

For the Love of the Family Ministries  
Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family  
For the Love of the Family Series  
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How To Raise Godly Children  
By Dr. Roger Voegtlin, Pastor  
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The first would be discipline. When the Bible talks about raising children, it talks about discipline. If you love your child without discipline, you'll produce a brat. Look at Proverbs 10:1. This is a wonderful verse that I would always think about while I was a father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. "I've seen that verse pastored this church. But, I'm glad to say that a wife makes a happy family. Nothing will make you happier than that. I would rather have my kid sturn outright than have the largest, most prosperous church in the world. There's no more joy than raising your children for God. But you'll never have more of a broken heart if you don't. You think it's bad to lose your job. You think it's bad to lose your health. But there's nothing like losing your children. If you lose your children, you just

about losing your life.

Have you ever noticed that most people who lose their children put up a white flag and just about quit Christianity? There's nothing more rewarding or more damning. In Proverbs 13:24 we see one of the many, many verses on discipline. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." The New Testament goes on to say that if you don't chasten your son, you're treating him as a bastard. Now I don't swear—I'm quoting the Bible, and the Bible uses that strong term. We've seen many fathers like that in the world today. They have children, and their children don't even know who their father is! The father couldn't care less about raising that illegitimate child. He'll do anything not to pay support and not to help in the raising of that child, that's what you're like.

d. God says that if you don't spank your

The person who hits his child with his fist or with his hand in the face is the parent who doesn't discipline his child and then gets frustrated and hit him. Spanking is not abuse. Not spanking is abuse. Proverbs 19:18 says, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." The Bible is simple. You can't understand the King James Bible? Then I feel sorry for you. Train up yo

urchild and spank him when he's



Don't tell me you love him if you don't spank him.

Don't listen to psychologists, not even so-called Christian educators, and by the way, don't go into a Christian bookstore and buy one of those stupid books on how to raise your children. Look at their children; you don't want that. The problem is that ever since this law was passed, people have gotten softer and softer. Even in our churches where we say we believe, wear all as firm, a seven weaker Christian was 25 years ago— I venture to say even most Catholics 25 years ago. God said to spank. If we are traveling by wagon train across America in Indian country, do you think we'd be watching for Indians? Of course! We'd say, "Man, I don't want my kid to have an arrow through them." We'd look behind rocks and behind trees, and we'd look for moving bushes. "There are Indians out there seeking whom he may devour. I want you should never strike your child in anger. Don't make rules, and go by them. Let them know what time. Make rules, and go by them. Let them know what consistently.

Raise up a child in the way he should go with discipline, and then, with family devotions. Turn to Matthew 18: 19 and 20. "Again I say unto you, if two of you shall agree on earth touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father in heaven." What couple could read that and my wife and I, or my husband and I, just agree and pray. "I don't know how a mother and father could go to pray for our children." "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." That means table with your children for family devotions, He's we have devotions." If for no other reason, He's th Nowsome are afraid; they say, "I'm not a theology school graduate." That has absolutely nothing to do prepared what to say for devotion time. You sit there are really young, you use something like John R. Rick quickly you use the Bible, and you just read the Bible no more exciting time to have devotion than when you

I've heard parents say, "Pastor Voegtlin said this. practice that, you're going to lose your children. home, to open the Bible and read it and explain it. because it's right there." If you show a Christian child that what we're doing is what God tchild is going to turn out right. Isn't the family. "This is why we believe ring a sermon, take verses down and use ly. Explain that "this is the reason we simple. You get the prayer sheet and at the needs of the church, and you young girl I said, "Do you think

Christian psychologists. Don't listen to Christian psychologists. Don't listen to Christian bookstore and buy one of those their children; you don't want that. people have gotten softer and softer. en't at all as consistent, we aren't tat sago— I venture to say even most ved a hundred years ago and were ountry, do you think we'd be don't want my kid to die. I don't ook behind rocks and behind trees, out there who want to kill us!" ntt to stress again, don't blow up. blow up, and then let it go then next tto expect, and then follow them

pline, and then, with family devotions. , That if two of you shall agree on shall be done for them of my Father dnot think, "Hey, that says two. If we pray, God will answer our dread this and not think, "We're three are gathered together in my when you gather around the kitchen there. People say, "I don't know why ere. You're starting the day off right. n. Pastor Voegtlin, you're a Bible with it. I have never once in my life re and you read the Bible. If the kids ce's Bible storybook. But real ble and explain it. Now, to me there's our kids are young.

