

# Raising Rehoboam

## 2 Chronicles 10-12

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Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

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[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“When I regarded God as a tyrant, I thought my sin a trifle, but when I knew Him to be my Father, then I mourned that I could ever have kicked against Him.” ~ **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

**O**pen your Bible to **2 Chronicles**. We have begun a 14 message series in the book of 2 Chronicles entitled “The King is Coming.” This morning we are looking at a message number two entitled: “Raising Rehoboam.”

### Outline

1. The **Privilege** Parenting
2. The **Peril** of Bad Parenting
3. The **Promises** of Good Parenting

**Proposition:** God’s grace is sufficient to raise godly kids.

### Lost at Venture

When I was a child, I was kind of a worrier. My biggest fear was getting lost in a big place. Going to parks and to downtown Chicago was kind of a fearful things.

But when we were in stores, I loved to get lost. I loved getting lost at **Venture!** I loved to hear my mother’s name over the loud speaker. “Barbara Black, please come get your child from the information desk.”

### How Many Times Do We Fail Our Children?

With a message like today’s, we can all say that at times we are all bad parents. There is only one good Father, and He is in Heaven!

But truly, there are some very dangerous things that we can do as a parent that will affect the direction of our children’s lives. We need to take heed this morning.

We need God’s grace because God’s grace is sufficient to raise godly kids.

## I. **The Privilege of parenting**, 2 Chron. 10:1.

Our children are eternal souls. What an awesome responsibility

### **REHOBOAM’S GREAT PRIVILEGE**

Rehoboam had such great privilege. Can you imagine having the wisest man who ever lived

for a Father. Rehoboam was taught by the man who wrote Proverbs!

### Only Son with Two Sisters

Though Solomon had **300 wives and 700 concubines**, the Scripture records that he had only three (3) children: only one boy: **Rehoboam**, and two daughters.

The Bible says in **1 Kings 4:29** that Rehoboam's father Solomon had "wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore." Solomon "also spoke 3,000 proverbs," and many of those proverbs were addressed to his one and only son: Rehoboam.

### Solomon Waited, Rehoboam born Later

It's likely Solomon began writing the Proverbs early in his reign for his children, but he didn't have children until later.

**2 Chronicles 12:14b**, "His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite."

### Solomon Likely Wrote Proverbs to Give to His Son!

Solomon had such wisdom to give to his son, but instead wasted it and threw it away because of his love for foreign women.

Surely before he strayed he began to write the Proverbs in preparation for a son. Perhaps he finished them later in life when it was really too late for Rehoboam.

### Solomon Finishing the Proverbs Perhaps Later in Life

You can just hear Solomon probably weeping as he writes this if it truly is later in his life. This was meant for his son as a child. But whether Solomon wrote it early or late, he abandoned the Lord. Yet, as a wise preacher once said:

"God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick." I love that quote!

- **Proverbs 10:1**, "The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother." "Rehoboam," Solomon says, "make me proud. Be wise! Serve the Lord. Don't do what I did."

### REHOBOAM'S GREAT POWER

**2 Chron 10:1**, "Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king." Shechem ("saddle") is a valley town that looks like a saddle, hence it's name. Shechem was a place with a storied history in Israel.

### The History of Shechem

- Shechem: Gen. 12 – where God originated the **Abrahamic covenant**. Abram "built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him ... and had given that land to his descendants" (Gen 12:6-7).
- Shechem was also the place of a **great divide in the book of Judges** where Abimelech, Gideon's son sowed the land of the city with salt so nothing could grow there. What a harbinger of what was to come for Israel.
- It should be a **place of a great covenant once again, but instead it is a place of divide!**
- There was a divide because **Solomon's heart** as a father was **divided!**

## Weakness, Not Power

The truth is, Rehoboam has an opportunity for power, but he is quite weak because of the decline of his father Solomon's kingdom. **In his latter days Solomon's attention was on women and wealth instead of worshipping the LORD.**

Rehoboam goes to Shechem as "all Israel" had gone there to make him king. The immediate problem is why the king of Israel should go to Shechem for a coronation. Many suppose that the relationship between the north and south was based on a mutual contract. There may have been sufficient discontent in Israel that Rehoboam needed to consolidate his power. This is either a "sign of weakness" or "political ineptitude" or "probably both."<sup>1</sup>

