

*Richardson Studies Family Anthologies*

# Restoring Parental Authority

A Lesson Including Excerpts from the Parenting Writings



By Nate Richardson



From a lesson given in the Mormon Renegade Podcast Jan. 2024

Including abbreviated highlights from Dr. Sax's Collapse of Parenting, Dr. Farrell's Boy Crisis, Anne Sullivan, early church leaders, and other bold social scientists.

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## Intro thoughts

Hugh Nibley said he is not a good teacher, he has never met a good teacher, and let you know let him know if you ever find one. So it is with parenting. I'm not a good parent, I've never met a good parent, let me know if you find one.

“Each new generation born is in effect an invasion of civilization by little barbarians, who must be civilized before it is too late.”– Thomas Sowell

RELATIONSHIP: Joseph Smith reported being rebuked by the Lord on a few occasions, it is a very painful experience. But the reason the Lord could do that with Joseph was the relationship they had.

Kids will say they want to be like others they see, unlimited access to junk food, endless time at one friends and another's, unlimited access to cell phones. In and out of the church there are hordes of children getting away with this, and it creates a very toxic situation. The reality is that most kids don't have that lifestyle today or historically but the adversary is very tricky. Our kids have to choose to put their hearts with virtuous examples, or with worldly examples. But the parent's job is to steer them toward the virtue and set limits. Elder Holland said second only to your love, your kids need your limits. Jesus has tried and killed. Many saints have never seen the fruits of their labors. Even if our kids never come around even if they never express gratitude if they never adhere to the faith etc we do our job and leave the rest of God. Neighbors and family will mock and say you're too strict or too religious and that's part of this scoffing of a Christian Life dealing with that. Find the truth from God and you live by it come hell or high water.

## Boy Crisis Excerpts

Boundary enforcement: don't cry wolf, after a warning, become the wolf.

Dads tease, rough house, prep kids for future

## Jewish Fathers 3 Jobs Toward their Sons

Teach them the Torah

Teach them a trade

Find a wife for him

## Teaching Boys to Become Men by Andrew Skousen

From the World Affairs Brief, 11.25.22

Dominance: Males of many species naturally assert themselves against the male leaders above them, challenging the old dogs, billy goats, rams, bulls, lions, etc. for the top spot. This natural competition has to be schooled into positive directions. Ultimately it should transform into leadership ability—leadership over their family and sometimes other people, activities, or business pursuits. True leadership is not based on charisma, physical prowess or popular appeal, great leaders are marked by how well they indicate the path of truth and inspire righteous action.

Anger: Anger has been universally condemned as a vice, but it is a natural emotion within all of us that, if harnessed with self-control, can be a powerful force for good. Like fire, anger can hurt and harm, but when controlled it is a source of power both to fight against evil, and shape and motivate ourselves and others. The Bible has many references to the “fury” of the Lord reflecting his powerful sense righteous indignation targeting evil actions of people against the innocent.

Anger must be tempered by good judgment and self-control. When used appropriately, you will not be ashamed at how you used it. Even Jesus showed carefully controlled anger toward sometimes lazy apostles, selfish moneychangers in the temple, and especially conspiring sinful Jewish leaders who also plotted his death. In each instance, He only spoke the truth, called them to repentance, and avoided any petty actions. Boys need to learn how to control hot-headed anger by recognizing where they or others made mistakes and work on judgment and allegiance to the truth of the matter to handle it appropriately.

Aggression is a side of anger that especially needs to be controlled. But it is also important in moments of self-defense, when evil people intend to harm us, our family, or innocent bystanders. Even when aggressively defending yourself or others don't let it cloud your judgment; Good firearm and martial arts training teaches to keep a clear head. Occasionally even explosive anger is needed at the right time to destabilize an opponent's control over you or to scare away a wild animal.

Physical desires: Everyone has to learn how to control physical appetites through self-control. Idle hands quickly become "the devil's tools" so expect them to always be engaged in valuable pursuits including chores, schoolwork, practicing musical instruments and learning a foreign language.

As boys mature, they have to master increased hormones and attractions. Chaste behavior is easier without the provocative images prevalent in modern TV, movies, music and social media today. Keep bad influences out of the house and filter and monitor all internet activities. Fill the entertainment void with wholesome books, movies and music. The better you can keep a high standard of living, the easier time they will have controlling these desires. Don't worry, you won't shield them entirely. When the modern world creeps in take the time to teach them about the deeper problems involved and how to avoid it. Eventually, activities and extra-curricular events will bring them in more contact with outside influences, but by then they will be more mature. Teach boys to be courteous and well-mannered, including the lost art of gentleman manners like opening a door for a lady, and treating them respectfully—traits that have been lost in today's world of "equality."

Pride: True pride is the same as true humility: knowing who you are and what you are worth, no more and no less. Too many young men gauge their value by peers' opinions of them, driving them to please friends. Your true ultimate worth is a reflection of God's approval and disapproval depending on our actions, intentions and desires. Accurate pride is seeing ourselves in this honest appraisal of our goodness and abilities. Parents can reinforce this by reflecting the positive and negative reaction of God to a boy's decisions and attitudes, carefully praising when appropriate, and correcting bad decisions.

Boys' proper pride naturally grows when they contribute in meaningful ways, and see the fruit of their labors. If your boys don't want to help out, or do a good job, don't just let them off the hook by doing it for them. They need to gain the self-respect of a job well done. Often this involves learning to push themselves to do hard things. Sometimes it is appropriate to step in to help them after they are already making a full-fledged effort, to help them finish or polish up a task properly, but don't let them get dependent on your help if they are capable of doing it.

Eventually pride will turn into honor. True honor is independent of people's accolades, and is inherent in honorable, unimpeachable actions. Honor is sometimes confused with blind patriotism to a country or cause, but this connection is only appropriate when the country or cause is also good. Honor is not rigid pride—it allows for humility, self-correction and asking for forgiveness when in error. Boys need to see proper honor modeled by their father, and be expected to do the honorable action and be taught why.

### Parents Must Preside (President)

Fathers preside, and we cannot escape the root of preside coming from president.

The chief gets his authority from those he governs. In family this means he must obey God if his wife is to obey him.



A president creates order. If there is a disagreement, rather than being disagreed, they unite under the decision of the president.

## Orson Pratt Parenting Advice from Celestial Marriage Book, Highlights Abbreviated

Do not discipline a child when angry because you'll have poor judgment as to how much discipline to give at that time. Let the children see that you punish them not from your anger but for their good. They will learn that you are not a tyrant doing whatever you wish but that you are doing what's best for them. Be deliberate and calm in your councils and reproofs, but be earnest.

Do not threaten something you're not willing to follow through with or the children will take up the habit of lying, they will believe that there is no harm in lying.

Never failed to award and punish according to your promises.

