law.**

It is the perfect standard of morality  
in the family.

Deuteronomy 32:46 – observe to do.



d. Parents can't teach children one thing and do another.

The standard of morality must be clear  
in the minds of the young children.  
Not hearer but doer of the law who  
are justified.



## **Rom 2:13**

**13** For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.



e. Parents **should** set the examples at home and use God's laws as the standard of right and wrong at home.



Parents must practice what we teach. If we teach don't lie, there should be no lies tolerated in the home.



There should be  
no infidelity,  
covetousness and  
malicious talk in the  
family.



## Eph. 6:4

<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.



Parents shouldn't just teach the law,  
parents should live the law as an  
example for the children.

## 5. Teach Godly obedience

a. Once you have set up the moral standard in the family, the next thing to do is to teach godly obedience.

b. Learning obedience is important to a child's development.

This is the tool that allows parents to train your child. Through obedience your child will learn the right behavior and develop positive Godly traits that he will need as an adult.



However, obedience cannot be forced upon the child, but can be taught. Teach children to respect authority, God and parent. This is the fifth commandment.

## **Exo. 20:12**

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

## **Pro. 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

c. Obedience is the character of submission, respect and conformity.

If children don't respect parents  
whom they can see, how can they  
respect God whom they have not  
seen?

d. Teach children to follow rules.

**Pro. 6:20**

<sup>20</sup> My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

These rules must be clear,  
consistent and relevant to them.  
They must be promulgated for  
and in the best interest of  
children. The purpose and  
provisions must be specific.



e. Obedience is best obtained in an atmosphere of loving concern and understanding.

Children learn obedience by experience. They see the action of their parents. That is why God sets the parents as the authority figure at home.

Notice Ephesians 5:22-32. The husband is the head of the family.

The authority structure in the family is upheld. Children learn by what they see and experience.

If they see chaos in the family, they become rebellious and wayward. The best way to teach obedience is to foster closer family relationships – husband and wife and parent and child.

f. As parents. We have been put in leadership over our children.

To teach them respect for  
authority and God is paramount.  
It spells the difference between  
condemnation and salvation.

## 6. (Discipline)

Instill Godly discipline.

Proverbs 29:17; 3:12

**Pro. 29:17**

<sup>17</sup> Discipline your son, and he will give you peace;  
he will bring delight to your soul.



## **Pro. 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as  
a father the son he delights in.

a. The beginning of discipline is the moral standard.

Discipline is a parent's remedial measure to correct an error. The impression from discipline can be a great learning tool.

If a child is obedient, discipline is not required. However, a wayward child needs discipline and chastisement.

b. To a lot of parents, disciplining children is a challenging task.

Discipline can range from a reprimand to a spank at the butt. What method of disciplinary action to use is at the discretion of the parent. There are times, when a rod is needed.

**Pro. 13:24**

<sup>24</sup> He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

c. Discipline is important to guide children in the right direction.



**Pro. 23:19**

<sup>19</sup> Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

**Psa. 23:3**

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

It is a powerful reminder of the power of choice and its consequences. Children must be taught in early life that wrong and unwise choices and disobedience have consequences and crime or mischief doesn't pay well.

So, they will learn to keep God's  
laws always.

d. As good parents, like God, we discipline those we love.

## **Heb. 12:6 - 11**

<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." <sup>7</sup>

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

## **Heb. 12:6 - 11**

<sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

At the end of the day, it is for the  
child's own good.



e. Discipline must be done not in  
anger but in love.

## **Jer. 10:24**

<sup>24</sup> Correct me, LORD, but only with justice— not in your anger, lest you reduce me to nothing.

Always remember that disciplinary action is done for the interest of the child not because of your anger.

Discipline is to benefit the child –  
for his good, thus must be gentle  
and done in love and with  
assurance.

7. (Love)

Exercise love

a. As parents, we have become the  
“maker” of our children.

## 1 John 5:2

2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

Thus, we love our children dearly from the heart. We should at all times look after their welfare and well-being. We should care for them physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.



## **Titus 2:4**

**4** Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

b. Therefore, the simple rule is that: “We should love them as God loves us.”

We should do everything within  
our power as parents to love  
them, nurture them and bring  
them to God.

# Types Of Parents

Now, you know the seven biblical principles to child-rearing, the next question is what type of parent are you?

The way you raise your children  
affects how successful they can be  
later in life.

According to psychologist Nancy Darling, in the article "Parenting Style and Its Correlates," child psychology researchers identify four different types of child rearing practices that affect children's life outcomes.

Differences among the four parenting styles lie mainly in whether a parent creates many or few rules for his child and whether a parent is emotionally responsive or neglectful.



# **Indulgent Parents**

Indulgent parents make few attempts to direct their children's behavior. They avoid confrontation with their children and allow their children to make most decisions for themselves.

Indulgent parents also tend to be particularly responsive to their children's needs.

According to Nancy Darling, Ph.D.,  
in the article "Parenting Style and  
Its Correlates," children brought up  
by indulgent parents have more  
behavior problems and lower  
grades, but tend to have higher  
self-esteem.

# **Authoritarian Parents**

Authoritarian parents believe their children's behavior should be controlled as much as possible. They set firm rules for their children and make sure they understand the consequences of breaking the rules.

For example, according to an article in Social Work Research by Jeffrey Shears and colleagues, authoritarian parents agree more than others with the statement: "The most important thing to teach children is absolute obedience to whomever is the authority."

In an article in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, Machteld Hoeve and colleagues say children of authoritarian parents have a higher than normal likelihood of getting into trouble.



# **Authoritative Parents**

Authoritative parents balance setting clear boundaries for their children and encouraging their children to think for themselves.

They are warm and understanding of their children's needs, however, they do not let their children get away with breaking the rules.

According to Gwen Dewar, Ph.D., in an article in Parenting Science, children of authoritative parents have a higher chance of being independent, well-behaved and successful later in life.

# Uninvolved Parents

Uninvolved parents do not create many rules for their children and show little responsiveness to their children's needs.

The article "Parenting Styles Can Influence Children," from the University of Delaware, says children of uninvolved parents tend to experience more problems in life, ranging from a lack of emotional control to poorer than average academic performance.

What type of parent do you think  
God is like?



He is closest to what we classify as  
an authoritative parent.

He is very much involved in our  
upbringing as spiritual sons and  
daughters.

He sets clear boundaries through  
the Ten Commandments,  
encourages us to make choices for  
ourselves, chastises us when we  
err and forgives us when we fall  
short.

And, He sends His Holy Spirit to be our counselor and to teach and guide us into all truth. This is how involved God is in our lives.

# Summary

Parenting is an enormous  
responsibility.

It has been proven that children brought up in a happy Christian home are better students and better achievers in life. They are more confident and happy with themselves and are able to sustain happy relationship with others.

On our shoulders, the parents, rest  
the salvation of God's creation, our  
children.



The children are an inheritance from God. They come from us but ultimately, they belong to God.

We are mere stewards or  
caretakers of God's future children.

Therefore, let us fulfill our parental roles well as God intended. As parents, we must bring up our children to God as partakers of the divine glory.