

# Strengthening the Bond – What the Bible Teaches on Marriage

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## Childrearing in Marriage

J.R. Miller: “When the children come what shall we do to them? ... Upon the parents the chief responsibility rests. They are the builders of the home. From them it receives its character, whether good or evil. It will be just what they make it. If it be happy, they must be the authors of their happiness; if it be unhappy, the blame must rest with them. Its tone, its atmosphere, its spirit, its influence, it will take from them. They have the making of the home in their own hands, and God holds them responsible for it.”

### The goals parents should have in child-rearing

1. Provision (1 Tim. 5:8)
2. Rest (Matt. 11:28)
3. Instruction (Prov. 1:8; Deut 6:6-7). Chiefly, that they might learn who God is & the fear of the Lord... to His glory & their salvation. J.R. Miller: “Homes are the real schools in which men and women are trained, and fathers and mothers are the real teachers and builders of life.”
4. Relationship (Ps. 128:3)

### The spirit parents should seek in child-rearing

1. The spirit of true religion. How can we bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, if we don't know the Lord ourselves? Mark 10:13: “And they brought young children to him.”
2. The spirit of self-denial. J.R. Miller: “Where selfishness prevails, there can be no real happiness. Love has to be ready to deny itself, to give, to sacrifice where it is sincere. Where there is love in a home, unselfishness is the law” (1 Cor. 13:5; Matt. 16:24).
3. The spirit of self-control. James 1:20: “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” J.A. James: “An irritable parent is in imminent peril of ruining his family” (Eph. 6:9).
4. The spirit of love. To love our neighbour as ourselves should be shown first and foremost in the home.

### The duties parents have in child-rearing

1. Nurture our children (Eph. 6:4)

- a. Don't tear them down
    - i. Does not mean parents have to see to it that their children are never angry with them.
    - ii. But we can provoke them to wrath when we have not nurtured a bond with our children, not nurtured love and trust, by harshness, insensitive, impatient
  - b. Do train them up
    - i. Nurture (child-training)
    - ii. Admonition (mind-impressing)
    - iii. How? Bring them up (nourishing – Eph. 5:29)
    - iv. Matthew Henry: we are not just to train our boys to be men, but to be Christians, in the admonition of the Lord
2. Correct our children (Prov. 22:15)
- a. The need for discipline: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The timing for discipline: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The way to discipline:
    - i. Not in \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. But in \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Objections to discipline
    - i. I love my children too much to spank them – Prov. 13:24
    - ii. I have tried, but it does not work. Reasons
      - 1. We are not C\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2. We are not P\_\_\_\_\_
      - 3. We discipline in anger
  - e. Aim of discipline: the heart & conscience