Do not be so rigid in your governing of your family that they think you are never pleased with them remember mercy and love. Justice should be tempered with Mercy and love should be interwoven in all things. May your children not fear you to run from you but enjoy your presence. Govern your children as parents not as tyrants they will copy your methods. Do not be continually scrolling.

When a father is disciplining a child the mother should not intervene this is against the order of God's government and it creates division. If the mother is not satisfied she can speak to the father in private not in front of the children. For wives to disagree and quarrel is a great evil and even greater evil if done in front of the children. If parents want to Coral and destroy their happiness at least let them do it out of the presence of the children so as to not also destroy the happiness of the children.

## Kids Won't Spontaneously Learn to Be Good – Joseph Smith

“If children are to be brought up in the way they should go, to be good citizens here and happy hereafter, they must be taught. It is idle to suppose that children will grow up good, while surrounded with wickedness, without cultivation. It is folly to suppose that they can become learned without education.”

--Discourses of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 273

## Russ Barlow in kids 20 percent

“It has been our family tradition for years that when children begin to earn money outside the home (including babysitting, lawn mowing etc) that they contribute 20% toward their 'room and board.' This was mandatory, and though there were some complaints, almost always they readily accepted this responsibility. As they reached adulthood, all have come to appreciate this valuable lesson.”

## Hold On To Your Kids - Abbreviated Highlights

Why Parents Need To Matter More Than Peers by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate

When children become more attached to peers than family, it is like having an affair. Ch.2

"It is generally unrecognized by parents and professionals that the root of the problem is not parental ineptitude but parental impotence in the strictest meaning of that word: lacking sufficient power. The absent quality is power, not love or knowledge or commitment or skill. Our predecessors had much more power than

parents today. In getting children to heed, our grandparents wielded more power than our parents could exercise over us or we seem to have over our children." Ch4

Peer oriented kids don't care about the Bible or great art and classics, "They know only what is current and popular, appreciate only what they can share with their peers." ch7

Attachment with a parent makes the stress of peers ignoring them, taunting, etc. bearable in many ways; a shield of protection. ch8

children have always snubbed, ignored, shunned, shamed other children but in these days children do not have the attachment to family to override the impact of peer acceptance or rejection. Ch8

"It is not friends that children need." - "Until children are capable of true friendship, they really do not need friends, just attachments." ch17

## When Kids Don't Want Religion

Elder McConkie said to his kids, you have agency, you can come to church and not like it, or come to church and like it.

Church is about so much more than worship of Christ. It is family culture. The family uses church as a way to help each member to become their best self, a good citizen, socially armed, versed in letters, of a good temper, and so forth.

As the guardians of that child, you have the legal right to insist on their attendance with you wherever you go.

Even family scripture study can be a requirement. This is a discussion of life, a time of teaching correct principles. It can be done during a family meal to support schedules and unwillingness. At the meal the child doesn't leave until excused. This is all part of it.

The child must understand: church is but a small part of the family culture. It looks like it pervades everything (because it does), but it's not just worship of Christ we refer to when we speak of church and religion. Our religion is what tells us how to live. It's the how to live that takes up all our time, and directs the way we do everything. If they have an issue with the way we do everything, even if you deleted the church element, the faith in Christ, there's still so much going on. There's when we sleep, how we eat, how we learn, how we play, how we work, etc. Our culture is founded in religion, and don't think that just getting rid of religion is going to get rid of all the culture! Just quitting religion isn't going to save you in this family! We live our religion constantly, and it's not just praising!

You don't have to believe in God, but you do have to abide by our expectations and culture. When you move out, sure, you can leave all that behind. But we hope that by then, you will have learned a deep sense of gratitude toward us parents for what we have chosen to do for you, and that you will have learned the wisdom in what we have been teaching you, enough to adopt many of these practices into your life long term.

### Helen Keller Training: Strict Works

A student of mine commented, "This is when teachers were allowed to discipline their students." Precisely. And that is why Sullivan had tremendous success with Keller, and why we are having little success with you! (I didn't say that to the lad, but it was sort of understood anyway. Everyone saw the success this teacher was having and knew their teachers don't have success, and nodded their heads.)

In one depiction of the Hellen Keller story, Hellen's father sees Sullivan struggling with the child, and says, "do you even like her?" Sullivan responds, "do you?" The truth is, that when a child is completely out of control, no one likes them! Only when order is established can peace prevail. Training and enforced boundaries are needed. One day I was having some particular trouble

with a class of mine, and we had to sure up the rules of the classroom due to the increased bad behaviors. One of the students commented, “I don’t even like this class.” I responded, “Neither do I!” Neither of us were able to have a good time when chaos prevailed.

Sullivan pointed out that she needed complete control over her pupil (Hellen) if she was to be able to teach her pupil. She knew that there couldn’t just be a soft way out. There needed to be real, and even harsh consequences for noncompliance. Sullivan knew that hardship makes someone strong, and the role of a teacher is to make a pupil strong, so the teacher must put the student through something hard. In today’s world, teachers and parents don’t have complete control over their pupils, and the training abilities are limited. Sure its good to have some basic standards to protect children, but what’s happening goes far beyond that, and makes the state more of the parent than the actual parent.

## Legality of Spanking in Utah

My attorney brother shared these insights with me on the question of spanking legality in Utah:

The law is not particularly clear on spanking, but there is no prohibition against corporal punishment and most judges use a reasonableness standard (which I recognize is itself subjective). Typically if you are not acting to intentionally harm, and are correcting and not leaving any bruising or marks of any kind, it is OK.

Unfortunately the law, like law enforcement, depends on the interpretation of the judge or police officer involved. I have seen judges get angry at parents for spanking, but acknowledge it is not illegal. I have also seen judges condone it as necessary from time to time. I am aware of a specific law that gives a parent the right to spank or administer corporal punishment; it is found in the child abuse statute:

Utah Code 76-5-109

Link here: [https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter5/76-5-S109.html?v=C76-5-S109\\_2022050420220504](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter5/76-5-S109.html?v=C76-5-S109_2022050420220504)

The litmus test is whether you cause bruising or injury, but the statute does specifically permit "reasonable discipline or management" (section 4(c)(i)), which I interpret as spanking or other similar discipline.

– Surveys show that about 50% of parents today support spanking, which is down from 90% in the 1950s. (From <https://education.byu.edu/youcandothis/spanking.html>)

Beware spanking being labeled abusive. Meridian Magazine recently pointed out, “now days if a parent spans a child it is likely that the child will have been taught by their school that this is abuse. This teaching encourages children to tell on their parents or to report their parents to authorities even when the spanking was going to be done with love and calmness. Since there are people telling children what is right and wrong instead of parents being the authority on what is right and wrong parents have just cause to abandon spanking as an acceptable parenting practice to protect their families from government intrusion.” (Meridian Magazine (not an official church publication), Nicholeen Peck (author

of

**A House United: Changing Children's Hearts and Behaviors by Teaching Self Government** ) 2014 "Can Spanking be ok Sometimes?" <https://ldsmag.com/can-spanking-be-okay-sometimes/>)

## Spanking Debate: Pro: Points from Jordan Peterson

Peterson points out that according to the neurobiology, isolating someone (putting them in time out, giving the cold shoulder, etc.) is just as destructive as a little swat. It's just that one has become politically incorrect.

