

PARENTING: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

UNDERSTANDING HOW YOUR CHILD WAS MADE

PSALM 139:1-3, 13-16



The Heart of the Matter

Newborn babies are not soft pieces of clay ready to be shaped and molded into what parents think they should be. Rather, a baby arrives bearing divinely ordained “bents.” The parents’ primary task is to find out how each child has been made and, in that process, to shape the training of the child so that it is in keeping with the child’s unique personality. Yet parents must remember that there is an evil tendency in every child that prompts him or her to disobey, resist authority, and rebel. On the other hand, there is a bright side in every life, where positive tendencies and capabilities emerge.



Discovering the Way

1. Reviewing Where We’ve Been (Proverbs 22:6)

Proverbs talks about training a child God’s way (Proverbs 22:6) and gives parents reliable hope (Proverbs 20:11; 29:15).

2. Understanding the Internal “Bents” (Selected Psalms and Proverbs)

Every child arrives on earth with a bent toward evil (Proverbs 22:15; Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Romans 5:12). At the same time, every child has a bent toward good (Psalm 139:1-3, 13-16).



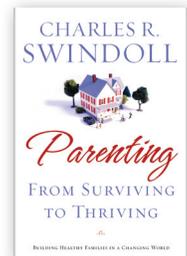
Starting Your Journey

There are at least three parenting principles to remember from this message.

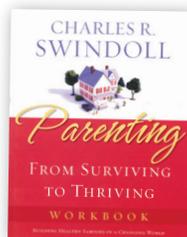
1. It takes determination to know your child’s uniqueness.
2. It takes discipline to curb your child’s will.
3. It takes discernment to affirm your child’s value.



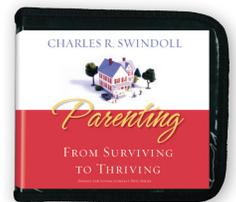
Tools for Digging Deeper



Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving
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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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