

For the Love of the Family Ministries
Missionaries to America's Forgotten Mission Field, the Family
For the Love of the Family Series
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How To Raise Godly Children
By Dr. Roger Voegtlin, Pastor
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The first would be discipline. When the Bible talks about raising children, it talks about discipline. If you love your child without discipline, you'll produce a brat. Look at Proverbs 10:1. This is a wonderful verse that I would always think about while I was a father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. "I've seen that verse pastored in this church. But, I'm glad to say that a father who disciplines his children will make you happier than that. I would rather have the largest, most prosperous church in the world. There are children for God. But you'll never have more of a bad lot to lose your job. You think it's bad to lose your children. If you lose your children, you just

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Don't tell me you love him if you don't spank him.

Don't listen to psychologists, not even so-called Christian educators, and by the way, don't go into a Christian bookstore and buy one of those stupid books on how to raise your children. Look at their children; you don't want that. The problem is that ever since this law was passed, people have gotten softer and softer. Even in our churches where we say we believe, wear all as firm, a seven weaker Christian was 25 years ago— I venture to say even most Catholics 25 years ago. God said to spank. If we're traveling by wagon train across America in Indian country, do you think we'd be watching for Indians? Of course! We'd say, "Man, I don't want my kid to have an arrow through them." We'd all and we'd look for moving bushes. "There are Indians out there seeking whom he may devour. I want you should never strike your child in anger. Don't Satan is out there seeking whom he may devour. I want you should never strike your child in anger. Don't time. Make rules, and go by them. Let them know what consistently.

Raise up a child in the way he should go with discipline, and then, with family devotions. Turn to Matthew 18: 19 and 20. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father in heaven." What couple could read that and my wife and I, or my husband and I, just agree and pray. "I don't know how a mother and father could go to pray for our children." "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." That means table with your children for family devotions, He's we have devotions." If for no other reason, He's th Nowsome are afraid; they say, "I'm not a theology school graduate." That has absolutely nothing to do prepared what to say for devotion time. You sit there are really young, you use something like John R. Rick quickly you use the Bible, and you just read the Bible no more exciting time to have devotion than when you

I've heard parents say, "Pastor Voegtlin said this. practice that, you're going to lose your children. home, to open the Bible and read it and explain it. because it's right there." If you show a Christian child that what we're doing is what God child is going to turn out right. Isn't the family. "This is why we believe ring a sermon, take verses down and use ly. Explain that "this is the reason we simple. You get the prayer sheet and at the needs of the church, and you young girl I said, "Do you think

Christian psychologists. Don't listen to Christian psychologists. Don't listen to Christian bookstore and buy one of those their children; you don't want that. people have gotten softer and softer. en't at all as consistent, we aren't at sago— I venture to say even most ved a hundred years ago and were ountry, do you think we'd be don't want my kid to die. I don't ook behind rocks and behind trees, out there who want to kill us!" nttostress again, don't blow up. blow up, and then let it go then next tto expect, and then follow them

pline, and then, with family devotions. , That if two of you shall agree on shall be done for them of my Father dnot think, "Hey, that says two. If we pray, God will answer our dread this and not think, "We're three are gathered together in my when you gather around the kitchen there. People say, "I don't know why ere. You're starting the day off right. n. Pastor Voegtlin, you're a Bible with it. I have never once in my life re and you read the Bible. If the kids ce's Bible storybook. But real ble and explain it. Now, to me there's our kids are young.

.. "or "That's a school rule." If you Your job, father, is to be priest of the You say, "Kids, we believe this hild that what we're doing is what God tchild is going to turn out right. Isn't the family. "This is why we believe ring a sermon, take verses down and use ly. Explain that "this is the reason we simple. You get the prayer sheet and at the needs of the church, and you young girl I said, "Do you think

marry. You see these teenagers biting at the bit wanting to hang with the wrong person. They've got talk to them when they were young. Then all of a sudden you're afraid of what they're going to do. them, and you say, "Boy, I can't wait until you get you want."

I would joke sometimes with my kids. I'd tell Debbie a "mean" guy, right Debbie?" She needed a "mean" guy him! Just talk to your children. My child didn't in college. When I say "date," realize I don't mean godly courtship. You teach them to work hard but no have the right kind of friends, and how to be nice. They're like clay and we're reforming them by spanking talking to them.