It doesn't "just teach them to hit". A spank can hardly be classed as a hit. As Jordan Peterson says in "12 Rules for Life" in his chapter "Don't Let Kids Do Anything That Upsets You", if a spank or swat or flick to train a child is "hitting", then a drop of rain is an atomic bomb! Along these lines, we shouldn't say "violence doesn't solve anything", as if this could be called violence on the same level with an aggressive assault with intention to harm.

Peterson also points out that "no" needs to have a threat behind it, or it's useless. The child needs to know who is in charge, or they will learn that adults are powerless grumpy people to be ignored and even toyed with, and this gives them a bleak future, never wanting to grow up like Peter Pan.

Peterson goes on to say that if behavior is not corrected early, it'll be corrected by society later in much more harsh ways. Is giving a swat harsh? If it is, it's nothing compared to how harsh their life is going to be if they never learn to be socially acceptable and likeable people.

Peterson says that if we are indulgent, things will turn into chaos. That we will be far better off dealing with what goes on, even the minor things, than letting things build up and turn into resentment and hatred. He shows that parents who let their kids get away with things are less likely to be compassionate with the child, that they develop a grudge against the child, that they don't find pleasure in their children anymore, they turn things into a Cold War, ensuing in much more destructive attitudes and even murderousness.

## The Spanking Debate - more thoughts

Controlled anger to discipline today is far better than letting things turn into chaos. Letting children grow into out of control adults who learn to hate life, and who then become truly bitter and destructive.

No, we don't need kids to live in a house full of yelling, frequent spanking, and chaos. We must govern our homes in peace, and prudently discipline so that peace can prevail. Tempers of all must be governed, especially the parents, as the children follow the parents by and by.

The critics complain that these are 'short term' results only, but the fact is that kids need to learn good behavior, and when they have the experience of good behavior, the spirit will reward them with joy for that, so they'll know by their experience that

1. They are capable of good behavior and
2. That it is in their best interest to behave.

A white glove with an iron fist. The officer of peace carries a firearm, and hopes he never has to use it. But he reserves the right to use it on the rare occasion that it is needed. The threat and authority of it do most of the work.

We don't want to inflict any type of wound on a child.

-Yelling at a child with an agry horrifying face seems more terrorizing than the occational calm swat to send the message. Yelling gives the idea of powerlessness and debate and loss of control.

-Jesus chased people out of a temple with a whip and destroyed their furniture.

-Jesus destroyed entire civilizations as Jehovah, including the command to kill all related to wicked society. Perhaps we are too temperamental about sin these days. He sent a flood that killed everyone on earth except one family.

Parenting is no walk in the park. It's not a hippie game. It's real love, and it's real tough love. It's a divine thing - just like how God has power to bless or curse, so does the parent. It's gotta be real. If the parent isn't making their word alive by



having boundaries with dreaded punishments, how will the kid believe that God is alive, or that God has any punishments that would concern them? We focus on the blessings for good behavior, but without the possibility of punishment when you cross a line of unacceptable behavior, you are weak and not to be respected.

The middle scripture of the Book of Mormon is the Anti Nephi Lehtes who bury their weapons of war. This does seem to be a good method sometimes. But we also see the righteous use of self defense after repeated provocation, etc. Similarly, parents can teach their children that there are limits that shouldn't be violated. Parents govern with prudence and care, but aren't to be butlers and doormats.

Don't let your kids turn into something you hate, and something other people will hate. Then the kid will experience isolation throughout life, and this is much worse than the occasional strict pointed discipline for clearly unacceptable behavior.

## CS Lewis on Not Being a Pacifist - Highlights Abbreviated

Just because war doesn't solve all of our problems doesn't mean that it doesn't solve some of them; for example, if you defend yourself from a tiger that's still a good thing even though it didn't cure your rheumatism.

History is full of useless wars as well as useful wars.

Sometimes to help one person you have to do violence to another person.

In some instances death penalty may be the only sufficient method of respect. The death sentence is not just an expression of fear it is an expression of the importance of high morals that need to be defended.

Oppression is a greater evil than death and pain.

The question is not whether war is a great evil, the question is, is war the greatest evil.

(Note: When there are unideal situations we have to use unideal methods as those are the only methods which you have at your disposal to meet the demands of that situation. The greater evil would be allowing chaos and danger to prevail. Allowing anarchy and brewing contempt.)

Only liberal societies tolerate pacifists. Pacifist states are handed over to their totalitarian neighbors. A pacifist state is a straight road to a world where there will be no pacifists.

If you think that there's never righteous war you have to part with all the great literature, all the great philosophers. Quotes, "If you will not take the universal opinion of mankind I have no more to say".

Jesus said pacifist things but those must be taken with qualification. If you just take single things that Jesus said and apply them alone, you also have plenty of other difficult things including not pacifist things to abide by.

Yes we turn the other cheek, but there are obvious exceptions.

Obviously Jesus did **not mean that when raising a child to just let that child hit** its parents whenever it wants, or to just give your child whatever it wants

Jesus' teaching is clear, we should control our anger.

How we respond to something depends on the situation because there legitimately may be another reason for retaliating than egotistic anger. When you hit back but not in egotistic anger you can in fact be justified.

You can't dig up a historical Jesus and use that to say that Christianity is wrong because many people have tried to do that with their own flavor of Jesus the liberal Jesus the Marxist Jesus all kinds of different Jesus that people promote.

(Note: The Book of Mormon gives us the true Jesus, and affirms the once clear and accepted testimony of the bible. The point of the Book of Mormon is to get people to believe the bible again.)

## Don't Be Soft on Crime

Kent Hovind points out that it is a communist idea to be soft on crime, things like "3 strikes you're out". This tramples on victims rights.

Cleon Skousen as chief of police of SLC had to deal with crime with a firm hand, and the crime and homelessness and prostitution was virtually eliminated. People complained and he was released from office, and the crime returned.

A retired police officer from Washington told me we are the first nation in the history of the world that has made punishment painless. He says we aren't deterring crime, and the criminals are overrunning us. He says police in big cities aren't allowed to do their job. He says that many a man has been made experiencing consequences, and we are now robbing of them of that opportunity.

## Ogletree's 7 Mistakes LDS Parents Make

Ideas from Mark Ogletree PhD for Latter-day Saint parents. Compare them and think of your own list to sure up your parenting methods.

1. Not teaching your children how to work effectively.

2. Teaching children that obedience is optional. (allowing disobedience contributes to disobedience)
3. Protecting children from anything they don't want to do, or anything that is hard, uncomfortable, or inconvenient. (Homework, participation, etc.)
4. Teaching your children that agency means freedom.
5. Teaching your children that you will be there to solve every problem.
6. Sheltering children from rejection and disappointment. ("Trophies all around")
7. Teaching your children that they don't need a testimony right now—it can wait until they are older.

