

THE TOP TEN MISTAKES PARENTS MAKE WITH THEIR CHILDREN

Proverbs 22:6

These 21 words give hope, encouragement, direction and promises to every parent. It is vitally important that we understand exactly what this verse means. So, we want to expose the meaning of the great promise from God in Proverbs 22:6 to every mom and dad.

Proverbs 22:6 NASB

*Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

*“Train” here means to. It also has the idea also of starting.
The words “Train up” mean to create a taste or to create a desire
Notice the next phrase in Proverbs 22:6, “In the way he should go.”*

Now, it is important to understand that this is not about a set a rules; it is about a relationship with your child that has boundaries, fences.

There are two essentials that must be adhered to by parents who are serious about their children loving God and serving God:

1. *You have to bring God's Word into their lives every day, first by example and then by teaching.*
2. *You have to expose them to the things of God on a regular and consistent basis.*

Teach your child that it's not always about being happy but about the pursuit of holiness.

Notice the Top Ten Mistakes Parents Make in Raising Their Children:

Mistake #1. NOT CONTINUALLY WORKING ON HAVING A GROWING MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:21

Mistake #2 LACK OF DISCIPLINE

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 23:13-15

In the area of discipline, there are three mistakes I most often see:

1. *The Mistake of...NO Discipline*
2. *The Mistake of...TOO Much Discipline—.*
3. *The Mistake of...Discipline Without LOVE*

Mistake #3. TRYING TO BE A BUDDY INSTEAD OF BEING A PARENT.

Proverbs 15:5

Mistake # 4: NEGLECTING TO INCORPORATE THE SPIRITUAL INTO EVERY AREA OF LIFE.

Moses gave us specific instructions in Deuteronomy 6:5-9—

Parents, the three things that need to be instilled within your child by example are:

1. We live by the Bible
2. We go to church on SUNDAY.
3. We live out our FAITH everyday.

Research Shows Youth Need Three Key Relationships: What factors help Christian youth maintain their faith into adulthood? A major research project called the National Study of Youth and Religion found the following three factors:

1. The young person's parents practiced the faith *in the home and in daily life*, not just in public-church settings.
2. The young person had at least one significant adult mentor or friend, other than parents, who practiced the faith seriously.
3. The young person had at least one significant spiritual experience before the age of 17.

Parents of pre-teens and teens, there are three things that are absolutely essential to help your child/children's faith to be positively impacted:

1. Commit today that you will HELP your child to see Jesus and see God's Word at work in your home every day by practicing Christianity.
2. Provide the OPPORTUNITIES or your child to have a significant spiritual experience.
3. Pray for and help your child find that PERSON that MENTOR, who can help him/her live out their faith.

Mistake #5: NOT EXPRESSING Your LOVE

Children need to hear "I love you." You should say that at least once a day to your child. They need to know that you believe in them, that you believe God has a special plan and a special future for them.

Mistake #6: NOT AVOIDING THE TERRIBLE TOO'S

1. **GIVING THEM TOO MUCH**

Matthew 7:9-11

2. **BEING TOO STRICT, TOO OVERPROTECTIVE**

3. **TOO BUSY NOT ENOUGH TIME**

Mistake #7: NOT TEACHING ABOUT MONEY

I Timothy 6:6-10:

Mistake #8: AVOIDING "THE TALK" ABOUT SEX

They need to know God's definition of safe sex. God's definition of safe sex is, Sex only between a male and female who are married. Abstinence only before marriage is God's plan for holiness and therefore happiness.

"Your child's safety is more important than their privacy. As a parent, you aren't being nosy by checking their cell phone on a regular basis; you are being responsible" (www.crosswalk.com/family).

Mistake #9: NOT HELPING YOUR CHILD CHOOSE FRIENDS

I Corinthians 15:33 NASB

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Mistake #10: NOT PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILD

Parents (and grandparents) make a great mistake when they are not daily committed to passionately praying for four things in the life of their child:

1. **SALVATION**

2. **SELECTION** (Mate)

3. **VOCATION**

4. **PROTECTION**

When your life is right with God, you can pray that invisible, spiritual, supernatural protective hedge around your child.

Hedge Prayers

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Hedge of Protection

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for Your character of holiness, truth, and love and for the promises You make because of Your character. First, I ask that You convict me of any sin in my life, any area of disobedience, so I may immediately confess and repent. As I pray this prayer, I am believing You and believing what You said in Your Word about the promise of answered prayer as we pray in Your will.

Today I am bringing _____, my _____, to You, and I ask that You would place a Hedge of Protection around him or her physically, spiritually, emotionally, relationally, mentally, and any other area of his or her life.

I pray that You will prevent him or her any harm, injury, tragedy, or any kind of hurt.

I pray that You will protect and place Your angels around him or her today wherever he or she goes; and may those who intend evil not be allowed into his or her life.

Help him or her to never take for granted the things You not only intervene in and protect from, but for the many things You prevent from happening that we will probably never know about this side of heaven.

I come against anyone or anything that intends to do harm or injury...*In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

Hedge of Thorns

Our Heavenly Father, today I am bringing _____ before You, and I ask You to place a Hedge of Thorns around him or her so that he or she will be reminded that they are sinning against You and are outside of Your will for his or her life.

I pray that You will use people, circumstances, specific situations, trouble, trials, difficulties, impossible situations, painful reminders, and frustrations, disappointments, confusion, and turmoil to remind them of the seriousness and the misery of being in rebellion against You.

Powerfully remind him or her that Your way, Your will, is the happiest, most fulfilling, most joyful, and most amazing life one can live on this earth.

Lord, whatever it takes, please let him or her come back to the center of Your will.

I release my desire to protect them from their own sinful choices. I pray that he or she will turn back to You immediately; but no matter how long it takes, I will continue to pray... *In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

Parent(s) you must begin today by passing your faith down to your child. But, you have to ask, "What kind of faith do I have, if any?" If no faith, then you must and you can change that today. If an indifferent or apathetic faith, then you must allow God to reignite your faith. Chances are very high that your child's FAITH. will not rise above yours, mom and dad!