

# Drawing the Bow

Victory Missionary Baptist Church – Saturday, August 26, 2017

## What is our Bow & Why We Draw It

- We will introduce each passage & establish the context
- We will ask: 1) WHAT is our bow; 2) WHY we are receiving this instruction; then 3) HOW it informs parenting

**Deut 6:1-9** – Our focus is verses **6-9**

**Context:** In the midst of Moses' 2<sup>nd</sup> speech to all Israel, after reciting 10 Commandments, preparing them to go and to prosper where he would not be able to go.

**What?** Teach Them Diligently... Teach what? "These *words* which I command you today..."

**Why?** So that your days may be long (**v2**), that it go well with you (**v3**) and that you multiply greatly (**v3**) and as ultimately as an expression of love to the Lord (**v5**)

**Eph 6:1-4** – Our focus is verse **4**

**Context:** Paul is in the midst of the application section of Ephesians, tying these principles back to the OT

**What?** Bring them up in the Discipline & Instruction of the Lord... What type? "... *of the Lord*."

**Why?** You desire their good and their blessing; you do not want them in a state of self-harming rebellion or exasperation.

**2 Tim 3:14-4:2** – Our focus is verses **3:16-17**

**Context:** Paul's last letter to Timothy, his son in the faith

**What?** Teaching, Reproving, Correcting & Training in Righteousness... Use what? "*All Scripture*..."

**Why?** He loved Timothy, wanted him to be equipped to hit the mark with his life, and know how to send other arrows out.

## Collectively:

**What is the bow?** *It is the living Word of God defining our message and the manner of instruction.*

**Why do we draw it?** *Because we love them.*

**2 Tim 3:1-2** – "*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous (love money), boasters, proud, blasphemers (abusive), disobedient to parents...*"

**The pattern of disobedient children is preceded by a pattern of selfish, self-absorbed parents... this is our day.**

**Love for our God, our spouse, and our children is WHY we draw the bow.**

- When you discipline out of selfishness, it becomes abuse.
- When you instruct out of selfishness, you create Pharisees.

**Segway:** Each of these texts give us insight on **HOW** (manner of instruction)

## How Do I Draw the Bow?

### Teach them Diligently (Deut 6:6-9)

#### 1. Teach them Diligently (Deut 6:7b)

- Teach them diligently - *lit* "to repeat"; inculcate (instill an attitude, idea, or habit by persistent instruction)
- Nine occurrences. KJV translates as "sharp" 4x; "whet" 2x; "sharpen" 1x; "prick" 1x; and "teach diligently" 1x

**Illus:** The picture is of repeated strokes of a blade across a sharpening stone, each one improving the alignment of the edge making the knife increasingly sharp.

#### How does this help us?

- Do I have to repeat myself? Yes, you do.
- It moderates our expectations. ***We shouldn't expect or require our kids to get it right the first time.***
- This doesn't mean that we don't hold them accountable to learn what we teach them. **Matt 16:5-12**

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## 2. Teach them in the Middle (**Deut 6:7b**)

- The passage is emphasizing application of the Word to life.

**Don't just bring them to God's Word; bring God's Word into their life.**

**Illus:** Helen Keller began to learn when her teacher signed "water" in her hands as water was poured over them.

**Maximize teachable moments. God will provide them to you.**

**Illus:** Fights with siblings, stress over school, fears at night, interest in the opposite sex, the late night talk.

**Don't just fix it for them or try to repress it. Recognize these moments of golden opportunity**

## 3. Show them Diligently (**Deut 6:8-9**)

- Hands (what you do); Forehead (how you think/speak); House (foundation of your home); Gates (foundation of your life). **This is the power of example.**

**1 Timothy 4:16** - "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you." (NASB95)

**"Do as I say, not as I do" is weak, hypocritical and dishonors the truth (and the Source) you proclaim.**

**Some Examples & Advice:**

- Model repentance to your children. **This will not undermine your authority because it will establish God's.**
- Show them how to suffer well as a Christian. **Your example shows them how to respond to difficulty.**

## Discipline & Instruction (**Eph 6:4**)

### 1. Do not Provoke them to Wrath but Bring them Up...

- The second part of this passage is a contrast with provoking your children to wrath

**Biblical parenting has the potential to prevent & remedy an angry child.**

provoke to wrath – to stir them up to anger, creating an angry, resentful, and/or rebellious child

**Colossians 3:21** - "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." (ESV)

- This is a DIFFERENT Greek word for provoking (*erethidzo*) – to provoke or challenge (**illus:** nag)

**There is no mention of here anger in the Greek. This result of the provocation is discouragement.**

**Proverbs 17:6** - "Children's children are the crown of old men; And the glory of children are their fathers."

- The Lord has given us a unique place of love and influence in our children's lives.

**If we abuse this position, it has the potential to do great harm in their lives. How do we avoid this?**

### 2. The Nurture... of the Lord

- Nurture – (*paidea*) training or discipline

**The same Greek word we will encounter in 2 Tim 3:16 (instruction/training). Focus on discipline aspect.**

**Hebrews 12:5-11** – The Discipline of the Lord

- Chastening – (*paidea*) - discipline

**The point:** Endure God's discipline because it is purposeful and productive.

- Godly discipline is an Expression of Love (**v6**)

i. It should pain us to discipline our children, but that shouldn't stop us.

