



Series – **Home Improvement**

This series of talks is about applying God's principles into our home life. We'll discover practical ways of how to apply God's Word in making wise choices, handling anger, finances, conflict, and raising children. We will also discover the value of family, the meaning of love, and the power of forgiveness in the home.

Pt 3 – **Raising Kids without Raising the Blood Pressure** - *"Parenting with Confidence"*

- Where do we look when we need help and advice on parenting? Who is our model parent?
- There is only one parent who has ever been perfect. That's our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:48 (niv) *Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.*

- God *is* the model parent.
- The secret to Christian parenting is to treat our kids the way God treats us.
- Today we will look at what God is like as a parent and then we'll draw from His example to apply some of His parenting skills into our parenting.

... We must understand our children.

- The number one complaint that kids have about their parents is *"They don't understand me!"*

Psalms 103:13-14 (niv) *As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He knows how we are formed.*

- Because Father God understands us, He can parent us in the right way.

Proverbs 24:3 (gnb) *Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding.*

- Every child has a unique bent, personality and temperament.
- Every child is different! As parents we need to understand this.

Proverbs 22:6 (niv) *Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

- This verse is not a promise, it's a proverb. A proverb is a short saying of a basic truth or a concept of truth. There is no guarantee it will work but it can!

What does this verse mean?

- The word "*way*" means a style, temperament, personality. Each child is naturally fitted to go a certain direction.

(Amp) *"Train a child in keeping with his individual gifts or bent."*

- What is the proof of a parent who understands their children?

Proverbs 14:29 (niv) *A man of understanding has patience.*

- When we're patient with our children, we know where they're coming from.

... We must accept our children.

- Some parents have a tendency to reject their kids.

Psalms 145:8 (niv) *The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love.*

- We didn't choose our kids. God used your genes and created them for us!

Romans 15:7 (niv) *Accept one another just as Christ has accepted you.*

- We need to accept our children as a gift of God and not try to make them like ourselves.
- We need to affirm their uniqueness.
- It's tragic to think that our kids may feel that they are only accepted by us when they perform to our expectation.

... We must discipline our children.

Hebrews 12:6 (niv) *The Lord disciplines those whom He loves.*

- The Bible says if we do not discipline our kids then two things are true:
 1. It proves that we really don't love our kids.

Proverbs 13:24 (niv) *If you refuse to discipline your son it proves you don't love him.*

2. It shows that we're participating in their destruction.

Proverbs 19:18 (gmb) *Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't you're helping them destroy themselves.*

- It's important we understand the difference between discipline and punishment. God never punishes His children. He disciplines them.
- All the punishment for our sins was taken by Jesus upon Himself when He died on the cross. Jesus became our scapegoat.

Romans 8:1 (niv) *There is now no condemnation [no punishment] for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

- The purpose of Punishment is to inflict penalty.
- The purpose of Discipline is to promote growth.
- The attitude of the parent in punishment is anger.
- The motivation behind discipline is love.

What's the result?

- The result of punishment is always fear, guilt and anger.
The result of discipline is security.

How can you know when you're punishing and how can you know when you're disciplining?

- Look at the child's reaction.
Ask yourself, "*Is my child afraid of me right now?*"

1 John 4:18 (niv) *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out all fear, because fear has to do with punishment.*

- We discipline our children the way God disciplines us.

Psalms 145:8 (niv) *The Lord is gracious and compassionate; slow to anger and rich in love.*

How do we discipline?

- There are three characteristics to Godly discipline.
1. Discipline calmly.

Proverbs 29:11 (niv) *A fool gives full vent to his anger.*

2. Discipline quickly.

- Don't delay it. Don't use; "Wait until your father gets home!" because this only creates fear in most children. You do it quickly.

3. Discipline cautiously.

Colossians 3:21 (tlb) *Fathers, don't scold your children so much that they become discouraged and quit trying.*

... We must express our love to our children.

There are at least 3 ways we can express our love to our children.

1. Through affection.

- Physical contact through hugs, kisses and pats on the back.
If you didn't grow up in a family like that, you can learn it!

Psalm 145:9 (niv) *The Lord has compassion on all He's made.*

2. Through affirmation.

Psalm 145:14 (niv) *The Lord upholds and uplifts those who are down.*

- We shape our kids by the way we talk to them.

3. Through attention.

Psalm 145:18 (niv) *Our Heavenly Father is near to us when we call on Him.*

- The missing link in what's happening in so many families today is just time together.

...Take home point

We need to love our kids through affection, through affirmation and through attention.