

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Raising Young Champions

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 22:6

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1501

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) If we cannot raise our kids right, then our families are not going to have much of a future.
- b) Your child should be champion.
 - i) Not necessarily a champion in the spelling bee, in the halls of academia, or on the football team, but a champion for Jesus Christ.
- c) Proverbs 22:6
- d) What does it mean to train up a child?
 - i) There is a difference in teaching a child and training a child.
 - ii) Many of us have taught our children, and then we see them turn and go wrong.
 - (1) Our problem is neglect and indifference.
 - (2) We think that if we simply teach, then that is all that needs to be done.
 - (3) But the child becomes self-willed, self-centered, and goes his own way.
 - iii) “To train” means “to prepare for a contest,” “to instruct by exercise,” “to drill,” “to form to a proper shape,” or “to discipline for use.”
 - iv) No one ever learned how to play football by simply reading a book on football or by sitting in a classroom with the coach drawing on the blackboard.
 - (1) We learn to play football under the tutelage and the guidance of a coach out on the field.
- e) In today’s message, we will learn four specific things that Proverbs 22:6 tells us about “Raising Young Champions.”

2) IT IS TRAINING THAT COMMENCES WITH CHILDHOOD (PROVERBS 22:6)

- a) This verse doesn’t say to train up an adult but to train up a child.
 - i) We must begin early.
 - ii) The word “train up” is used only four other times in the Bible.
 - (1) It is used twice as a man dedicating his house.
 - (2) The other two times it is used is when Solomon dedicated the house of the Lord to the Lord.
 - (a) The idea of training up has the idea of a dedication.
- b) You should begin by simply dedicating your child to the Lord.
 - i) The words “train up” and “dedicate” are interrelated and interlocked.
 - ii) The very first thing you should do is just give that child to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Begin before they are born.
- c) Proverbs 19:18
 - i) Start early while there is hope.
 - ii) If we don’t start early, then we will come to a hopeless situation.
- d) Proverbs 13:24
 - i) The word “betimes” here literally means “early.”

- (1) It has the idea of the dawn, that is, in the dawn of his life while he is a child.
 - (a) That is when you get started.
- e) Don't think that little children cannot learn.
 - i) Little children learn a language before they learn to walk.
 - (1) A little two-year-old or three-year-old child can speak an entire language.
 - ii) Isaiah 28:9-10
 - (1) The Bible says that little babies just weaned from their mothers can learn.
 - (2) Children learn "precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little."
 - iii) Children are like sponges; they absorb it all.
- f) Reasons to start early with children:
 - i) The curiosity factor is high.
 - (1) The word we hear from a little child often is, "Why?"
 - (2) Don't despise them when they ask, "Why?"
 - (a) This is a golden opportunity.
 - ii) The memory factor is incredibly high.
 - (1) Little children have a great ability to memorize things.
 - iii) The humility factor.
 - (1) Little children are humble.
 - (2) With adults, it is hard to break through the pride and get in.
 - (a) Matthew 18:3
 - (3) Sometimes when a little child comes forward and gives his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, a well-meaning counselor will take that child and ask him a lot of adult questions.
 - (a) If the child cannot answer the questions, then they say that the child is not ready, but they have it backward.
 - (i) It is not that the child has to become like the adult; the adult has to become like a little child.
 - iv) The trust factor.
 - (1) Children can trust.
 - (a) That is the way that God intended it.
- g) 2 Timothy 3:15
- h) The child that God has given you is a bundle of potentiality, and you need to start very early.
 - i) Tomorrow, that baby will not want to be rocked.
 - ii) Tomorrow, that toddler will not be asking, "Why?"
 - iii) Tomorrow, that school boy will not want help with his lessons.
 - (1) Don't let this time pass through your fingers.
- i) Proverbs 22:6
 - i) The word "way" in this verse has the idea of a bend in a branch or a bend in a bow.

- (1) It means that every child has his own particular way.
 - ii) Children don't come in standard packages.
 - (1) We have to read the label very carefully.
 - iii) God never makes copies; He only makes originals.
 - (1) Everyone has little idiosyncrasies and proclivities that God has put into them.
 - iv) Children have certain talents and abilities that will become their spiritual gifts.
 - v) How wise it is of parents to look at their child and see "the way that he should go."
 - (1) If we try to bend the trunk of a mighty oak, we can't do it.
 - (2) But if we take that oak when it is just starting and just a twig, then we can bend it.
 - (3) Parents need to study their child.
 - j) Children are different.
 - i) It is incredible how different children can be with the same parents.
 - ii) If we were to study the children of the Bible, then we would find the following:
 - (1) Cain and Abel were sons of Adam and Eve, yet how different Cain was from Abel.
 - (2) Absalom and Solomon were both sons of David, but there were incredible differences between them.
 - (3) Jacob and Esau were sons of the same father and the same mother, but what a difference there was between Jacob and Esau.
 - iii) Children are different in their attitudes, gifts, demeanor, and psyche.
 - k) Find out the way in which your child should go and don't fight against it; cooperate with it.
- 3) IT IS TRAINING THAT COMMUNICATES WITH CREATIVITY (PROVERBS 22:6)
- a) The word "train up" not only has the idea of dedication, but it also has the meaning of putting something in the mouth to be tasted.
 - i) In Bible times, in order to get a baby to begin the sucking motion or to create taste so that the baby would swallow its food, the midwife would take crushed dates, mix them with honey or olive oil, and rub it on the pallet of the baby.
 - (1) "Train up" has in its root "to touch the pallet."
 - ii) Put something in their mouth to be tasted.
 - (1) Create a thirst and hunger for the Word of God.
 - (2) We will never force-feed a child the Word of God.
 - (a) It needs to be creatively taught.
 - b) Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - i) It has to be in our heart before we can put it in the heart of our child.
 - ii) We cannot teach what we do not know any more than we can come from where we have not been.