.. "or "That's a school rule." If you Your job, father, is to be priest of the You say, "Kids, we believe this hild that what we're doing is what God tchild is going to turn out right. Isn't the family. "This is why we believe ring a sermon, take verses down and use ly. Explain that "this is the reason we simple. You get the prayer sheet and at the needs of the church, and you young girl I said, "Do you think



marry. You see these teenagers biting at the bit and wanting to hang with the wrong person. They've got talk to them when they were young. Then all of a sudden you're afraid of what they're going to do. them, and you say, "Boy, I can't wait until you get you want."

I would joke sometimes with my kids. I'd tell Debbie a "mean" guy, right Debbie?" She needed a "mean" guy him! Just talk to your children. My child didn't in college. When I say "date," realize I don't mean godly courtship. You teach them to work hard but no have the right kind of friends, and how to be nice. They're like clay and we're reforming them by spanking talking to them.

I read about General Robert E. Lee walking through something behind him. It was his small son jumping his footsteps. He turned around and hugged him and my boy to hell. "What a responsibility we have. Remember there were tears streaming down her cheeks. Her lip anything. The old backslidden priest thought she was a boy to give to God. Oh, how we ought to pray and give who goes into full-time service is no better than full-time service; I'm saying give our children to God 22:6.

Again, the problem with our kids is that they hear they see their parents act a certain way in church hear and see something else when the door is closed parents to have a religion in front of people and parents say with their lives, "I am rich and in need of nothing." We know how vaccinations work generally. against the measles, for instance, you have a weakened you. The child's defense mechanisms attack the foreign preventing the child from contracting the disease. thing to prevent them from getting the real thing.

That's what is happening in fundamentalism all over bus kids can grow up in this church and make it and can't? It's because the bus kids don't have wrong Christian anything saying, "what is preached is not real." All youth pastor and the teachers and they say, "I love who have parents vaccinating them at home. They don't parents complaining. There's nothing worse you can never saw mess over the things of God. If you sit

and wanting to date the wrong person, the wrong plans because you didn't deny you put handcuffs and bars on And they balk. But if you talk to married. And this is the type of guy

you want a strong guy. You want a guy because she's too nice. She got want to date until they were freshmen a worldly date. I'm talking about love money. You teach them to the weak people but not follow them. them, and then teaching them and

the snow one day when he heard from step to step, trying to walk in prayed, "God, help me never to lead a man Hannah praying for a son? answer removing but you couldn't hear a drunk, but she was praying for a son of our children to God. Someone someone who doesn't. I don't mean God. Seek, ask, knock. Claim Proverbs

something preached in the pulpit, and around other Christians, and they at home. They've learned from their a nothing real at home. They see their sed with goods and have need of If you want to be vaccinated a weakened form of the measles injected into iginal entities and form antibodies, We take the weakened form of the real

America. Do you ever wonder why some kids from regular attenders Christian examples. They don't have they do is listen to the preacher and this." But there are some church kids who don't have a chance. They hear their do. My kids saw mess, but they around and you complain about your

state in the ministry or your state in serving God, gone! Are you listening? Don't vaccinate your child to teach them the Bible, true Bible principles and by your life.

Next, you raise up a child in the way he should go missing today. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatsoever might..." Proverbs 6:6-9 says, "Go to the ant, thou wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Pr gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou there are two great principles taught in the Bible and one is work. You're not going to succeed without faith, you'll work. You're not a Bible-practicing lazy generation. I've had Christians think there's "They're working me too hard." We're living in an age to keep from work. If you teach your children that, they could be.

Some years back, we started seeing many children of devil. There was a reaction, and it was the wrong protection for my children. I'm going to put my arms around them. I'm going to baby my children." You'll God says, "Six days shalt thou work." God says we're our brow. We should teach our children to enjoy work with my teenagers. He's so lazy." Look at Spurgeon wrote an article that I thought was tremendous. "When he's a little child, carry him in your arms." When my children were young, especially small, the teenage girls just wanted to carry him. "Nobody picks up my son. Nobody." You say, "What if problem. What do you do when they fall down? Say, "Now, you first of all see if there's blood running. corner of your eye. But in most cases, their feet fall down, say, "Hey, you're okay. Get up and just mean." No, to do anything else is mean.