Ogletree's full article at [http://www.ldsliving.com/7-Mistakes-LDS-Parents-Make-and-How-to-Avoid-Them/s/78481/?utm\\_source=ldsliving&utm\\_medium=sidebar&utm\\_campaign=r](http://www.ldsliving.com/7-Mistakes-LDS-Parents-Make-and-How-to-Avoid-Them/s/78481/?utm_source=ldsliving&utm_medium=sidebar&utm_campaign=r)

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## Randal's 25 Mistakes LDS Parents Make

From book "The 24 Mistakes LDS Parents Make and How to Avoid Them book by Randal A. Wright, PhD

Randal is a long-time social scientist and church member who has worked teaching in the CES program.

Compare them and think of your own list to sure up your parenting methods.

1. Home environment (that reflects the gospel)

2. Quality time (and quantity)
3. The crossroads (be there at critical times)
4. Family traditions (have them to teach, indoctrinate, & unify)
5. Children's friends (don't allow them to associate too closely with those who don't share their values)
6. Peer pressure (teach how to deal with it)
7. Television (limit exposure, none in bedrooms)
8. Music (limit access to inappropriate)
9. Movies (prevent exposure to inappropriate)
10. Parental example
11. Expressing love verbally (daily to family members)
12. Physical affection (give it)
13. Support (each other's events, games, & activities)
14. Marriage (build it strong to show how it works)
15. Family fun (& laughter)
16. Discipline (be consistent, non-harsh, non-lax)
17. Worldly heroes (discourage over-involvement)
18. Teaching correct principles (don't assume church & society will)
19. Human intimacy (teach the importance and proper role)
20. Steady dating (prohibit during teen years)
21. Underage dating (before 16)
22. Communication (keep the lines open with your children)
23. Self-worth (build a positive self-image in your children)
24. Spiritual experiences (take advantage of inspired church-sponsored programs)
25. Warning signs (recognize)

## [Loving Parenting Quotes Early LDS](#)

-“Nothing is so much calculated to lead people to forsake sin as to take them by the hand, and watch over them with tenderness. When persons manifest the least kindness and love to me, O what power it has over my mind, while the opposite course has a tendency to harrow up all the harsh feelings and depress the human mind” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith)

[1976], 240) (Cited in Eternal Marriage manual, “Parenthood: Creating a Gospel Centered Home”; see <https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/parenthood-creating-a-gospel-centered-home?lang=eng>)

-“It is not by the whip or the rod that we can make obedient children; but it is by faith and by prayer, and by setting a good example before them” (Brigham Young, Deseret News Weekly, 9 Aug. 1865, 3)

-“Parents should never drive their children, but lead them along, giving them knowledge as their minds are prepared to receive it. Chastening may be necessary betimes, but parents should govern their children by faith rather than by the rod, leading them kindly by good example into all truth and holiness” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1941], p. 208). (This is cited in the Parent Guide LDS manual)

-“That President Young lived the principles he taught is evidenced by his daughter Susa’s description of him as “an ideal father. Kind to a fault, tender, thoughtful, just and firm. ... None of us feared him; all of us adored him” (*LSBY*, 356)” (Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, Ch 46 “Parental Responsibility”; see <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-46?lang=eng>)

-“I will here say to parents, that kind words and loving actions towards children, will subdue their uneducated natures a great deal better than the rod, or, in other words, than physical punishment. Although it is written that, “The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame,” and, “he that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes;” these quotations refer to wise and prudent corrections. **Children who have lived in the sunbeams of parental kindness and affection, when made aware of a parent’s displeasure, and receive a kind reproof from parental lips, are more thoroughly chastened, than by any physical punishment** that could be applied to their persons. It is written, that the Lord “shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth.” And again it is written, “a whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool’s back.” The rod of a parent’s mouth, when used in correction of a beloved child, is more potent in its effects, than the rod

which is used on the fool's back. When children are reared under the rod, which is for the fool's back, it not unfrequently occurs, that they become so stupified and lost to every high-toned feeling and sentiment, that though you bray them in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not their foolishness depart from them. Kind looks, kind actions, kind words, and a lovely, holy deportment towards them, will bind our children to us with bands that cannot easily be broken; while abuse and unkindness will drive them from us, and break asunder every holy tie, that should bind them to us, and to the everlasting covenant in which we are all embraced. **If my family; and my brethren and sisters, will not be obedient to me on the basis of kindness, and a commendable life before all men, and before the heavens, then farewell to all influence.** Earthly kings and potentates obtain influence and power by terrorism, and maintain it by the same means. Had I to obtain power and influence in that way, I should never possess it in this world nor in the next. Fathers who send their little boys and girls on the plains and ranges, to herd their cattle and sheep, and drag them out of bed very early in the morning, to go out in the cold and wet, perhaps without shoes and but scantily clad otherwise, are cruel to their offspring, and when their children arrive at years of maturity, they will leave the roof under which they have received such oppression, and free themselves from the control of parents, who have acted towards them, **more like task-masters than natural protectors.** It is in this unnatural school that our **thieves have their origin**, and where they receive their first lessons in dishonesty and wild recklessness. Mark the path in which a number of our boys have travelled, from the time they were eight or ten years of age, to sixteen, eighteen and twenty. **Have they been caressed and kindly treated** by their parents, sent to school, and when at home taught to read good books, taught to pray themselves, and to hear their parents pray? **Have they been accustomed to live and breathe in a peaceful, quiet, heavenly influence when at home? No. Then can you wonder that your children are wild, reckless and ungovernable?** They care not for a name, or standing in society, every noble aspiration is blunted; for they are made to go here or there, like mere machines, at the beck and call of tyrant parents, and are uncultivated and uncivilized. This picture will apply to a few of our young men. Let parents treat their children as they themselves would wish to be treated, and set an example before them that is worthy of you as Saints of God. Parents are responsible before the Lord, for the way in which they educate and train their children, for "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but

they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses Vol. 10, 360-362; find it here [https://www.fairmormon.org/answers/Journal\\_of\\_Discourses/10/66](https://www.fairmormon.org/answers/Journal_of_Discourses/10/66)) (a portion of the above quote is also featured in Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young, Ch 46 <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-46?lang=eng>)

## Scriptures on the Rod & Parenting

Here we see at least 4 separate references on the rod and parenting. While these may be interpreted to mean generally to correct children prudently as Brigham Young taught, we see these passages are repeated in the scripture, and cannot be dismissed. We are taught to reject any teaching which does not square with scripture.

-“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” (Proverbs 29:15)

-Proverbs 29:15“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

-“Withhold not correction from a child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.” (Proverbs 23:13-14)

2 Sam. 7:14 “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:”

-1 Sam. 3 the Lord punishes Eli for not restraining his children from doing evil. It seems Eli lost his priesthood for this offense.