## REHOBOAM'S GREAT POSSIBILITIES

### Rehoboam's Inheritance

Rehoboam's father was a wise ruler, but he wasn't necessarily a good father or follower of the Lord. Consider the land mass he gave his son. From Egypt to modern day Iraq, Solomon reigned, but **at what cost?** Look at the power Rehoboam has, **but at what price?**

### Solomon Expanded the Land, Rehoboam Could Expand Hearts

Solomon had expanded the **land**, and now Rehoboam had the opportunity to expand the people's **hearts!** What great possibilities lie ahead.

**2 Chron 10:1**, "Rehoboam went to Shechem, for **all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.**"

## II. The Perils of bad parenting, 2 Chron. 10-12.

### THE INCONSISTENT EXAMPLE OF SOLOMON

#### Solomon Waited, Rehoboam born Later

Solomon did not begin very well. As I said, he likely began writing the Proverbs for his children, but didn't have any at first. And then Solomon strayed from the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 12:14b**, "His mother's name was Naamah the **Ammonite.**"

**1 Kings 11:1-8**, "Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, **Ammonite**, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2 from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the **abomination of the Ammonites**, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods."

<sup>1</sup> Japhet, 652, as quoted in Hicks, J. M. (2001). *1 & 2 Chronicles* (p. 316). Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co.

The price for bad parenting could be the eternal souls of our children. Before we begin, let me take you to the end of the story and hear these tragic words: they are the defining words of Rehoboam's life: "he [Rehoboam] did evil, for he **did not set his heart to seek the Lord**" (2 Chron. 12:14).

What a price! In the end, to not be sure of the eternal destiny of your child! For Solomon, it should not have been! His son Rehoboam had great **privilege**, great **power** and great **possibilities**.

### THE PRICE OF BAD PARENTING

Yet Rehoboam shows at the age of 41 when he began to reign, that his father was really an absentee father. Rehoboam lived with God's blessing **for three years** (11:17), but troubles began **in the fifth year of King Rehoboam** (12:2) because of Rehoboam's idolatry.<sup>2</sup>

**2 Chron. 12:1**, "When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he **abandoned the law of the Lord**, and all Israel with him."

**2 Chron. 12:5**, "Thus says the Lord, 'You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you,' and so God abandons Rehoboam to his enemies (in this case Egypt.).

The price for Solomon's bad parenting was the idolatry of his son.

### Solomon's Idea of Fatherhood

Solomon's idea of fatherhood was a massive failure in so many ways. Solomon as a father was:

- **Mixed** – he strayed from God, yet gave his son the book of **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon**. All of these are thought to be written in Solomon's later years. Yet it seems too late. Solomon didn't just sin in the darkness. He sinned in the brought daylight of God's revelation. That's serious. Solomon at first really loved God, but later he really loved women and wealth more than worshipping the one True God.
- **Missing** – It's likely that Solomon just wasn't there a lot of the time.
- **Minimal** – Scripture records only three children for Solomon: Rehoboam and two daughters. That's it. He could have done more! **Instead of investing in his son**, he invested in **pleasure** and **selfishness**.
- **Messed up** – we see later in 2 Chron. 12 that Rehoboam abandons the Lord for other gods, just like his father.
- **Immersed in the Mercy of God**. Rehoboam is listed in Jesus' genealogy. Even in a great mess, God has great mercy!

And yet we see at the beginning of Rehoboam reign: disaster and division.

### THE BAD OUTCOME OF REHOBOAM

Because Rehoboam did not have the example of a godly father, he was in trouble from the get go. His father left him a kingdom whose hearts were divided. It was just a matter of time.

**2 Chronicles 10:1-19**, "Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.<sup>2</sup> And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.<sup>3</sup> And they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam,<sup>4</sup> "Your father made our yoke

<sup>2</sup> Pratt, R. L., Jr. (2006). *1 and 2 Chronicles: A Mentor Commentary* (p. 386). Fearn, Tain, Ross-shire, Great Britain: Mentor.

heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.”<sup>5</sup> He said to them, “Come to me again in three days.” So the people went away.