**Prov 13:24** - "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly." (NKJV)

ii. Love works toward the good of the other, not from selfish motivations (anger).

**James 1:20** - "for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (ESV)

**When we discipline in anger and selfishness, it will not move them toward the mark.**

**You may get outward conformance, but you will create anger or despair in their heart.**

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## *Some Advice for Disciplining in Love:*

- Don't unnecessarily embarrass your child when you discipline them or try to show off to others.
  - Don't cut the child down or call them names (you fool) when you discipline. Address the behavior.  
***Just as you can pronounce blessing on your children, you can also pronounce curses on them.***
  - Discipline well and move on. If the child has sinned against you, require them to repent and then model Biblical forgiveness (don't keep bringing it back up).
  - We discipline our children, we do not exact vengeance or condemnation.  
***Vengeance is meted out by God and condemnation is what hell and the cross are for.***
- Godly discipline is Purposeful (**v10-11**)
    - i. It must be instructive (tied to what you are trying to teach them)  
**When discipline is not instructive, it is abuse.**  
**Question:** When should I begin disciplining my child (how old)? When you are able to use it to reinforce a lesson they can understand.  
**Godly discipline is going to include edifying communication, not just reaction.**
    - ii. It must move them toward a good goal (**v11**)  
**Some Advice:**
      - Make the discipline fit the transgression. ***We really come down on lying and rebellion.***
      - Make the discipline Biblical in nature. ***Think of some good ideas:***  
**Prov 12:24** - "The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor." (ESV)  
**Prov 13:11** - "Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it." (ESV)  
**Prov 13:25** - "The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: But the belly of the wicked shall want."  
**Resource:** For Instruction in Righteousness by Doorposts
      - Be consistent. **A lack of consistency (between parents, between children & based on circumstances) undermines the message and can provoke anger & despair.**  
**Resource:** If/Then Chart
      - Set good precedent. (e.g. Ananias & Sapphira) **We know the rest of the kids are watching as we deal with Grace and the issues that arise. An ounce of prevention...**

### 3. The Admonition... of the Lord

- Admonition – (*nouthesai*) – to warn or instruct  
***Segway to 2 Tim 3:16***

## **Doctrine, Reproof, Correcting & Instruction in Righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)**

### 1. Teaching

- Doctrine – teaching, instruction  
***This is primarily the responsibility of the home.***  
***The church can support this, but it is not the duty of the church to religiously educate your children.***  
***Some Advice on Family Instruction:***
  - Make it engaging and practical
  - Ask questions. Perhaps require them to ask questions.
  - Be flexible; be creative; try to be consistent, be obedient to the Lord – **My book was borne in part out of family devotions.**
  - Don't place unnecessary burdens on yourself (a Bible is all that is necessary)

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## 2. Reproving

- **Reproof** – to convince, convict, expose. Reproof is to take something back to the proof (original).

**The goal is to be able to show them and convince them that their behavior was wrong.**

**Some Advice on Reproof:**

- Use **biblical** vocabulary so that you can use the Scriptures as intended.

**How many of you believe in the sufficiency of Scriptures?**

(e.g. Shyness may be fear of man; Low Self-Esteem may be pride in disguise; “Oppositional Defiant Disorder” is very likely anger lodged in the heart of a child)

**Investigate any physical origins, but do not minimize or neglect spiritual matters.**

## 3. Correcting (*This should minister hope to some of you.*)

- **Correction** – restoring to an upright state, setting them back on the right path

**This is the biblical “put off, put on” principle in practice.**

**Eph 4:25-29** – Examples of the principles set forth in verses 22-24.

**Some Advice on Correction:**

- Look for patterns of behavior, weaknesses in character that revolve around central issues  
(e.g. Frequent fights with siblings, laziness with chores, procrastination, a mocking attitude may indicate a deeper problem with selfishness)

**Rightly addressing root issues from a Biblical perspective will be more productive than plucking at fruit.**

## 4. Instruction in Righteousness (Training)

- **Instruction in Righteousness** – (*paidea* again) The sense is training, forming habits

**We don't stop with standing them back up. Training helps to anchor them in place.**

**1 Timothy 4:7-8** - “... train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (ESV)

We have all been trained whether we realize it or not.

**Illus:** 1.) How many of us can get up in the morning and start our routine without ever really waking up?

2.) My desire to record my time because I have formed a habit

**Some Advice on Training:**

- Clear instruction in the middle (application is key)
- Consistency
- Patience
- Praise and reward is appropriate and just as powerful as discipline

## Add-Ons:

### 1. Pay Close Attention to the Company they Keep

**1 Cor 15:33** - “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

**Context:** There were individuals at the Church of Corinth questioning the resurrection

**2 Tim 2:22** – Flee lusts and follow righteousness with...

**Psalms 1:1-2** – A warning against walking in, standing in, or sitting in the influence of sinners

**Illus:** There is a difference between trying to avoid a mud puddle, walking in it, standing in it, and sitting in it.

### 2. Everything is Significant in Parenting

**Colossians 3:17** - “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

**God sanctifies and grants significance to every act of faithful parenting from their cradle to our grave.**