I read about General Robert E. Lee walking through something behind him. It was his small son jumping his footsteps. He turned around and hugged him and my boy to hell. "What a responsibility we have. Remember there were tears streaming down her cheeks. Her lip anything. The old backslidden priest thought she was a boy to give to God. Oh, how we ought to pray and give who goes into full-time service is no better than full-time service; I'm saying give our children to God 22:6.

Again, the problem with our kids is that they hear they see their parents act a certain way in church hear and see something else when the door is closed parents to have a religion in front of people and parents say with their lives, "I am rich and in need of nothing." We know how vaccinations work generally. against the measles, for instance, you have a weakened you. The child's defense mechanisms attack the foreign preventing the child from contracting the disease. thing to prevent them from getting the real thing.

That's what is happening in fundamentalism all over bus kids can grow up in this church and make it and can't? It's because the bus kids don't have wrong Christian anything saying, "what is preached is not real." All youth pastor and the teachers and they say, "I love who have parents vaccinating them at home. They don't parents complaining. There's nothing worse you can never saw mess over the things of God. If you sit

down wanting to date the wrong person, the wrong plans because you didn't deny you put handcuffs and bars on And they balk. But if you talk to married. And this is the type of guy

you want, "You want a strong guy. You want a weak guy because she's too nice. She got want to date until they were freshmen a worldly date. I'm talking about love money. You teach them to follow the weak people but not follow them. teach them, and then teaching them and

the snow one day when he heard from step to step, trying to walk in prayed, "God, help me never to lead my daughter Hannah praying for a son? I was removing but you couldn't hear she was drunk, but she was praying for a son to give to our children to God. Someone who doesn't. I don't mean God. Seek, ask, knock. Claim Proverbs

something preached in the pulpit, and around other Christians, and they hear at home. They've learned from their parents a nothing real at home. They see their parents sed with goods and have need of If you want to be vaccinated a weakened form of the measles injected into the child's system. We take the weakened form of the real

America. Do you ever wonder why some kids from regular attenders are not Christian examples. They don't have the same as the preacher and this." But there are some church kids who don't have a chance. They hear their parents do. My kids saw mess, but they are around and you complain about your

state in the ministry or your state in serving God, gone! Are you listening? Don't vaccinate your child to teach them the Bible, true Bible principles and by your life.

Next, you raise up a child in the way he should go missing today. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatsoever might..." Proverbs 6:6-9 says, "Go to the ant, thou wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Pr gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou there are two great principles taught in the Bible and one is work. You're not going to succeed without faith, you'll work. You're not a Bible-practicing lazy generation. I've had Christians think there's "They're working me too hard." We're living in an age to keep from work. If you teach your children that, they could be.

Some years back, we started seeing many children of devil. There was a reaction, and it was the wrong protection for my children. I'm going to put my arms around them. I'm going to baby my children." You'll God says, "Six days shalt thou work." God says we're our brow. We should teach our children to enjoy work wrong with my teenagers. He's so lazy." Look at Spurgeon wrote an article that I thought was tremendous. "When he's a little child, carry him in your arms." When my children were young, especially small, the teenage girls just wanted to carry him. "Nobody picks up my son. Nobody." You say, "What if problem. What do you do when they fall down? Say, "Now, you first of all see if there's blood running. corner of your eye. But in most cases, their feet fall down, say, "Hey, you're okay. Get up and just mean." No, to do anything else is mean.

We have a college, and I believe we have many of them any problem with our students is that they have church. Somethink being a good Christian is baby in you who hear a baby scream and say, "Ah, it's mine! before a while. I can remember a certain mother who a boy she carried around. When she would carry him hers, and his feet were down to her knees. She pick I knew he would become a sissy, and he was the great worthless for God today. I'm not saying never pick certain age and he can walk around, don't carry him

you're going to lose them! They're re-against Christianity. You've got one by family devotions, by talking,

by teaching him how to work. That's thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy sluggard; consider her ways, and be ovideth her meat in the summer, and ousleep, O sluggard?... "Understand if you're going to succeed: one is faith t both. I believe that if you have hristian if you don't work. We live in a ould be a union steward in the church! neration that does everything it can you're going to destroy much of what

famous preachers going to the ne. That reaction was, "I'm going to d my children, and nobody's going destroy them just as much that way. esupposed to work by the sweat of k. You say, "I don't know what's hemirror. You made him that way. dous. He said, "If you want to ruin . When he's a little child, carry him in Jeff, because the church was so ll the time. I had to lay down the law: he falls down?" That's another Shut up. Quit crying, and get up." See if there's a broken arm out of the gs are hurt. Don't baby them! If they keepon walking." You say, "That's

the best kids of America. But if there's been babyed by their parents and home people. There are some others of "Your untopick him up. Let him nour church was real young who had around, his head was level with ed that kid up and carried him around! test on we ever produced. He's up a child. But once he gets to a every place; don't be holding him all

thetime.

