

Parenthood (5): The Imposing of Values

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In the ongoing war against godly parenthood, liberal children's rights advocates have declared that parents have no right to impose their values upon their own children. Such, they say, is child abuse.

Consider, for example, the Alabama Department of Human Resources guidelines for adoption and foster care. One of the guidelines reads, "Don't be a foster or adoptive parent if you must have your value system accepted by the child(ren) placed in your home."

Not surprisingly, the very next guideline reads, "Don't be a foster or adoptive parent if you cannot tolerate children who occasionally or frequently lie or disobey and challenge authority." Note carefully what is being said: the parent is expected only to *tolerate* lying, disobedience and disrespect, not *correct* it. Did you ever think you would see the day when teaching your own children right from wrong would be considered abuse?

Why in the world would the state sanction and promote such garbage, especially when it has to pay for the policemen, investigators, lawyers, judges, courts, correction facilities, counselors, parole and probation officers needed to deal with rampant juvenile crime? Because the government has been influenced by the liberal sewage spewing forth from university "experts" and Hollywood media.

There is no better example than this of the clash between human and divine wisdom, and the result of human wisdom is there for everyone to see. God doesn't *allow* parents to teach values, He *expects* them to do so! There is no way to raise children in a morally neutral environment so that they will be able to make their own choice about a value system upon reaching adulthood. This will only leave them vulnerable to the Devil's value system.

Parents are to bring their children up "*in the training and admonition of the Lord*" (Eph 6:4). This begins with conditioning their minds with the truth before they can reason for themselves. They must learn the *what* before the *why*.

But as our children mature and are able to understand and question, we do them a disservice when we merely say, "Because I said so" or "Because the Bible says so." Where possible, we must be ready to explain the reason and sense which underlies our position or expectation. In so doing, we avoid the shaky foundation of simple indoctrination and we teach them to appreciate the rationality of God's value system.