

PARENTING CHILDREN

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1. Introduction

God has entrusted to us His beloved infants to care for. For a limited time we do our best to act towards them in a similar role to the relationship which the Lord has with us.

We need to acknowledge that we will never be perfect parents, but we are selected and appointed by the Lord to undertake this mission.

We have to take our relationship with our children as seriously as the Lord takes His relationship with us. We do not seek to change the individual nature or personality of our children but to assist them in developing themselves to be the best they can be.

1. Biblical statements and principles

(General rule: Treat your children as the Lord treats us)

- Love as the Lord loves us; but do not pamper or indulge for this will spoil the child.
- Guide (Psalms 32:8b *"I will guide thee with mine eye" KJV*); Grant shelter and protection (Psalms 36:7); Address consequences (Deuteronomy 30:1-20) and announce possible disciplining (Proverbs 23:13-14).
- Give space (Psalms 31:8); Equip and provide (Luke 15:12); Set free (Joshua 24:15)
- Instruct and teach (Deuteronomy 4:10; 11:19; Psalm 78:5); Train (Psalm 32:8a *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go" KJV*).
- Encourage (Joshua 1:7); Commend and praise (Revelation 3:8)
- Other points

2. The application of these biblical principles to modern societies, to our own culture and to our military environment.