

A. Promises

Certain influential leaders in our nation have successfully fostered the idea that children have rights which grant them equal status in society and with their parents. As a result, there has developed the notion that the use of corporal punishment is a form of child abuse. As a result, some parents fear to use this method of correction for fear of government reprisal. As a result, parents have substituted alternate systems of enforcing penalty and punishment clauses which are ineffective.

The Bible presents a complete system of child training which, if faithfully followed, will provide blessing, and if not followed, will produce cursing. Young children—under the age of 13—can be kept tightly under control and will normally conform to parental standards.

Things become much more difficult once they become teenagers. Then they acquire more freedom and make decisions based on their own concepts of right and wrong. If a parent faithfully applies God's biblical system of raising their children, then they have promises from God Himself that they will be blessed.

Proverbs 10:1a - A wise son makes a father glad.

Proverbs 23:24 - The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.

Proverbs 23:25 - Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

Proverbs 31:28 - Her children rise up and bless her.

Unfortunately, Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, is forced to counter many of God's positive promises with counter promises for cursing. He does so by contrasting wisdom with foolishness, the wise being the one who submits to divine instruction while the fool is the one who submits to his own wisdom, either through ignorance or rebellion.

The prevailing Zeitgeist is proof positive that parents have been raising children from the source of foolishness, i.e., ignorance and rebellion.