

Huntsville, AL: WAMY-TV 54.2  
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (CT)

Hope, AR: KTSS, Sunday, 7:30 a.m.  
& 11:30 p.m.; Monday, 3:30 p.m.

Little Rock, AR: KARZ, Sun., 7 a.m.

Sanford, NC: WBFT-TV46  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Chattanooga, TN: WFLI  
TV 53 (Comcast 6 & EPB 6), Sunday,  
7:30 a.m.

Knoxville, TN: WKNX-TV 7, Sunday,  
7:00 a.m.

Lafollette, TN: WLAF, Sunday,  
8 a.m.

Memphis, TN: WTUV TV 23,  
Wednesday, 9:30 p.m. CT

Nashville, TN: WUXP TV 30  
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. CT

The Gospel Radio Network  
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## “CHALLENGES”

### Parenting—What can be said that hasn't already been said?

By Steven Hall, elder and evangelist of Union Grove Church of Christ  
CLEVELAND, TN

It seems every generation has implemented and employed its own techniques in regard to raising children. Perhaps you're familiar with Dr. Benjamin Spock, a very famous pediatrician, who wrote a book in 1946, entitled *Baby and Child Care*. His book became one of the best sellers of all time, in regard to how one should parent his or her child. In his book, he said parents should be encouraged to treat their children with more affection and with a greater flexibility. We find that a generation was, of course, swayed into rearing their children in such a fashion.

But the greatest book that has ever been, in regard to parenting, is, of course, the Holy Bible. The Bible instructs us how we can be parents in a godly fashion.

First, the Bible tells us children are a blessing from the Lord; therefore, we are to love them, care for them, provide for them, and pray for them. . . . when one prays for his or her children, who else is going to lift up their names before God if their parents do not do so? Children certainly are a great blessing of the Lord. The psalmist reminds us of that in Psalm 127, beginning in verse 3: “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”

. . . In 1 Timothy 5:8, Paul reminds us of our duty to provide



for our children, when he writes: “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (NKJV). Therefore, parents are just that—they are stewards over young minds and over young souls. Therefore, it is wise for us to raise our children in the old paths (Jeremiah 6:16).

One of the worst crimes, perhaps, that can ever be committed is that of physically harming a child. But, it is also very serious to harm or to neglect the child's spiritual condition as well, for there are greater consequences. It is important to rear a child on spiritual matters, and this principle is found in Deuteronomy 11, beginning in verse 18:

*Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

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### Good News Today TV & RADIO

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2229 Lyndon Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37415  
Phone: (423) 877-9762

Send inquiries to **Good News Today**  
P. O. Box 15148, Chattanooga, TN 37415



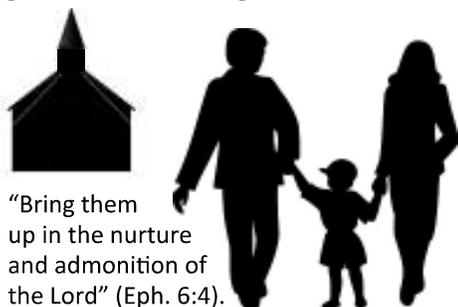
“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3, 4, NKJV).

## “CHALLENGES” (Continued)

*You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.*

But, not only are parents to love, provide, pray for and care for their children, parents are also to discipline their children. I’m amazed today at how many parents refuse to physically correct their children. We must be careful neither to abuse our children nor hit them in an angry way, but physical correction is of the Lord. The Proverbs writer reminds us of that in Proverbs 13:24: “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”

First, there must be an instruction given, known as instructive correction: you tell the child what is right and what is wrong. If he does not obey what you have told him to do, then, you, of course, give him a warning.



“Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

And, if that doesn’t work, then, physical correction certainly is needed. But it begins with instructive correction and then physical correction if needed. The Proverbs writer reminds us, as well, in Proverbs 19:18: “Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.” Also, in Proverbs 22:15: “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.” So, we are to love our children, provide for them, pray for them, care for them—and, yes, discipline them when necessary.

But, finally, we must also understand the principles within the home, such as parents’ not provoking their children to wrath. In Ephesians 6, beginning in verse 1, Paul writes: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” A heavy-handed and abusive father will oftentimes lead a child to rebellion.

So, parents must work hard with patience, with love, and with care, as they bring their children up in the nurture and teaching of the Lord. The first glimpse a child has of authority is seen in the home with the parents. So, parents, make certain that we are exercising examples of proper judgment. I remember the case of Eli we find in the Old Testament.



“CHILD PSYCHOLOGY”  
Norman Rockwell’s *Post* cover  
November 25, 1933

In 1 Samuel 2:25, Eli said: “Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord’s people to transgress.” Then we see the consequences of that in 1 Samuel 3:13, when we read the Lord’s words: “For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.”

Let us strive to be good, godly parents, rearing good and godly children.—**Steven Hall**

Steven Hall’s “Challenges” segment is a regular feature on *Good News Today*. He is the evangelist of the Union Grove church in Cleveland, TN, and serves as an elder, with brothers Bill Casteel and Eugene McCracken. The Union Grove congregation also cooperates generously in the financial support of *Good News Today*.

Brother Hall and his wife, Cindy, have three children: Hunter, McKenzie, and Carly.