

PARENTING: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

ESTABLISHING A LIFE OF SELF-CONTROL

SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

Few experiences are more disturbing than being with a child who is out of control. Our tendency may be to blame the child, but more often than not the responsibility rests with the parents. Many parents lack an understanding of the child's "dark side" and fail to shape the child's will based on biblical principles. Once understood, it's amazing what a difference this knowledge of a child's bent toward foolishness and sin can make. Only when we respond appropriately to a child's sinfulness will we be able to cultivate greater self-control.



Discovering the Way

1. Understanding the "Dark Side" (Exodus 34:5–7; Proverbs 22:6; Romans 5:12, 18)

Corruption extends to every part of human nature. Because we are born spiritually dead, there is nothing in anyone to commend him or her to a righteous God. And every child has a bent toward foolishness and sin. It is the parents' task to deal with this in a way that's effective and God-honoring.

2. Establishing Boundaries (Proverbs 13:24; 15:13; 17:22; 22:15; 23:13–14)

Balanced discipline is a parent's loving act toward his or her children. It must never be abusive, but fair, balanced, and affirming of the child's dignity and self-worth.



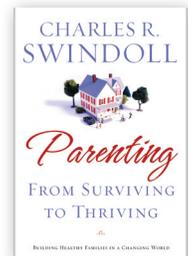
Starting Your Journey

Four guidelines for establishing a life of self-control surface from this message.

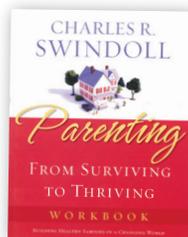
- 1 Start early (Proverbs 19:18).
- 2 Stay balanced (Proverbs 15:4; 29:15).
- 3 Be consistent.
- 4 Remain reasonable.



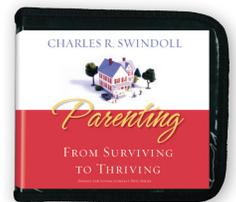
Tools for Digging Deeper



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