

**"GIFT MAINTENANCE"**  
**"CHILDREN are a gift OF the LORD"**  
**PSALM 127:3**

I. Raising Children: "*Nisi Dominus Frusta,*" "*Without the Lord, Frustration*" **Psalm 127:1** "With the LORD, \_\_\_\_\_."

A. ***Psalm 127***: God works, God makes our work meaningful; God rewards our work for Him; The growth of a family is God's work; God's blessing on a city begins with His blessing on the family; The growth of a family is slow, unspectacular, and unnoticed, but according to the biblical pattern of God working over time "slowly but surely;" and we cannot raise our family without God.

B. How to Raise Kids without Raising Cain: Proverbs 22:6; 29:15

1. Child Psychology and Parenting Confusion

a. Jen Piaget, B.F. Skinner and Behaviorism – children are born essentially good, innocent, with a highly impressionable psyche that can be permanently scarred or "broken," a neutral slate given the right environment will grow up to be good.

2. Biblical Description of A Child

a. **Proverbs 22:6** is a \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_.  
"*in the way he should go*" (in your Bible there should be a small #1) = "*according to HIS way.*" Ancient Hebrew says "*on the mouth of his way.*" **Proverbs 29:15**, "*gets his own way*" is same Hebrew phrase. "*Train up*" = "*setting aside, narrowing in.*" **WARNING:** If a child is left to himself, to go his own way, do his own thing, rebelling against parental instruction and discipline, he will be trained by his parents to be a shameful young person and a shameful adult. Taking a \_\_\_\_\_, hands off, uninvolved approach to parenting will only result in shame for your child. If you don't parent, your child will be left at the mercy of his own sinful passions and urges.

**Proverbs 20:11** – known by his actions.

**Proverbs 22:15** – not naturally wise

**Proverbs 23:13** – needs discipline

**Proverbs 29:15** – needs instruction and discipline

**1 Kings 1-2:** *“David never caused his son Adonijah pain”* = King David didn’t discipline his son and result was wickedness – this is written by Adonijah’s half-brother King Solomon.

Proverbs: A child’s \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be trusted.

**Psalms 51:5; 53:2-3; 58:3** – *“in sin my mother conceived me,” “there is no one righteous, not even one,” “the wicked are estranged from the womb; liars go astray from birth.”*

Psalms: A child is not an \_\_\_\_\_, neutral slate at birth only needing the “right environment” to flourish. Remember the Ten Property Laws for Toddlers!

**1 Corinthians 13:11** – *“speak, think, reason like a child”*

**Ephesians 4:14** – *“children tossed here and there, carried by every wind and wave”* = gullible, easily deceived, led away

**Isaiah 1:2**, God the Perfect Parent said about His children Israel, *“Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me.”* Parent, your child needs you to instruct and discipline him! Left to himself, to go his own way, will only result in him being set in his sinful habits, bringing shame.

### 3. What Children Need from Parents

a. A Unified Parenting Agreement: Parents on the Same Page with Biblical Roles of Husband and Wife Being Modeled.

b. A High View of Marriage where the Notion that “My Children Come First” is Subservient to the Priority of the Spouse.

**Genesis 2:18-4:1; Ephesians 5:22-6:5**

c. Biblical Communication with Children that Speaks to Their Heart’s Idols, Cravings, Passions, not Merely Correcting Behavior with A List of “Do and Don’t” Rules. **Eph. 4:25-32.**

- d. A Policy of Biblical Rules: Absolute Rules Based on the Holy Scriptures and Provisional Rules Agreed Upon for the Home.
  - e. A Consistent Practice of Biblical Discipline, Seeing Every Discipline Event as an Opportunity for the Gospel: God Expects Perfection and We Cannot Meet This Expectation, and So We Need Christ! Point Your Child to Christ at Every Opportunity You Have.
4. God's Design for Parenting in Proverbs: Biblical Child Rearing Must Include a Wise, Progressive Balance between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Discipline. This will prevent a child from being either unruly or frustrated (**Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6**).

The Permissive Home

Discipline, Rod, Consequences, Rules, "Do's and Don'ts"

Verbal Correction, Positive Reinforcement, Self-Esteem

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20 years

The Harsh Home

Rod, Dictator, Parent as Cop, "Because I said so!"

Instruction, Teaching, Guidance, Encouragement, Rebuke

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20 years



## The Biblical Godly Home