- iii) This passage is not talking about formal family worship; it is talking about a way of life.
 - c) Jesus was the master teacher.
 - i) How did Jesus teach His disciples?
 - (1) As He was going along, He would see someone sowing, and He would say, “Behold a sower went forth to sow.”
 - (a) Matthew 13:3
 - (b) Then, He would teach a spiritual lesson.
 - (2) He would see some flowers and say, “Consider the lilies how they grow.”
 - (a) Matthew 6:28
 - (b) Then, the Lord Jesus would teach.
 - (3) Jesus saw lessons in everything.
 - (a) That is the way we are to teach our children.
 - d) It doesn’t have to be dull or dry.
 - i) There can be Bible reading, Bible stories, Bible games, Bible memories, Christian books and music.
 - ii) Give rewards for memory verses.
 - (1) This is not a bribe.
 - (a) A bribe is when we try to get someone to do what he ought not to do for money or for some other thing.
 - (i) This is an inducement to do wrong.
 - (2) A reward is a thanks for doing right.
 - (3) Teach children that there is a law of sowing and reaping.
- 4) IT IS TRAINING THAT CORRECTS WITH CONSISTENCY (PROVERBS 22:15)
 - a) Don’t think that your child does not need to be corrected.
 - b) In this verse, the word “foolishness” literally means “silliness.”
 - i) Silliness is bound up in the heart of a child.
 - c) There comes a time when we have to correct.
 - i) There is a predisposition in children to do wrong.
 - ii) There must be correction with consistency.
 - d) You need to discipline your child.
 - i) There are four reasons for disciplining a child:
 - (1) If you love the child, then you will discipline the child.
 - (a) Proverbs 13:24
 - (i) This means that he will do it early.
 - (b) Some parents say that they cannot discipline their child because they love him so much.
 - (i) But this is not true.
 - 1. They don’t love the child; they love themselves.
 - (ii) Disciplining gives the parents displeasure; therefore, they don’t discipline their child.

- (iii) It is not out of love for the child but out of selfish love for themselves.
- (c) We are not better than God.
 - (i) The Bible says that the Lord loves whom he chastens.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:6
- (2) The nature of human nature.
 - (a) Proverbs 22:15
 - (i) The word “rod” in this verse does not mean a stick like the handle of a shovel.
 - 1. It means a “branch” or a “twig,” like a switch that will sting but do no harm.
 - (b) Children need to understand that there is a moral nature in the universe and that there is retribution for doing wrong.
 - (i) Fear is a good lesson, and everyone needs to learn it.
 - 1. This does not mean cringing fear, but “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
 - a. Proverbs 9:10
 - b. The person who fears God the most loves Him the best.
 - c. The fear of the Lord is love on its knees.
- (3) It will save you from much disgrace.
 - (a) Many times, juvenile delinquents are the result of delinquent parents.
 - (b) Proverbs 29:15
 - (c) There are many kids who roam the streets today.
 - (i) They are raised with a television for a babysitter.
 - (d) Proverbs 29:17
 - (e) If you don’t want to come to shame and don’t want your children to be a reproach to you, then you’d better begin early.
- (4) It will keep your child out of Hell.
 - (a) Proverbs 23:13-14
 - (i) That doesn’t mean that you will beat sin out of a child.
 - (ii) It does not mean child abuse.
 - 1. The Bible is very clear and very plain against any kind of child abuse.
 - 2. God has given children a spanking place.
 - (b) The child who doesn’t learn to respect authority from his parents will not respect authority in the school room, the church house, nor will he respect God’s authority.
 - (i) Ultimately, he will become a rebel and a fool and will die and go to Hell.
 - (c) The Bible says that if we withhold correction from our children, then we are making them candidates for eternal punishment.
- ii) Rules for chastisement:
 - (1) Start early in disciplining a child.