<sup>6</sup> Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?”<sup>7</sup> And they said to him, “If you will be good to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”<sup>8</sup> But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.<sup>9</sup> And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?’”<sup>10</sup> And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to the people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us’; thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs.’<sup>11</sup> And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

<sup>12</sup> So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.”<sup>13</sup> And the king answered them harshly; and forsaking the counsel of the old men,<sup>14</sup> King Rehoboam spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”<sup>15</sup> So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by God that the Lord might fulfill his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

<sup>16</sup> And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So all Israel went to their tents.<sup>17</sup> But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.<sup>18</sup> Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and the people of Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam quickly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.<sup>19</sup> So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.”

### **A PROPHECY BECAUSE OF BAD PARENTING**

You reap what you sow. That’s the truth. Now grace can wipe away the law of sowing and reaping. All who are in Christ are reaping miracle harvests!

I’ll tell you what moms and dads, don’t play with the souls of your dear children. Be faithful and consistent in the Lord all your life. If you don’t be faithful, it will be that you sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind.

Solomon wasn’t faithful. He knew there was a cost. Here’s a prophecy of it. It has to do with a man named Jeroboam, son of Nebat. He bring deviant worship to Israel. It’s one thing to worship false gods like Solomon did – that’s evil. But what is more evil is to change the worship of YHWH.

God’s centralized place of worship is Jerusalem. Jeroboam is going to change everything because Solomon did not protect his son and daughters or his country. He thought only of himself. And his son had to pay for it in a brutal prophecy.

### **THE PROPHECY OF DOOM**

Because Solomon walked away from the Lord, and showed his son how to walk away from the Lord, so the prophecy came that the kingdom would be divided.

## Enter Jeroboam

Here we get the story of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. He's from Samaria, but he's been hiding out in Egypt for a while.

**2 Chronicles 10:2-5**, “And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 4 “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore **lighten the hard service of your father** and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Come to me again in three days.” So the people went away.”

## The Story of Jeroboam and the Prophet Ahijah

Here in 1 Kings 11, we have the story of Jeroboam.

**1 Kings 11:26-37**, “**Jeroboam** the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. 27 And this was the reason why he **lifted up his hand against the king**. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father. 28 The man **Jeroboam** was very able, and when Solomon saw that **the young man was industrious** he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph. 29 And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the **prophet Ahijah** the Shilonite found him on the road.

Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a **new garment**, and the two of them were alone in the open country. 30 Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and **tore it into twelve pieces**. 31 And he said to Jeroboam, “Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes...’” Verse 33, “because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did.” Verse 35, “But I will take the kingdom out of his son's [**Rehoboam's**] hand and will give it to you [**Jeroboam**], ten tribes.” Verse 37, “And I will take you [**Jeroboam**], and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel.”

Jeroboam is going to be king because of Solomon's sins. Solomon delivered a kingdom that was ready to split to his son.

## OTHER PEOPLE TAKE YOUR CHILDREN

If your children don't know the Lord, then someone else is going to have control of your children. The one job Solomon had that was more important than being king was being a dad. Rehoboam loses the kingdom to Jeroboam.

## Jeroboam leads the people into deviant worship.

**In 1 Kings 12:25-31**, “**Jeroboam** built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28 So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” 29 And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Then this thing became a sin,

for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.<sup>31</sup> He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.”

### INCONSISTENCY, DIVISION AND DISASTER

Rehoboam follows the Lord’s counsel not to try to bring Israel back. We see in 2 Chronicles 11, the first 3 years of Rehoboam’s reign. It is prosperous there in Judah.

2 Chronicles 11:1-5, “When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam. <sup>2</sup> But the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah the man of God: <sup>3</sup> “Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> ‘Thus says the Lord, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives. Return every man to his home, for this thing is from me.’” So they listened to the word of the Lord and returned and did not go against Jeroboam.”

In the rest of 2 Chronicles 11, we see that the priests and Levites leave northern Israel and join Rehoboam in Judah.

There seems to be peace and prosperity. Yet Rehoboam’s heart falls away.

In the fifth year of King Rehoboam’s reign, Shishak, King of Egypt comes to defeat Southern Israel comes to defeat Judah.

What does he do? Does King Rehoboam establish his heart in the Lord?