Spurgeon went on and said, "If you want to prevent him from every kind of toil." You say, "What does ever let him participate in the cross-country race. and think we were guilty of child abuse because of the lake. It shows where they come from! We do this as an opportunity. Let them toil a little bit. I could do it, though, and says, "Do not suffer him to struggle." "picking on him." You know that, don't you? When he says, "Pity him when he ought to be punished." "Go to work." "appreciate the school, but..." "Supply all his needs." "Avert all disappointments. Prevent all troubles... tutor him to be a reprobate to break your heart." "You think you love him? No, you love yourself. You're cursing him."

Spurgeon goes on and says, "If you want to rescue him. What made our country great? One of the things that were put in the position where we had to toil. I'm being built, when we were being attacked by Indians you'd have the child behind a bush! You'd build you helped? The little children would help. You would help. The little children would help. What do nothing but crab and get in trouble. Teach them."

Now, in our day and age you have to look for work. growing up, we had a college garden. We grew food for money. My kids didn't like it, but I loved it because they were weeding, planting, harvesting, and every day. You ought to be glad if we can find some weeding, mow around the property. Don't let them fuddle-duddle do something. We're raising lazy reprobates! If there's a right there. "Put him where he has to work." Expose the training wheels away from him. Let him fall down.

We used to have boxing every week. You say, "I hate it. It's no good. If I get it in the nose, I tear up, oh, I hate it! But we had it. Jeff would get in the ring with somebody (and he was a lousy boxer; heh kids are). They kind of dance around. They don't say you don't hit me hard, I won't hit you hard." "I'm stopping." For some of you this is hard. Compare it to the way they made this great country. We are a soft generation. If you do things like this, you'll make a man out of him. Spurgeon said, but I guarantee in his day he had to do it. Can you be a good Christian and be lazy? No. Can you

be useful in the world, guard that mean?" Well, that means don't let them. We've had college students come here every year. They would be running around the things for a purpose, to give them a purpose. He goes on. "You know, the teacher is always struggling in school, it's never his fault. He goes to the principal. Just tell him how you want it." Give him everything he wants. "This is Spurgeon" "...and you'll surely see it. I've seen it every single time. We're raising him for you, but

he's putting him where he has to work." "What made our country great is that we're talking about when the country was built. You talk about natural child birth, grow your own home, and who do you think grow your own crops, and who do you do child rearing today? Sit around and do nothing!"

I remember as my children were growing up in the college in order to save money. There was one full day a week when they were working—when they had to work. They were working, or something like that. They were working, being glad for them to do something. If there's anything that we're weak in, it's something that we're weak in. Take those

things away from him. Let him fall down. I don't like boxing. I don't like it either. I'm not a boxer. But we had it. Jeff would get in the ring with somebody (and he was a lousy boxer; heh kids are). They kind of dance around. They don't say you don't hit me hard, I won't hit you hard." "I'm stopping." For some of you this is hard. Compare it to the way they made this great country. We are a soft generation. If you do things like this, you'll make a man out of him. Spurgeon said, but I guarantee in his day he had to do it. Can you be a good Christian and be lazy? No. Can you be a good bus worker and be

appointment I have of the week.” I practiced that a

You can’t just say your children are important, you Every time I see a boy or girl go bad or a marriage kid really go bad and I’ve had a chance to talk to have devotions with you on a regular basis?” Every “Did you have family time together?” Every single listening to me, Dad? You’ve got to show your kids to you, Dad. If there’s a man in the home, it’s super no hard, notify you love your children.

I don’t like using myself as an example, but I love used to thrill me to set up family activities. “We school here and go to the zoo.” You NEVER have to sometimes you may conflict with the school. If you not saying just come in late all the time. Especially family times. You pop popcorn. Now, listen, you you doesn’t come in a bag, and you have to get one off the machine either. A shaker! We happened to have a fire fashioned.

That’s all you have to do to have fun with small kids squeal, and it’s so much fun.