– “Now, I, the Lord, am not well pleased with the inhabitants of Zion, for there are idlers among them; and their children are also growing up in wickedness; they also seek not earnestly the riches of eternity, but their eyes are full of greediness. These things ought not to be, and must be done away from among them; wherefore, let my servant Oliver Cowdery carry these sayings unto the land of Zion.” (D&C 68:31-32)



- “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city” ([Proverbs 16:32](#))

## Strict Parenting Quotes Early LDS

-“You ought always to take the lead of your children in their minds and affections. **Instead of being behind with the whip**, always be in advance, then you can say, “Come along,” and you will have no use for the rod. They will delight to follow you, and will like your words and ways, because you are always comforting them and giving them pleasure and enjoyment. **If they get a little naughty, stop them when they have gone far enough.** . . . When they transgress, and transcend certain bounds we want them to stop. If you are in the lead they will stop, they cannot run over you; but if you are behind they will run away from you.” (*DNSW*, 8 Dec. 1868, 2–3) (also cited in *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young*, Ch 46  
<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-46?lang=eng>)

-“I tell the mothers **not to allow the children to indulge in evils**, but at the **same time to treat them with mildness**. If a child is required to step in a certain direction, and it does not seem willing to do so, **gently put it in the desired way**, and say, There, my little dear, you must step when I speak to you. Children need directing and teaching what is right in a kind, affectionate manner.” (*DBY*, 209) (also cited in *Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young*, Ch 46  
<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-brigham-young/chapter-46?lang=eng>)

**Truly He loves us, and because He loves us, He neither compels nor abandons us.** Rather He helps and guides us. Indeed, **the real manifestation of God’s love is His commandments.** (Elder Christofferson “Free Forever to Act for Themselves”, Oct. 2014 Conf. Report)

-“No man can ever become a ruler in the Kingdom of God, until he can perfectly rule himself; then is he capable of raising a family of children who will rise up and call him blessed” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 265; cited in *Eternal*)

Marriage manual, see <https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/parenthood-creating-a-gospel-centered-home?lang=eng>).

-“As parents, we are sometimes **too intimidated to teach or testify to our children**. I have been guilty of that in my own life. Our children need to have us share spiritual feelings with them and to teach and bear testimony to them.” (Robert D Hales in Conference Report, Apr. 1999, 41–44; or *Ensign*, May 1999, 33–34; Cited in Eternal Marriage manual, “Parenthood: Creating a Gospel Centered Home”; see <https://www.lds.org/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/parenthood-creating-a-gospel-centered-home?lang=eng>)

## Joel Skousen on Discipline

Corporal punishment needs to happen when rebellion is occurring. Sadly, too many soft mom's are incapable of being believable disciplinarians. I had to work hard to get my wife to do it right. Corporal punish has to be hard and painful, because only then is it a proper deterrent. If I were a Dad who had to deal with a wife refusing to discipline, I'd tell the kids, that if I ever come home and here that deserved spanking was delay until I came home, I'd give it to them so hard, they'd never want to suffer that again. Kids only have bad experiences with discipline when they won't own up to their own faults, or when a soft mother is not supporting a tough dad, or when the Dad isn't fair or taking the time to explain the real root problem---the kid not listening to conscience, and rebellion to what he knows to be right in his conscience.

Anger: I believe corporal punishment should always be accompanied by controlled anger---letting the kid know by raising the voice that this kind of conduct is not to be tolerated. The big issue is repetitive behavior problems. When that happens, you know whatever you're doing discipline wise is not strong enough, and 2) you're not disciplining bad attitudes, which always precede bad actions.

Listen to your conscience and look at the horrible results of permissiveness in families who don't discipline. That's all the evidence you need.

## Joel Skousen Conscience Training

Don't let something nag on, make peace, set the boundary, then all can feel safe and be calm. Peace is when there is order. There is no peace without order. Constant negotiating isn't peace.

People who think well know that it is an active process. Control and analyze what you think about force yourself to be aware of and analyze every thought to determine its credibility.

Replace things which aren't inherently wrong but which are not as productive as other things you could be doing.

God tests us by seeing whether we will act on the good promptings or the bad promptings they both sound like your own voice.

Conscience is about helping you sort out conflicting priorities.

**Parents** often become so desensitized to conscience that the bad behavior of their children doesn't bother them enough to stop it.

**Parents** often feel the guilt of being too strict but they're often not sensitive enough to feel the guilt of being too permissive.

**Parents**, have a list of constructive things your children can learn and do in their spare time. Then train them to discipline themselves about what they should be doing. To feel what they've left undone, etc.

You don't have to be a rule making and legalistic society when you train to listen to conscience do this training by a little promptings you give frequently about how they're feeling and how you're feeling about what they should do.

Much societal withdrawal is needed for children as they haven't yet learned to resist evil. This is why homeschooling is popular among conscious parents.

When you accept a chronic issue as something you can't overcome, you have dulled out your conscience.

## No Traumatic “Sleep Training” Neglect of Infants

What science really shows is that the children suffer in their attachment, and learn to have less trust in the world, and live with greater fear.

When kids cry for help and no one comes, they learn not to express their feelings, and this continues throughout life.

## Recreation Wholesome

“It is impossible to unite Christ and Baal – their spirits cannot unite, their objects and purposes are entirely different; the one leads to eternal life and exaltation, the other to death and final destruction.” (Brigham Young, JD vol. 11; “Union. Persecution. The Nature of the Kingdom of God.)

“Refrain from illusions and seek divine and scientific truth” – Mother of Dimitri Mendeleev, her last words to him.

“Too often we use many hours for fun and pleasure, clothed in the euphemism ‘I’m recharging my batteries.’ Those hours could be spent reading and studying to gain knowledge, skills, and culture.” (President Henry B Eyring in “Today’s Family: Chose Wholesome Recreation” at

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/choose-wholesome-recreation?lang=eng>

-video **games: most kids get addicted** to them; and most of them are frivolous; simulators could work, but still, we see desensitization to reading. Throwing a ball, many things improve your skills in similar ways that these games do. You don't want kids living in the virtual world, that's not how to get the most out of life.

One author of silly books for children with goofy flying zombie cheese etc. laughed at how an old man scolded him for not writing books with morals, the audience laughed, but this author's conscience won't let him forget this encounter.

-All the music these days have these **2 themes: 1. Do it your way, 2. Don't worry** about the future. AKA, you, not God, are in charge, and God can't get in your way.

-Heavy metal bands openly anti religion getting paid to come give motivational speeches. One **recent assembly** a guy showed up and straight up said religion is crap. They he gave some watered down protestant sermon. So this is what we are authorizing, this false priesthood to preach to our kids at these schools.

-The **dances** and assemblies are trash, and people pay others to spew this trash. They jump around like primates.