2 Chronicles 12:1-5, 9-14, “When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him. <sup>2</sup> In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the Lord, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem <sup>3</sup> with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt—Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians. <sup>4</sup> And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah, who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, “Thus says the Lord, ‘You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to the hand of Shishak.’”

### Shishak and Rehoboam’s Desperation

“<sup>9</sup> So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house. He took away everything. He also took away the shields of gold that Solomon had made, <sup>10</sup> and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house. <sup>11</sup> And as often as the king went into the house of the Lord, the guard came and carried them and brought them back to the guardroom. <sup>12</sup> And when he humbled himself the wrath of the Lord turned from him, so as not to make a complete destruction. Moreover, conditions were good in Judah.

<sup>13</sup> So King Rehoboam grew strong in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. <sup>14</sup> And he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.”

### Convenient Christianity

Solomon failed. He raised a son who only served God when it was convenient.

**Revelation 3:15-16**, “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

### III. The **Promises** of good parenting.

No one is able to raise a child in perfection. There is only one Perfect Parent. Our father in heaven is the Perfect Parent.

**Psalm 127:3**, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

Psalm 51:7, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” The word “contrite” means “crushed.” Are you crushed mom and dad over your own sinfulness and inability to keep your child from sinning?

Be crushed and constantly bring your children to the Lord.

#### The Goal: Point them to Christ

We are all sinners. We all have the potential to ruin our children. The best method of parent is to do our best to point them to Christ.

Point your children to Christ through a consistent heart,

## 1. CONSISTENCY OF HEART.

I’m not talking about heart health, taking your aspirin a day or eating an apple a day. That’s all good for your physical heart, but I want to consider how powerful the influence of your heart on your children is.

### CONSISTENCY IN DEVOTION (WALK WITH CHRIST)

Be firm about what you believe. Live out your worship. What a privilege to know the Lord and to raise up our kids in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Your kids disobedience is supposed to show them their need for Christ and lead them to know and walk with Christ.

- **Proverbs 1:7-8**, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction...”
- **Proverbs 1:10, 29-31**, “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent... 29-31, “Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, 30 would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, 31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.”

The parents at Living Hope today sit in the seats each week and are often

- exhausted from work,
- anxious over finances,
- disillusioned by the task of parenting, and
- disappointed in yourselves for not being able to do what we call you to do each week.
- But Christ is *first* in your life. You are “seeking first the kingdom” (Mt 6:33).



## **CONSISTENCY IN DILIGENCE & GROWTH (Progress But Not Perfection)**

**Proverbs 10:1, 5**, “A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. 5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.”

Solomon was likely quite absent for most of Rehoboam’s life. I can just hear

So when you hear consistency, I don’t want you to hear perfection. I want you to hear this: you need to be endeavoring to give your all, but you will fail. Parenting is not at all about perfection.

In fact if you are obsessed with perfection for yourself, you are likely a glory thief. If you aim for perfection you will be broken hearted most of the time.

Instead of your kids seeing you aiming for **perfection**, your kids need to see you aiming for **progress**. There is a difference. **Matt. 6:33**, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” Are you see progress? Is Christ adding His presence and blessing to your life? How should we progress?

- **Progress in your walk with Christ.** Your kids need to see you consistently putting the Lord first. Do your kids know what you are reading in the Bible? Do you know what they are reading? Talk about it all the time. Deut. 6:4-7. Do they hear you talking of Him **personally** or just **principles**?
- **Put the Lord’s people first.** By our love the world will know that Christ has come into the world. We love church. The Lord’s Day is the Lord’s Day at our house, and not because I am a pastor. It’s always been the joy of my life to give a morning and evening sacrifice to God. I want to worship him at the beginning and ending of the Lord’s Day with His people. We love God’s people everyday. Small groups, dinners, fellowships, get-togethers. Bible studies. What are you doing with the saints?
- **Progress in putting off sin.** If your problem is a critical spirit, your kids and grandkids need to see you growing in gentleness and humility. If you gossip, your kids need to see you getting things right face to face and not whispering behind the person’s back you are offended with.
- **Progress in loving your spouse.** It’s not ok to be cold with your spouse. That is what chills and kills the hearts of your children.