We have a college, and I believe we have many of them any problem with our students it is that they have church. Some think being a good Christian is babying you who hear a baby scream and say, "Ah, it's mine! before a while. I can remember a certain mother who a boy she carried around. When she would carry him hers, and his feet were down to her knees. She pick I knew he would become a sissy, and he was the great worthless for God today. I'm not saying never pick certain age and he can walk around, don't carry him

you're going to lose them! They're re-against Christianity. You've got one by family devotions, by talking,

by teaching him how to work. That's thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy sluggard; consider her ways, and be ovideth her meat in the summer, and ousleep, O sluggard?... "Understand if you're going to succeed: one is faith t both. I believe that if you have hristian if you don't work. We live in a ould be a union steward in the church! neration that does everything it can you're going to destroy much of what

famous preachers going to the ne. That reaction was, "I'm going to d my children, and nobody's going destroy them just as much that way. esupposed to work by the sweat of k. You say, "I don't know what's hemirror. You made him that way. dous. He said, "If you want to ruin . When he's a little child, carry him in Jeff, because the church was so ll the time. I had to lay down the law: he falls down?" That's another Shut up. Quit crying, and get up." See if there's a broken arm out of the gs are hurt. Don't baby them! If they keepon walking." You say, "That's

the best kids of America. But if there's been babyed by their parents and home people. There are some others of "Your untopick him up. Let him nour church was real young who had around, his head was level with ed that kid up and carried him around! test on we ever produced. He's up a child. But once he gets to a every place; don't be holding him all



lazy? No. Can you be a good Christian school teacher lazy? No! Again, I'll say the number one problem we not great in. It isn't the academics. It's laziness. Bob Jones, Sr., used to say, "I'd rather see somebody with bad character." At least you can make something out of it. But, no, they sleep in and can't even wake up to give excuses.

Christians have the idea that if they say, "Yes, sir," everything's okay. They've been taught to have a phony success in this world except we know how to sweat, don't teach them to work. All over America, especially in the worthless people with nice haircuts who dress and look at them and say, "Man, they've got potential." They were never trained. Listen to this quote from Teddy

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who pines and stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them. It belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, who sweats and bleeds; who strives valiantly; who errs, who stumbles, who falls, and who comes short a second time; but who does his best; who knows the great truths of the devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who, at least once, in a great battle, is fearless; whether he wins or loses, but who has made his soul ready, so that if his place only shall be filled by the better man; who is not himself called to the front but who is called to the rear, he will find a place in the great line of the army. It is not the critic who counts; not the man who pines and stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them. It belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, who sweats and bleeds; who strives valiantly; who errs, who stumbles, who falls, and who comes short a second time; but who does his best; who knows the great truths of the devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who, at least once, in a great battle, is fearless; whether he wins or loses, but who has made his soul ready, so that if his place only shall be filled by the better man; who is not himself called to the front but who is called to the rear, he will find a place in the great line of the army.

Fourthly, we raise up children the Bible way by loving them. Most people know that Billy Sunday's children heard people say that proves God's promises about his children's failure proves that Billy Sunday did the Bible. He died of shock when a newspaper man came out front-page story about one of his kids who was through Moody's son went to the devil. He put him in jail in Massachusetts. The boy gave it to the devil. Over a while his kids go bad, and the devil whispers in our ears, "You can't." Don't lift man above God's Word. God's Word is not because he puts his desires, his ambitions, in

I love the illustration of John R. Rice. Some "big shot" (and I hate pushy people who think they're big shots) came on a Friday afternoon. Rice said, "No, I've got to leave. I have an important appointment to see you. You've got to see me." Dr. Rice said, "No, I can't break." They both left and this guy happened to be playing with his kids in his yard. The next time he saw Dr. Rice, he said, "You're a liar. You said you had such an important appointment." Dr. Rice said, "No, I'm not a liar. My appointment

with my Sunday School teacher and my college students is softness. It's a lack of character. It's somebody who has bad character. They're always making

excuses. It's softness. It's a lack of character. It's somebody who has bad character. They're always making

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appointment I have of the week.” I practiced that a

You can’t just say your children are important, you Every time I see a boy or girl go bad or a marriage kid really go bad and I’ve had a chance to talk to have devotions with you on a regular basis?” Every “Did you have family time together?” Every single listening to me, Dad? You’ve got to show your kids to you, Dad. If there’s a man in the home, it’s super no hard, notify you love your children.

I don’t like using myself as an example, but I love used to thrill me to set up family activities. “We school here and go to the zoo.” You NEVER have to sometimes you may conflict with the school. If you not saying just come in late all the time. Especially family times. You pop popcorn. Now, listen, you you doesn’t come in a bag, and you have to get one off the machine either. A shaker! We happened to have a fire fashioned.

