

**DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, REAL ANSWERS**  
**Lesson #5**  
**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING THE CHILDREN?**

*Teach the child in the way that he should go, And when his is older, he will not depart from it.*  
*Proverbs 22:6*

INTRODUCTION: The pediatrician Humberto Ramirez Gómez says, *“The construction of values is a fundamental job in the raising of children. Formation in values is formation for life; it is planting goals that serve as a pattern for living.”* As you can see, raising children according to Dr. Ramirez Gomez depends on the “construction of values.” For the Bible, this declaration is similar. As we read in Proverbs 22:6, the instruction of a child is fundamental for the rest of their lives. Society and the Bible agree that a child must be taught and the sooner the better.

**THE CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING THESE VALUES**

Now a day, parents have very little time to be with their small children in a significant way. The quick lifestyle of both parents working or the single mother or single father making a living and providing for their children is the order of the day. The spiritual, moral and social clashes of the world in which we live and the Kingdom of God directly impact the rearing of our children. Here are some examples of those things that influence our children and adolescents.

1. – **The Media of Communication and the Virtual Social Net** – *Should we allow this to influence us to the extent in our lives of our children that it end up forming their values?* Today, these means of technology can communicate a different gospel that goes against the principles of the faith that the Bible teaches. The Bible is clear in denouncing this in Galatians 1:9, *“If anyone preaches a different gospel than what you have received, let him be anathema.”* (anathema means “cursed”)
2. **The influence of people with other values** – Our children are being constantly influenced. As parents, our responsibility is to filter, clear up, correct, and direct our children according to what the Bible teaches. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, *“you will teach your children diligently, and you will speak to them when you are seated in your house and when you are walking in the street, when you lie down and when you get up.”* Even more, the Bible says that negative influences or what distances your heart from Christ is dangerous. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, *“Make no mistake about it; bad company destroys good customs.”* As parents, we should be constantly alert to those who exercise influence upon our children.
3. **A culture and a secular educational system** – Due to our children spending so much time outside of our influence, due to work and educational requirements of the state, it is important to keep alert to what our children accept as being “the truth”. We know that some things that are “normal” for our society and the educational system are at opposing poles to what the Bible teaches. Our work is to illuminate the mind of our children, establishing firm bases of faith and conviction that will help them to resist the dressings of a world that every time less accepts the faith in God and His presence in this world. Even though a teacher is a believer, the secular laws impede him from

sharing or comparing the Biblical principles in class. The Bible always puts the responsibility of raising the children on the parents!

The Bible gives us two cases of fathers. One was Eli the priest and the other was Samuel the prophet. Both were called by God and both represented God before the people. Eli did not do a good job. The Bible describes the sons of Eli in the following manner in 1 Samuel 2:12 The immediate question is why did they not know God? Did not their father teach about God and represented Him? However, something happened and the Bible describes it in 1 Samuel 3:12, *“On that day I will fulfill against Eli everything that I have declared upon his house, from the beginning to the end. I will show him that I will judge his house forever, because of the iniquities that he knows; because his sons have blasphemed God, and he has not bothered them.”* Beloved parents, the word “bother” to our children during their formation time is something that God hopes of us. In continuation, we will explain what it means to “bother.”

The other case was Samuel, whom the Bible describes as a man who had done the right thing. 1 Samuel 12:1-4; 1 Samuel 8:1-3 This is a case of someone who had an exceptional testimony and in the other case he had been someone with a bad testimony.

As we can see, the results of the sons of both men had nothing to do with the personality of the parents but rather the amount of “influence” that they had on them. For the sons of Eli, they did what they wanted to under the influence of someone else that was not their father and he did nothing to stop it. In the case of Samuel, his sons allowed the influence of someone else, like pride and perversion. At the end, the children were raised by something or someone of influence.

There is also a case of a good son. Josiah, the son and grandson of two evil kings of the Bible. If we follow the logic, Josiah should have been reared badly, violent, irreverent and bad. However, something happened, “he did the right thing in the eyes of God.” 2 Chronicles 34:1-3

#### **Two things helped in the raising of Josiah:**

1. He sought his model in a family member who loved God.
2. He found the Bible. Josiah did something good.

#### **PAUL’S COUNCIL TO THE PARENTS**

If you remember, the priest Eli did not “bother” his sons and they became victims of other influences in their lives and ended up disastrously. Paul speaks about how a parent can be a “bother” for the good of his children. This is what Paul says in Ephesians 6:4, *“Parents, do not provoke to anger your children, but raise them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.”* Notice that Paul says that it has to be in the admonition of “the Lord” and not the world, or the culture, or the means of communication, or human ideologies. When it is done in the Lord, God is in charge of the raising being solid and good. Colossians 3:21 says, *“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”* According to Saint Paul, the parents can encourage their children in such a way that they do not become “discouraged” about what they have been taught if it is done as it should.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What are some of the factors that you consider influence parents in believing that their children are being reared in school and by third people?
2. Parents: Do you believe that you are influencing the life of your children or have you allowed someone or something else to influence them?
3. Children: Are you allowing your parents to influence you or do you consider that you have allowed your friends, social network or culture to influence you more than your own parents?
4. If our parents are not with us or have not influenced us in a good way, what can we do to not follow with this logic? To whom or to what do we allow the influence of nature in our values?