## **CONSISTENCY IN DIFFICULTIES**

**Proverbs 3:11-12**, “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

**James 1:2-3**, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect [mature] and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Are you living a life that is identified with Christ from an earnest and sincere heart? Is Jesus the very center of your life or is He just an add on? You can fail in so many ways.

In today’s church, many pastors and parents have fought against the program-centric discipleship that pawned our children on the church for discipleship. As a result, we have tried to reconnect the church and the home. Some of this is good. The good part is that parents are chiefly disciple-makers. Your kids need to see you seeking God.

But the church is also the church. And older women are to teach younger women and children and older men are to teach and set the example for young men and boys.

We do this by being involved in the life of the church – that’s good. But what really gives joy and delight to our children is for them to see Dad and Mom are really converted. This is the real thing.

Mom and Dad, sometimes you want your trials to pass, but often it is during those trials that your kids see the evidence that you

## 2. CONTRITION OVER SIN.

Ask for forgiveness when you're wrong – but it is better just to do right in the first place. Example of David – repented. “A broken in a contrite heart the Lord will not despise” (**Psalm 51:7**).

Psalm 51 was written by David. I believe Solomon spent his twilight years reading and dedicating the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song o Solomon to his son Rehoboam.

I truly believe much of Solomon’s writing is his treatise of repentance. O that we could have some men like that here today. In all the bad Solomon did, I believe he demonstrated final repentance to his son.

Sadly it was likely too little, too late.

## 3. COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE / CONTENTMENT IN CHRIST.

There really are only three biblical reasons for divorce.

- **Ignorance.** You were divorced before you were saved.
- **Adultery.** Your spouse was unfaithful to you – **adultery**.
- **Abandonment.** Your spouse was an unbeliever and abandoned by doing various ungodly things:
  - Adultery
  - Abuse
  - Abandonment (physically leaving)

Some parents say, “You shouldn’t stay in a loveless marriage for the children.” I disagree. You should try to get help if you are Christians, but you are commanded to stay in your marriage.

God “hates divorce” (Mal. 3). The quickest way to be a bad parent is to get a divorce for unbiblical grounds. 90% of divorces today are not on biblical grounds. They are there because a person want to be “happy.”

You are never called to find your happiness in your spouse, though it’s good if you are happy with them.

A spouse, a house, a lot of money or fame or ease in this life can never bring true happiness. True contentment is found is Christ.

## 4. A LOT OF KINDNESS & COMPASSION (AND A BIT OF CORRECTION).

This means if you need to discipline, it is firm, but in love. The goal is always love and kindness. “Love your neighbor as yourself” is always the best foundation for raising children for Christ. Christ was kind and loving – especially to children. He was never too busy for them.

### Discipline and the Law to Point Kids to Christ

Use discipline to point your kids to Christ. Yes, kids need to know their boundaries. They

need to show due respect. But they also need to be treated with gentleness and kindness and respect.

It's hard being young. Always have that in mind. Have an attitude of joy when it comes to your kids.

Yes, you need to be firm, but there should be 80% positive joy and happiness, and 20% correction. This is not always the case. There are seasons. But home life should be characterized by kindness and compassion mostly, and then of course correction.

### Application

- there's only one perfect parent
- we are not it
- point your children to Christ

### Conclusion

**2 Chronicles 12:5**, "Thus says the Lord, 'You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you.'"

**James 4:8-10**, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

### You Don't Know Whose Sitting in that High Chair

One of the things I love about little ones is feeding them. You play airplane. You make it fun. They throw that spaghetti all over the table and the floor. You don't care. You know why? You don't know whose sitting in the highchair. You don't know what they are going to do. Point them to Christ!

Your child is going to live forever somewhere. Are you pointing him or her to Christ? You can't raise them the way they ought to be raised, but the Lord can. Your child needs the Holy Spirit!

### Getting our Priorities Straight

We as parents must not be so concerned about making our children successful in this world. Many parents only motive is to make sure their child does not have to suffer financial difficulty, or that they have a good education, or that they don't embarrass me. All of these are deadly motives. They seem good, and that is why they are dangerous. You see your child can get a good education, live an upstanding moral life, and be financially set, and still be lost forever.

Our main concern cannot be our child's comfort, but our child's heart and eternal destiny.