That’s all you have to do to have fun with small kids squeal, and it’s so much fun.

There’s something else you can do. Have pizza. You from Pizza Hut. Make it. You see, that’s what makes not as good as Pizza Hut.” Well, it helps your diet sundaes. You get the ice cream. It depends on how much have vanilla and chocolate and strawberry, whether can, or whatever. It makes a mess because they make I don’t know what it is, but there’s something specific with the kids and doing simple things. Like a picnic money.” If you have to spend money on it, it’s probably “We have our family night. We watch videos.” Oh, you spend the money you would have on a meal. Get Aldi’ don’t have to have money. You have to have heart. You go on that picnic and you play “Kick the Can.” You with. Or, you hike and get lost. I always get lost, then on my back. Do you understand the point? I remember a time when you all pile into the car. You don’t have suggest that you always don’t have to go to relatives. You can camp.

Raise up a child in the way he should go, and he will take discipline, it takes teaching the Word of God (Christianity), teaching them how to work, and showing

iso.

must show them they’re important. go bad, every time we’ve ever had a him, I ask that child, “Did your dad single time the answer was, “No.” timetheysaid, “No.” Are you you care. It’s not up to mom, it’s super to him. You say, “That’s hard.” No, it’s

d planning things for our family. It I do this, we’ll do that, we’ll cut out of on conflict with the church, but do, the school comes in second. I’m ly when they’re young, it’s easy to plan ng couples. They have popcorn that heseshakers. I’m not talking about a eplace, so it made it even more old

ds. They love it. They giggle and they

say, “We do that.” No, no, no, not it fun. You make it. You say, “It’s . The thing I liked the most was making uch money you have, whether you you can get some whipped cream in a it. But, boy, do they have fun. ial about mom and dad taking time c. Parents always say, “I don’t have ably not the best activity. People say, meon. Go on a picnic, and just shot dogs and day-old bread! You ou have to love enough to plan. You buy these gadgets to make it more and my girls would cry and I’d carry king? I believe in a vacation—a to go anyplace fancy, but I would es’ houses either. You can get a tent.

ievethathe’ll not depart from it. It (you teaching the Word of God and ng them you love them. Remember I

said that love without discipline makes a brat? Let discipline without love make a rebel. Kids look for communication well.” I’m not the best at it either but this is why I love you. I’m praying for you.” They

I have to confess that I’m a very private person and I had to warn my wife in front of my children. But when they were around, even when they were teenagers, hee, hee. Oh, ho, ho. Look at mom and dad.” They like her up and I would twirl her around. And then hee.” You know what I think this said? “All’s well at home. Kids look for affection. They look to see if

You can raise children upright. I stress, don’t trust God will take care of that. As your pastor, I don’t better than those who are not. We pay more attention to the mission field and we have to train them. But I don’t think any more of full-time workers than of love God and to live for God. When you get to be my break your life. To the proportion that you raise the amount of joy from the time they leave your home.

People say they love babies but not the “terrible twos” speakers say, “When they get to be teenagers, your preacher will preach on that in the sense that it should get better. You see, when a child is a little but as he gets to be one year old, you can begin to be sure, he ought to be well under control. It shouldn’t be a fault.

When they get to be teenagers it should be a joyful time for God. Then when they get married and they pick their children and you see them raising their children the way it ought to be, it gets more wonderful all except for one thing—I’d like to see my grandkids think of anything more wonderful than that? To see them living for God. There could not be a greater blessing

metell you something else—love. You might say, “I don’t want to write them notes.” I love you. I look for things like that.

I didn’t show the affection that I wish I had when I kissed my wife, you know what they did? “Hee, hee, hee. It said something. I used to say, “Ha, ha, ha. Hee, hee, hee, with mom and dad.” All’s well in our home, you are.

is the most important thing to do, to get them to go into full-time service, to think those in full-time service are really the best because we send them to the front lines. I tell you from the bottom of my heart, to have a good kid. Train them to love God, it will make your life or it will make your life a burden for God, that will be your

wo’s,” and the “rotten threes.” We’ve got to put them in a cage.” It should be expected. That’s wrong. It’s not a tiny baby, he’s going to cry at times. Discipline him. At two years old, for the first time, it’s worse, it’s your

time, an exciting time as they blossom into their right mate, and they start having children better than you raised them (and that’s the time). I don’t want to live long enough to see you row up and live for God. Can you have about 10 or 12 of your grandkids all living!