-They feel **shy**, which is their **conscience** telling them don't engage in this non-sense, and Babylon is all about training you how to violate conscience.

-**Entire genres** should be avoided. Some say ‘the kids don’t **understand** what the song is saying’ but they do understand the sound, their spirits are wise, and they’ll gravitate to that toxic **culture** the music is always about.

-Pokemon characters all sassy and mean, and the whole theme is dark and occultic, **made by same people** as “Magic the Gathering”; Satan is gathering his anti-Christ New Age adherents. Many homeschool families fall into this trap of excessive fantasy and magic rather than focusing on truth.

-Pornographic lines and costumes blended in: example of an associate it playing in a home and a **random line** of taking a picture without clothes on in a child cartoon anime; it’s double speech: did anyone else hear that?

-At work I had a student say when I expressed discomfort about an anime shirt they were wearing, “there’s **no such thing as Christian anime.**” True. It’s based on eastern culture & ideas, & boundaries of gender modesty respect aren’t strong like in the west.

-Yoga **Reiki** accessing spirit guides of the Hindu faith, reincarnation, etc. Prayers to Hindu Gods. **Giving up one’s consciousness** and self control to ‘the universe’; same with hypnosis: never give up your agency, your self control.

-That’s the **danger of all temptation: it’s about trading your power of agency** for some cheap fleeting thrill. So many songs sing “lose control”, that’s a Satanic message. Brigham talked about this: we **shouldn’t fly off the handle** in rage, shouldn’t just express every emotion we feel. Rather, we should control ourselves.

## Abbreviated Highlights from The Collapse of Parenting by Dr. Leonard Sax



Today's parents are unwilling to force a child to go to a certain school because they don't want to deal with the complaining that might ensue. 40 years ago parents sending a kid to a private school would not let the kids choose and would **overrule the kids preference for their sake**

Over the past three decades there has been a massive transfer of authority from parents to kids. "Let kids decide" has become a mantra of good parenting

Peers are leading peers. The blind leading the blind.

Note- also beware the church groups, those can be just as bad. I know I met my sketchiest childhood friends at church.

### Ch. 1 The Culture of Disrespect (Kids are the Boss)

He asked hundreds of kids at different venues: "if all your friends joined a certain social media site but one of your parents had a concern about it would you still join?" The kids didn't answer yes or no, they just laughed. The answer to them was obvious: you join.

Elder Packer pointed this out in a pointed way: "Largely because of television, instead of looking over into that spacious building, we are, in effect, living inside

of it. That is your fate in this generation. You are living in that great and spacious building.” (President Boyd K. Packer Jan. 16 2007 Lehi's Dream and You - Boyd K. Packer - BYU Speeches))

*Note- kids books these days don't even try to teach morals, they're only aim is to make it as entertaining as possible to sell the most books possible and to just “get the kids to read”; they don't dare include any moral teachings in the books just in case that would offend some kids or bore some kids. I went to a school assembly a few years ago where a young author told a story about how when he first released his popular nonsense kids books, an old man marched up to him, and scolded him for making these books which teach no morals whatsoever. The audience at the assembly laughed, but I agree with the old man. Authors and influences have a moral obligation to teach good morals. I believe the author remembered and retold this story because deep down, he knows the old man is right*

When kids misbehave it's less controversial to suggest that the kid has oppositional defiance disorder or hyperactivity disorder than to suggest that the parents need to train the kid. They turn to diagnosis and medication rather than parents working harder at training

(Note- still think the US is a Christian nation? Elder Cook recently said, “The goal of honoring the Lord and submitting ourselves to His will is not as valued in today’s society as it has been in the past. Some Christian leaders of other faiths believe we are living in a post-Christian world.” (Elder Quinton L. Cook, 2017 Oct. Gen. Conf. “The Eternal Everyday” The Eternal Everyday (churchofjesuschrist.org)))

Talking animals are shown to be more insightful than fathers. In the 1960s- '80s parents were shown as competent leaders.

Parents mistakenly think that a child is being independent when they skip a family vacation and go stay at a friend's house instead. They are still dependent, they're just **transferring that dependency from their parents to their peers**. This results in the child's top priorities becoming pleasing their peers.



*Note- tough love is an essential element of wholesome love. This is why parenting can be excruciating at times. To express your love, you have to say no*

*If you're just trying to get your kids to love you rather than trying to train them morally, the odds are you won't even get them to love you. Parents who put their child's wishes first only earn their child's contempt.*

## Ch. 2 Why Are So Many Kids Overweight (No Parental Controls)

The norm in America as recently as the 1970s used to be kids eat what's for supper or they go hungry.

Family diet standards used to include no dessert until you eat your vegetables and no snacking between meals.

Michelle Obama made a school policy of junk food, providing more healthy food, and results we saw included lots of healthy food in the trash can. Just offering healthy choices (while still offering unhealthy ones) won't result in consistent healthy choices!

Animals with free access to food become fatter than animals with scheduled access to food even when it's the same amount of food they eat.

Kids who never experience hunger will grow up to be fatter and psychologically weaker.

Parents beg their children to eat greens and the kid then feels like they've done their parent a favor if they do so, and that their parent owes them something. So don't ask or beg, you have to tell. Restrict rewards when they don't comply.

Note: Church activities these days typically have toxic food every time.

The most common leisure activity in the recent past was outdoor play. Just a generation ago **kids spent all their time playing outside** and only came in for meals. One mother asked her child “it’s such a beautiful day, why don't you go play outside?” The child responded sincerely “but where would I plug in my Xbox?”

Many schools have banned dodgeball due to theoretical liability issues and supposed bullying out of a concern that such a game might lower a child's self-esteem.

In 1969, 41% of kids walked or rode their bike to school. By 2001 it dropped to 13%.

American kids have screens in their bedrooms and they don't have self control to turn those off when it's time to sleep. The bedroom should be for sleeping. When the AAP came out with these guidelines to **not have screens in the bedroom, the media just mocked it as an impossible standard.**

Note- the Church has long taught not to have screens in bedrooms too.

The culture of disrespect leads to kids not eating vegetables, kids not doing chores, more likely to play video games, and less likely to sleep when they should. Chronically defiant and disrespectful kids are 3x as likely to become obese as respectful kids.

### [Ch. 3 Why Are So Many Kids on Medication? \(No Parental Controls\)](#)

Psychiatrists spend minimal time with a person before they prescribe dangerous medications.

It's normal for kids to get mad and have mood swings, it's not necessarily bipolar disorder. But parents don't know how to deal with these behaviors so they're turning to diagnosis and medication.

The job of the parent is to teach self-control, to teach what is and is not acceptable to establish boundaries and enforce consequences. Two decades ago that was common sense.

In '94 it was unheard of for someone under 20 to be diagnosed with bipolar. For every 1 kid diagnosed with bipolar in 1994, 43 kids were diagnosed with it in 2003.

They want to give your kids Risperdal and Seroquel and other adult bipolar drugs.