- (a) They are old enough to be disciplined when they are old enough to willingly and knowingly disobey.
- (b) Proverbs 19:18
 - (i) Don't let him bully you with his crying.
- (2) Use spanking as a last resort, not the first option.
 - (a) Revelation 3:19
 - (i) The rebuke is God speaking first.
 - 1. Chastening comes later.
 - (b) Speaking always comes before spanking.
 - (c) There are always times for explanations, warnings, and second chances.
 - (d) Don't try to cure everything with a spanking.
 - (e) If you promise a spanking, then keep your word.
 - (i) Don't make idle threats that you don't intend to keep.
 - (ii) Ecclesiastes 8:11
 - (iii) When you say that you are going to do it, then as soon as it is practical, you need to do it.
- (3) Husbands and wives need to present a united front.
 - (a) Don't let the child play one parent against another.
 - (b) When punishment is due, let both parents agree so that none will show favoritism.
 - (c) Always be a team.
- (4) Always discipline in love.
 - (a) Revelation 3:19
 - (b) Ephesians 6:4
 - (c) James 1:20
 - (i) Wrath produces wrath.
 - (ii) Bitterness produces bitterness.
 - (d) Remember that it is correction and not revenge.
- (5) Work for repentance in the child's heart.
 - (a) If a child has disobeyed, then he has sinned.
 - (i) He has rebelled against his parents, and that breaks one of God's commandments.
 - (b) Teach the child that not only has he sinned against his parents, but he has also sinned against God.
 - (c) Ask the child to consider asking God to forgive him.
 - (i) You cannot be the Holy Spirit.
 - (ii) You cannot force that child to repent.
 - (iii) All you can do is correct and pray that the child will repent.
- e) Set limits for your children.
 - i) Every child needs to be given goals and limits.
 - (1) If you don't give them goals and limits, then you don't love your children as you should.
 - ii) In the Garden of Eden, God gave His children goals and limitations.

- iii) When you set down limitations, your children will test them immediately.
 - (1) That is human nature.
 - (2) They will push against the limitation and if it moves, then it will give them no security.
 - iv) If a child is not given limitations, then it implies to the child that you have rejected him.
 - (1) If you don't conquer your child, then they will feel rejected and someone else will conquer them.
 - v) Why is it that parents don't set limitations?
 - (1) To avoid confrontation because they fear rejection.
 - (2) They give their children things and indulgences because they have not given them their time.
 - (a) Though the children will take what they are given, they will ultimately resent their parents for their warped priorities and meaningless gifts.
 - (3) They try to compensate for their own deprivation.
 - (a) They don't want their children doing without things like they did as a child.
 - (4) Another reason is just status.
 - (a) They try to keep up with the Joneses.
 - (5) They give in to their children because it is the easiest way out.
 - f) Assign responsibilities for your children.
 - i) Refrain from giving your child so many freebees.
 - ii) Don't use the television as a babysitter.
 - (1) Television absorbs their natural creativity and high energy.
 - iii) Make your child complete what you tell him to do.
 - (1) See that they finish.
 - (2) Hold him personally accountable.
 - iv) Give them an allowance, and have them give away some money.
 - (1) Let them bring an offering to church on Sunday.
 - (a) Instead of giving them something to give, let them give of their own to the Lord.
 - (2) Teach them to give, save, and spend money wisely.
- 5) IT IS TRAINING THAT CONSUMMATES WITH CONVERSION (PROVERBS 22:6)
- a) The goal of all of this is to bring a child to Jesus Christ.
 - i) Help him have something that will last him all of his life.
 - b) This doesn't mean that when he is old, he will come back to it.
 - i) This means that he will never forsake it.
 - (1) He will have in his heart a principle.
 - (2) He will have the Lord in his heart.
 - c) How old should a child be before that child is brought to the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i) The child doesn't have to have a PhD in sin in order to be saved.

- ii) As soon as is possible and practical, lead your child to Jesus Christ.
- iii) As soon as your child can comprehend the conception of sin, that sin is not just naughtiness but rebellion against God, then he is ready for conversion.
- d) It is not unusual for children to be saved.
 - i) Matthew Henry was saved at the age of eleven.
 - ii) Jonathan Edwards, the great revivalist, was saved at the age of six.
 - iii) Polycarp, one of the first Christian martyrs, was saved as a child at the age of nine.
 - (1) He lived for the Lord Jesus Christ all of his life and was burned at the stake at age 90.
 - (a) Proverbs 22:6
 - iv) Charles Haden Spurgeon, whom many say was the greatest preacher who ever lived, was saved at the age of twelve.
- e) Be careful with little children.
 - i) Don't shove them.
 - ii) Don't bore them.
 - iii) Guide them that they might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Do you want a champion for the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i) Train your child up with training that commences at childhood, communicates with creativity, corrects with consistency, and consummates in conversion.
- b) Is Proverbs 22:6 a proverb or a promise?
 - i) Yes and no.
 - ii) It is a proverb, but that doesn't mean that you can override your child's will.
 - (1) You can do everything right, and your child can rebel against God.
- c) If you want to give your child the best way, then it is through Proverbs 22:6.
- d) You are not ready to train someone until you yourself have submitted to the Lordship of Christ.
- e) Romans 10:13
- f) Acts 16:31
 - i) The word "believe" means "commit."
 - ii) Commit your life to Jesus Christ, and He will save you.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) John 3:16