

Consider This – Lament of a Parent
Train up a child in the way he should go...

Proverbs 22:6 NKJV 6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

If you are a Christian and a parent you probably know this verse in Proverbs by heart. It is like *the* parental instruction. We believe it and when our child-rearing seems to go astray, we wonder what part of the proverb we did wrong.

What we seem to forget is God gave each of us as human beings the ability to choose. We can choose everything in life as parts of our lives.

Consider God as the ultimate parent and his first children, Adam and Eve. He certainly tried to train them in the correct way to live. So what went wrong? Did God fail as a parent? I don't think so.

Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Like any good parent God gave them good instructions to keep them safe and to behave in a way that would please Him; instructions for their own good.

Then His children are faced with temptation, just as temptation faces us all especially when we are children or act out as children. This temptation was about the very thing they were told to avoid. Reasoning within their own thinking when considering the temptation, they were helped along by someone who told them that it was O.K. and that the terrible thing God said would happen to them would not happen at all. Apply this to any tempting situation you can think of...I mean any.

Genesis 3:6 NKJV 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Now, consider this.

Romans 1:21-22 NKJV 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools,

In Paul's letter to the Romans he describes by inspiration of the Holy Spirit the very thought processes Adam and Eve and each one of us as children go through when considering temptation.

God had created humans with a brain for reasoning and imagining and considering the right and wrong of a thing. He helped them by telling them the right. Satan gave them the wrong telling them it was right contradicting God.

Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV 19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Proverbs 20:11-12 NKJV 11 Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right. **12** The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both.

Proverbs 22:15 NKJV 15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

And so, even with instructions given in sincerity and hopeful desire that those instructions will bear good fruit....children stray; many of us did.

We often speak about children and at what age they should be able to commit to the Lord the rest of their lives. We say "the age of accountability", whenever that might be? We say that when the child knows right from wrong and realizes that they have willfully committed wrong in God's sight. But, when they reach that age have they then stepped out from under our guidance and authority over them? Do we expect to be privy to each and every action of their lives and thinking processes?

So when they have gone off on their own and started a life of their own, getting a job, supporting themselves and marrying and so forth; what is our involvement then? Do we stop being a parent? They are still our children.

Consider this.

Jeremiah 31:30 NKJV 30 "But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.

Isaiah 59:2 NKJV 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Matthew 18:3 NKJV 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Becoming as a "little child" implies a state of mind of humility and subjection; a child that still can be taught right from wrong and will receive that teaching.