There’s something else you can do. Have pizza. You from Pizza Hut. Make it. You see, that’s what makes not as good as Pizza Hut.” Well, it helps your diet sundaes. You get the ice cream. It depends on how much have vanilla and chocolate and strawberry, whether can, or whatever. It makes a mess because they make I don’t know what it is, but there’s something specific with the kids and doing simple things. Like a picnic money.” If you have to spend money on it, it’s probably “We have our family night. We watch videos.” Oh, you spend the money you would have on a meal. Get Aldi don’t have to have money. You have to have heart. You go on that picnic and you play “Kick the Can.” You with. Or, you hike and get lost. I always get lost, then on my back. Do you understand the point? I remember a time when you all pile into the car. You don’t have suggest that you always don’t have to go to relatives. You can camp.

Raise up a child in the way he should go, and he will take discipline, it takes teaching the Word of God (Christianity), teaching them how to work, and showing

iso.

must show them they’re important. go bad, every time we’ve ever had a him, I ask that child, “Did your dad single time the answer was, “No.” timetheysaid, “No.” Are you you care. It’s not up to mom, it’s super to him. You say, “That’s hard.” No, it’s

d planning things for our family. It I do this, we’ll do that, we’ll cut out of on conflict with the church, but do, the school comes in second. I’m ly when they’re young, it’s easy to plan ng couples. They have popcorn that heseshakers. I’m not talking about a eplace, so it made it even more old

ds. They love it. They giggle and they

say, “We do that.” No, no, no, not it fun. You make it. You say, “It’s . The thing I liked the most was making uch money you have, whether you you can get some whipped cream in a it. But, boy, do they have fun. ial about mom and dad taking time c. Parents always say, “I don’t have ably not the best activity. People say, meon. Go on a picnic, and just shot dogs and day-old bread! You ou have to love enough to plan. You buy these gadgets to make it more and my girls would cry and I’d carry king? I believe in a vacation—a to go any place fancy, but I would es’ houses either. You can get a tent.

ievethathe’ll not depart from it. It (you teaching the Word of God and ng them you love them. Remember I

said that love without discipline makes a brat? Let discipline without love make a rebel. Kids look for communication well.” I’m not the best at it either but this is why I love you. I’m praying for you.” They

I have to confess that I’m a very private person and I had to warn my wife in front of my children. But when they were around, even when they were teenagers, hee, hee. Oh, ho, ho. Look at mom and dad.” They like her up and I would twirl her around. And then hee.” You know what I think this said? “All’s well at home. Kids look for affection. They look to see if

You can raise children upright. I stress, don’t trust God will take care of that. As your pastor, I don’t better than those who are not. We pay more attention to the mission field and we have to train them. But I don’t think any more of full-time workers than of love God and to live for God. When you get to be my break your life. To the proportion that you raise the amount of joy from the time they leave your home.

People say they love babies but not the “terrible twos” speakers say, “When they get to be teenagers, your preacher will preach on that in the sense that it should get better. You see, when a child is a little but as he gets to be one year old, you can begin to be sure, he ought to be well under control. It shouldn’t be a fault.

When they get to be teenagers it should be a joyful time for God. Then when they get married and they pick their children and you see them raising their children the way it ought to be, it gets more wonderful all except for one thing—I’d like to see my grandkids think of anything more wonderful than that? To see them living for God. There could not be a greater blessing

metell you something else—love. You might say, “I don’t want to write them notes.” I love you. I look for things like that.

I didn’t show the affection that I wish I had when I kissed my wife’s cheeks, you know what they did? “Hee, hee, hee. It said something. I used to kiss her cheeks, “Ha, ha, ha. Hee, hee, hee, with mom and dad.” All’s well in our home, you are.

is it that you go to full-time service, think those in full-time service are any better than those who are not? We pay more attention to them because we send them to the mission field. I tell you from the bottom of my heart, you have a good kid. Train them to love God, it will make your life or it will make your life a burden for God, that will be your

wo’s,” and the “rotten threes.” We’ve got to put them in a cage.” It should be expected. That’s wrong. It’s not a tiny baby, he’s going to cry at times. Discipline him. At two years old, for the first time, it’s worse. If it’s worse, it’s your

time, an exciting time as they blossom into their right mate, and they start having children better than you raised them (and that’s the time). I don’t want to live long enough to see you row up and live for God. Can you have about 10 or 12 of your grandkids all living!