For every one child in England given a bipolar disorder, 73 in the US are

Outside of North America people don't take kids to doctors and get experimental medications as the first line of defense.

Teachers outside of America are much more comfortable with their authority, they're comfortable with using a firm voice to get a kid to stop doing disruptive behaviors.

When a kid becomes reclusive, spending most of his time in video games, and becomes irritable from that behavior, parents are quick to take him to get a psychiatric diagnosis of ADHD and medicate him. Parents report the sparkle in the eye of a child going away once they get on these medications

Sleep deprivation mimics ADHD almost perfectly.

In the US, around 10% of kids are on ADHD medication and in the UK it's about 0.7%.

There's a 14x higher chance that an American kid will get treated with medication for ADHD than a kid in the UK. One family moved to America from England and they noticed a stark contrast, in America, all the teachers doctors everybody was pushing for her kids to get on ADHD medication.

From 2009 to 2013 there was a 10-fold increase in American ADHD diagnosis. Medicating kids under age 12 with mood stabilizers and antipsychotics between 1993-2009 went up 700%.

We have turned misbehavior into a medical issue to be diagnosed and medicated rather than trained and corrected.

20 or 30 years ago the school principal, when there's a kid acting out, would have told the parent "your son is rude and disrespectful and exhibits no self-control. You need to teach him some basic rules about civilized behavior if he is to stay at this school." Now School administrators don't speak authoritatively to parents, they just suggest a medical practitioner or psychologist be consulted, at which point the kid is diagnosed with something and given medication.

ADHD medications all work in the same way, they increase dopamine, and it is very likely that long-term use of these results in a person being unable to feel natural normal feelings.

If you do feel like you absolutely need a medication try a non-stimulant one such as Startera, Intunive, or Wellbutrin.

One boy ran around a classroom making buzzing noises and would not stop, ignoring the repeated instruction from the teacher. The teacher finally said "stop or else". The kid said "or else what?" The teacher said "or else I'll make you stop." The kid then buzzed even louder and the teacher tried to stop him at which point he bit her wrist drawing blood. The teacher called the parent and the parent said "don't you know he has a psychiatric diagnosis, he probably needs a medication change, you should have called The psychiatrist directly, don't you have his number?"

Doing a check up on a 6-year-old, he said "now we're going to look at your throat." The parent interjected a question "can the doctor look at your throat? We could get ice cream." The parent turned it into a negotiation and a bribe when it should have just been a task that quickly got done. The authority of the grown-ups was undermined.

The general rule for authoritative just right parents is "don't ask, command."

On a scale from 0 to 7 dinners with parents a week, the more dinners with parents the better off the kid was.

In Scotland, Switzerland and New Zealand, it is less common than in America for families to have radio and TV on during dinner

## Ch. 4 Why are American Students Falling Behind (Disrespect)

Australian teachers don't have students undermining their authority, trying to bring them down. They do not have the culture of disrespect we do in America. Students in Australia routinely thank and praise their teachers.

*(Note - Shortly after reading this, I ran into a missionary from Australia. I told her about what I'd learned about the culture of disrespect in America, and how it isn't like that in Australia. She said "well... yeah.")*

Studies show that kids' creativity in America has gone down dramatically over the past two decades. Less synthesizing less creative less energetic less emotionally expressive let's talkative and verbally expressive less humorous less imaginative less unconventional less lively and passionate less perceptive less apt to connect seemingly irrelevant things and less likely to see things from a different angle.

The culture of disrespect undermines true creativity while strengthening same age peer conformism.

The most successful countries are utilitarian with no tech gadgets in schools.

American students show little gains in cognitive skill, reasoning and critical thinking; only about a third of them going up more than one point on a 100-point scale in their college years. They see college now more as building a social network than intellectual knowledge.

## Ch. 5 Why Are Kids So Fragile Today (No Family)

More and more kids are aspiring to be professional video game players and parents are afraid to deter them from that dream. When the bubble of their amazing self-image is popped they are lost.

The online world creates an alternative culture dominated by mostly younger people.

Back in the day you heard stories of kids who tried out and failed but worked hard and came back and did great; you're not hearing those stories as much anymore.

Schedule family vacations just for the family. No friends allowed or all that time your child will just be spent bonding to the friend as an expensive play date. The main purpose of a family vacation is to strengthen the bonds between parent and child.

Electronic devices are widening the generation gap and undermine parental authority.

The more time kids spend on Instagram the more likely they are to think that Instagram is important. They become persuaded that their peers know about what's important and their parents don't.

Your kids can't attach to you if they hardly ever see you.

In Geneva Switzerland the schools close at lunch for 2 hours a day so kids can go home and have lunch with a parent. Employers often give extra time off work for people to go home and eat lunch with their kids. In Scottish culture family comes first. In their airport there are playgrounds etc

## Ch. 6 What Matters (Self Control, Virtue by Practice)

Self-control has now proven to be more important than openness to new ideas, friendliness, IQ, and GPA to predict whether an 11-year-old will be successful and happy 20 years later.

You help an 8-year-old build self-control by saying no dessert till you get your vegetables. You help a teenager build self-control by saying no electronics until after homework.

After 6 weeks of consistent enforcement of rules your child will be more respectful to you and other adults, and you'll both be enjoying life more.

When they have the experience of good behavior, the spirit will reward them with joy for that, so they'll know by their experience that 1. They are capable of good behavior and 2. That it is in their best interest to behave. Parenting is not about teaching cliches like "follow your dreams." Help them see which dreams aren't realistic, no one else will.

Note- As the popular saying goes, "you made a bad choice, you're not a bad person." But that's not the whole truth. If you consistently make bad choices, you are in fact a bad person, and that used to be common knowledge. The recent advent of refusal to connect behavior with identity is destructive. This does not mean go around pointing fingers, it means when you have to, tell it like it is. 2 Nephi 9 of the Book of Mormon makes it clear that liars go to hell, not just people who lie, but liars.

One father had a kid who had a promising career in football. But the father told the kid "you'll be spending this summer on a fishing boat." He didn't ask the kid, he told him. And the kid indeed was sent to the fishing boat where he learned hard work. The father didn't say anything, he just signed his son up for a tough summer job. At the time the son resented it but he later appreciated it as a time where he learned hard work and to see what others' difficult lives are like.

You don't teach virtue by teaching, you teach it by requiring virtuous behavior so that virtuous behavior becomes a habit. There is a popular notion that if you want

a kid to be virtuous you first have to explain to them the benefit of being virtuous. But virtuous behavior is what causes people to become virtuous. If you compel children to act more virtuously, they actually become more virtuous.

Parents now think that kids can grow up doing whatever they want and suddenly become virtuous when they are adults.

The Hebrew of Deuteronomy doesn't say "teach them diligently" to children, it says "inscribe them on your children". The Hebrew verb used here is "shanon" meaning to cut with a knife. To say merely "teach them diligently" is watered down.

