



*from the desk of*

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## Train your child....

<sup>6</sup> *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)*

First, what this verse *is not* doing is to heap guilt on the parent who tries to train their children in the Christian life, but has the child later to abandon the faith. There isn't a guarantee that if a parent "does this" then the child will automatically and always follow through with the desired life choices.

However, I would say that to *not* do the training you would well be guaranteeing the outcome.

*"In the way he should go."*

Second, children are all different in temperament. Betty and I are parents of three children. I won't go into details, but we quickly learned that our three were very different. What discipline and training would work with one would be a disaster with another.

A strong-willed child would need to be channeled differently than a very compliant child. While there are general values and methods to child-rearing, there's no one way to deal with all temperaments.

Third, and where I believe this verse is headed, each child has a different path to their adulthood, a different way they would express their faith.

Some children might have a love for learning, for reading. Why not make sure that they have Biblically based reading materials.

Others might be artistic. How about art that has religious themes? The same could be said for the child interested in music.

Maybe you have a very caring child. How can you lead them to ways to care for others, whether sick, elderly or with other needs?

.....and so on.

Training up a child also should do with helping them to overcome their weaknesses and capitalize on their strengths. Some children need help with telling the truth, some with simply applying themselves, others maybe need to be more kind to others with their words.

Children born into the same family and raised by the same parents often have very different temperaments, attitudes, and needs. Even where the child's birth order (only child, first born, middle child, youngest) has an effect on how they need to be raised.

Nothing is guaranteed - except perhaps the outcome if you don't work at training your child.

Now, where can you go for resources?

A long time excellent source is family.org (Focus on the Family). They are a solid, conservative source of Godly advice. On site that I'm getting acquainted with is <http://www.biblicalparenting.org/> (National Center for Biblical Parenting). There are many others as well.

Need further help with specific needs? I'm only an email away! ([dcerandy@blcbcs.org](mailto:dcerandy@blcbcs.org)).

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