

Provoking Parents **"Teaching our Children to Live Lives of Surrender" - Part 2**

Why is it so important that parents instill in their children the principles of surrender and temperance?

First, because it will give your child mental strength.

1. If children are to excel educationally, they must have disciplined minds. They must be able to pay attention and focus on what they ought to think upon.
2. Children without temperance will follow their natural desires to goof off, day dream, and misbehave.
3. The result? They get behind in their school work, it shows up in lower grades, they get discouraged, and decide that they do not like school.
4. If they have lived their lives by the fun principle and are used to making decisions based upon what they want to do or feel like doing, they may very well resist school. Why is this? Schoolwork is not fun.
5. Learning requires mental concentration which is wearying (**Ecclesiastes 12:12**). It is easier to stare out the window, be occupied with the person next to you, make faces at the person next to you, etc. What is the problem? The children have never been taught to discipline their minds to concentrate.
6. Did you know that God expects us to be disciplined in our minds?
2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 1:13
7. What keeps children from being disciplined in their minds? What brings a lack of temperance?
 - Parents encourage shallow habits of entertainment.
 - Large doses of TV place minds in neutral - just sit there and be entertained.
 - The word "muse" means "to think." When you put the prefix "a" before it, the "a" means "to negate, not." The word "amuse" essentially means "to not think." That is what an entire generation of children are doing.
 - Just sit and be entertained or amused. Children are conditioned to be mentally lazy and pursue only what entertains their minds. They have trouble buckling down and really concentrating. They are not used to the concept of disciplining their minds to do something they don't want to do.
 - Parents fail to take the initiative in training their children's minds.
 - It is up to parents to teach their children at a young age to pay attention mentally.
 - They must **teach** them to be temperate and controlled in their thinking processes. It doesn't come naturally. **Proverbs 22:15**

Second, because it will give your child emotional strength.

1. Temperance is a key to emotional strength and stability. Have you ever seen people under pressure "lose it?" They crash and fall apart emotionally. Just as a person can learn to discipline his mind to do what it ought to do, our spirit can discipline our emotions to be displayed properly.
2. God expects us to be in control of our emotions. **Proverbs 16:32, 25:28**

3. The word "temper" is commonly misunderstood. We might say, "That person has a temper," however, a more accurate statement would be, "That person easily **loses** his temper."
 - The English word "temper" is the root of the word "temperance" which means self-control or self-restraint. When a person loses his temper or temperance, he has, in fact, lost control of his emotions.
4. There is a great word in the Bible that is commonly misunderstood. The word is "meekness." People tend to associate this word with being weak or timid. But this is not what it means at all. It carries the idea of controlled strength or controlled emotions.
 - This may result in one seemingly being mild-mannered because he does not overtly react under pressure. In other words, he keeps his cool. He doesn't lose his temperance.
 - A person who is meek is someone who has his/her emotions disciplined. There is a time and place for various emotions, but those with temperance restrain their emotions until the appropriate time.
5. Emotional stability is necessary for a servant of God. **Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; Titus 3:2**
6. When people learn to discipline their emotions, they will have built emotional strength. As muscles that are often exercised become strong, the frequent control of our emotions by our spirit will lead to emotional strength and stability.
7. Therefore, parents need to help their children to develop emotional strength by not allowing them to display emotional outbursts. If not, this will lead to a pattern of emotional weakness.
 - **Illustration:** Have you ever seen an adult lose his temper, yell and scream, throw things, talk hatefully, and maybe even curse and swear? Guaranteed, he did it as a child and nobody restrained them.
 - **Illustration:** Ever see an adult get mad and pout when he doesn't get his way? Guaranteed, he did it as a child and nobody restrained him.
8. Parents, it is our job to instill the principles of surrender to God and temperance in the lives of our children. It will provide emotional strength.

Third, it will help your child to be organized and productive.

1. Whatever organizational ability a person possesses comes from the discipline that has been instilled in his life.
2. Organization is essentially thinking ahead. This requires disciplining ourselves to foresee future needs and problems.
3. The Bible has a word for this: diligent (**Proverbs 27:23**). When a person has been disciplined to be diligent and organized, several things happen:
 - He is successful in his work - **Proverbs 10:4, 13:4, 22:29**
 - He tends to rise to leadership - **Proverbs 12:24**
 - People have confidence in him - **2 Corinthians 8:22-23**
 - He grows spiritually - **2 Peter 1:5-8** (it all starts with diligence)
4. What are some areas of life that are affected by our diligence or lack of?
 - Neatness

- Punctuality (The word diligent literally means to be up early, prompt, and energetic - diligence means “very prompt.”)
 - Job performance
5. Parents that do not instill discipline in their children's lives are doing their children a great disservice because their children will lack organization and diligence.
6. Here are some practical tips that will help parents to instill discipline in their children's lives:
- Teach your children to accept and fulfill responsibility.
 - Instill in your children a strong work ethic.
 - Use fun as a reward for hard work, but not a way of life.
 - Limit their television intake and encourage them to use their minds (reading, learning, drawing, painting, coloring, doing crafts, etc.).
 - Never allow uncontrolled emotional outbursts and temper tantrums.
 - Insist that your children be tidy and neat and take care of their possessions. Do not tolerate sloppiness.
 - Help them to establish proper priorities in life.
 - Be an example to your children and always be punctual.