The ideal of education is not to learn a bunch of things, it's to learn culture. When kids aren't cultured they have no standard to measure pop culture against. They don't know that today's music is garbage because they haven't seen the real good stuff. They don't know that porn masturbation and video games are just cheap substitutes for what life really has to offer. They don't know how to compare the virtuous lifestyle of Mother Teresa to the selfish lifestyle of popular figures.

## Ch. 7 Misconceptions (“Free” Kids Don’t Become Responsible Adults, Strictness Doesn’t Make Crazy Adults)

People think if they prevent their kids from doing stuff they want to do, they will be crazy as soon as they leave the house, having "not learned how to choose good behavior on her own". But longitudinal studies show that well behaved kids are more likely to grow up to be well behaved adults. Kids raised by more permissive parents are more likely to get in trouble as adults. People who think kids who grow up in strict homes will become wild adults are often basing that on some popular movie or something Oprah said. Research provides no support for this notion and flatly contradicts it.



If you're hiring a new employee and one candidate has a track record of honesty and hard work whereas the other candidate has a track record of idleness and troublemaking, which will you hire?

There's too hard, too soft, and just right. Too hard parents rarely show any love and have excessive demands. Too soft parents don't have rules and consequences. If you are not enforcing rules, you are too soft. The public understanding over the past 30 years of what it means to be a just right parent has drifted steadily away from authoritative to permissive.

Meg Meeker didn't let her son play video games. Her son insisted that when he was an adult living on his own he would get some video games and be like the other guys. He did so, but ended up selling them as they only collected dust. Age matters. If a boy starts playing games as a young person they will imprint.

Longitudinal studies show that kids who spend many hours a week playing violent video games become more hostile, less honest and less kind.

If your kids like shooting things let them go to a gun club and really shoot things.

If your child's friend plays violent video games do not allow him to go to that house.

Expect your children to behave the same way out of the home as they do in the home. That's integrity. Parents can drop by a friend's house to see what the kids are doing unannounced.

Some parents **don't give their children a phone at all even through High School** as there's no need for it. The other peers don't really care, it's the other parents who get on your case.

It is **never acceptable for your child to be disrespectful to you**. It's okay for a kid to say 'I don't agree with you' but it's never okay for a kid to say 'shut up'. Don't allow that language in your house.

**Happiness comes from fulfilling your potential which is beyond online gaming**. Parents concerned about their children's gaming should **follow their**

**instincts and intervene** even if the kid claims they can make a living off of it and have friends from it. **The desire to live in the virtual world is an uneducated desire. The job of a parent is to teach a child to enjoy things that are higher than cotton candy. Video games Instagram and texting are the cotton candy of today's pop culture.**

The popular message today is 'do whatever feels good whatever floats your boat.'

*Note- this is like the slogan of the Rolling Stones which they adopted from Satanist leader Allester Crowley, "Do as thou wilt, this is the whole of the law." (PS- the Beatles praised this guy and featured on an album cover.)*

Is false that to love someone you must trust them. Just because you love your child doesn't mean you have to believe they're always telling the truth.

A generation ago there was an alliance between parents and schools. If kids cheated in school parents would be notified and give consequences to reinforce the school discipline. Today when the school tries to punish a kid, the parents often oppose it.

The reward of a parent is knowing that you've done your job well. Merely seeking affection from your kids is not the top goal. The most common error in parenting is becoming too permissive out of a desire to win the affection of your kids.

## [Ch. 8 Teach Humility \(by Chores, & Less Media\)](#)

We often hear 'dream until your dreams come true.' A better slogan would be work until your dreams come true. Even better is to say 'work to pursue your dreams but realize that life is what happens on the way.' (*Note- and the best saying would be 'work to pursue God's will.'*)

High self-esteem at a young age sets a person up for disappointment and resentment at age 25. When parents and teachers carefully nurture self-esteem it

often results in a crash after college when they learn that just because everyone said they are amazing doesn't mean they are.

Many families require their kids to do **rigorous chores** even if friends are visiting and even if they have lots of homework. Many parents who can afford to hire out manual labor choose to have their kids do it to teach their kids the value of hard work. If it doesn't require an electric current you can usually do it yourself with your family. It's a mistake to hire out all the manual chores so your kid has more time for school work and extracurriculars. You send an unintended message that your kid is too important to do menial tasks.

One family did not allow their kid to go to an after ball game party because the ball game was the time for recreation, then it was time to go back to chores.

**"The culture of social media is the antithesis of humility."** Social media as used by youth are all about self promotion. Usually when a parent is trying to help a kid but the **kid remains rude, the root cause is access to social media.**

## Ch. 9 Enjoy (Nobody Likes a Tyrant Child)

American mothers spend more time on child care but enjoy it less than French women. Most likely the French kids are better behaved.

Sometimes kids don't want to go do family fun and the parent has to say **"too bad you're going."** Once kids discover that they can have **fun with their parents the relationship totally changes.**

In one family the kids were not allowed to play at a home where there were no parents, and dates had to be interviewed by the parents, and dates were not allowed into bedrooms. The kids thought they would need therapy from all the terrible things their parents were doing to them (the rules). **Then the kids went to college and watched everyone else's lives fall apart and realized that it was everyone else that was going to need therapy, not them.**

Cars advertise children entertainment systems in the back seat, the mother is shown smiling and the children with headphones smiling. Its as though the mother is saying "isn't this great, we can spend hours together and I don't have to talk to them at all!"

Overbooked parents tend to also overbook their kids. They send an unintended message that relaxed time together as a family is the least important thing in life.

**You might have to move to find a less stressful job or learn how to become comfortable on less income.**

Outside of America it's rare to find people who **boast about how busy** and sleep deprived they are. It's rare to find full-time parents outside of America who spend all day **chauffeuring** kids around even over the summer holiday.

## Ch. 10 The Meaning of Life (It's Not \$)

1. Working hard in school is no guarantee you'll get into a good college.
2. A good college is no guarantee of a good job. Many graduates are waiting tables or are unemployed.
3. Having a good job is no guarantee of having a good life.

In Germany and Switzerland there's **no shame if a kid wants to become an auto mechanic instead of going to university**, even if both the parents are university professors.

But K-12 should actually be to **prepare us for life, not more school.**  
**Kids focused on college avoid classes that might be difficult since they might not get an 'A' even if those classes interest them.**

An Australian school headmaster Robert Grant was known to say "I hope your child will be severely disappointed by his time at this school." this was a way of saying your kid needs to learn that there are hard things in life, that if a kid does

not experience disappointment in school he will be unprepared for it when it comes in real life.

There's no point in letting your kids relax and do what they desire if you have not **first educated that desire**. Once desire has been educated youth can enjoy leisure time more fully.

The purpose of life involves **meaningful work, loving someone, and supporting a cause**. When your kid wants to know **why they should work hard at school you need to be able to answer with a bigger** picture than just getting into college and making a good living. Teach them that experience matters more than acquisition.