



from the desk of

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They are all different...

...but yet are all the same.

Consequences, Part 1

Galatians 6:7 (ESV)

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Dear Parents,

One of the goals of parenting (perhaps the chief role) is to prepare the child for life in the outside world. A goodly number of families don't seem to take this to heart. There are a growing number of "adulting" classes, where the young adults are taught things like how to balance a checkbook, very basic cooking, etc.ⁱ

One of the things I believe that is sometimes not taught is that there are consequences for one's actions. We live in a world today where many parents try to shield their children from these consequences, sometimes at all costs. Some refer to these as "lawnmower" parents, who try to smooth the way for their children in all parts of their lives, including shielding them from any consequences of what they might do.

There are a couple of things wrong with this. If nothing else, this isn't how the real world works. Your child's first boss will take note of their work habits.ⁱⁱ I know some of our members in retail management that are happy if their young workers simply show up!ⁱⁱⁱ

So today this is just about teaching responsibility, that it's a good and needed thing. Next week we'll get into using teaching consequences to mold the young person to be more responsible in their life.

Consider the following from *Four Easy Ways to Improve the Way You Discipline*, by authors Jim and Lynne Jackson:^{iv}

'You are responsible'

A critical part of discipline is helping kids recognize the natural impact of their decisions — to be drawn into the reality that "whatever one sows, that will he also reap" ([Galatians 6:7](#)). When kids discover the actual results of behavior (not the artificial results from adult intervention), they are often moved to repair what they've done.

This is the start of training in responsible behavior - just to know that, while usually not pleasant at the time, in the long run it's best for the child (and by extension society at large).

None of us like to see children who are unhappy - but as parents our role isn't to make sure that the grass is always smooth for them no matter what they do but to help them learn responsibility.

Next week we'll get into what this might look like in a little more detail.

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away! (dcerandy@blcbcs.org).

DCE Randy

ⁱ I know that some of our parents are doing a great job with this preparation. (We have one family whose children, I believe, if dropped into the woods with a rusty knife could survive quite well).

ⁱⁱ Some parents even go in with their young adult child to job interviews. Surveys of employers suggest this isn't a good idea.

ⁱⁱⁱ By the same token we have a goodly number of young people that are fantastic, dependable workers.

^{iv iv iv} <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/effective-biblical-discipline/discipline/new-goal-for-discipline>