

## Remember in Prayer:

### The Sick:

**Xenna Gooch** is still struggling with blood pressure problems. It was good to have her back at the services last week.

**Billie Keller** is recuperating from a hernia repair.

**Berry Luther** injured his knee at work, and is being evaluated by a specialist due to infection.

**Larry Neville** has been experiencing some heart problems and back pain.

Also, continue to remember those who continue to struggle with physical infirmity, including: **Ronald Miller**, Larry's father, **Burton Brown**, Bettye's brother, **James Tanksley**, **Pansy Hensley** and **Lucille Hall**, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother.

### **News & Notes:**

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--**Calendars & Assignment Sheets** for September are available in the lobby.

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### **God in Our Families**

Happy moments, praise God (James 5:13).  
Difficult moments, seek God (Psalm 63:1).  
Quiet moments, worship God (Psalm 4:4).  
Painful moments, trust God (Psalm 7:1).  
Every moment, thank God (Psalm 100:4)


## A Recipe for Happiness

Happiness is something we create in our mind,  
It's not something you search for and so seldom find -  
It's just waking up and beginning the day  
By counting blessings and kneeling to pray -  
It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent  
And accepting what comes and what's heaven sent -  
It's giving up wishing for things we have not  
And making the best of whatever we've got -  
It's knowing that the future is secure for us,  
And pursuing our tasks without fret or fuss -  
For it's by completing what God gives us to do  
That we find contentment and happiness too.

***"I have learned, in whatever state I am,  
Therewith to be content."***

### **Philippians 4:11**

**ELDERS:** Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker  
**DEACONS:** Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool



**Service Times**

**SUNDAY**  
**Bible Study—9:00 am**  
**Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Bible Study 7:00 pm**

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

**Perry Heights church of Christ**  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"*  
*Heb. 10:24*

August 30, 2009

## **Discipline in the Home**

I'm writing this on the Monday following Father's day. My son has recently moved away and begun his career and will be getting married in August. My daughter just graduated high school and will be attending college in the fall. All I hope for now is that the decisions my wife and I made during the past 18-22 years have been mostly wise ones. Did we *"train them up in the way they should go"*? (Prov. 22:6). We take some comfort in the promise of that passage, but still remember that it is a proverb, not an ironclad guarantee. So, like all Christian parents, we pray that our upbringing will lead to Christ being formed in them.

I don't mean to imply that discipline is a matter of luck, or that the Bible doesn't give us instruction in the matter. As Branch Rickey once said about baseball, "Luck is the residue of design." Discipline requires design as well as hard work. The Bible provides the design, and we supply the hard work, along with fervent prayer. Of course, in the end, children make their own choices, and parents hold their breath.

We cannot force children to become Christian adults, but we can train them to be. It takes discipline. By "discipline," I do not mean "spanking." Spanking is a part of the whole, but it is just a part. Proper discipline requires the use of a whole satchel to tools, including correction, nurturing, encouraging and warning (see Eph. 6:4). Discipline requires setting some real boundaries and defining rules of proper behavior in the home. It demands that parents be parents and treat their children as children.

The dictionary defines discipline as "training that is expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior, especially training that produces moral or mental improvement." The "specific character or pattern of behavior" which Christian parents are trying to achieve is holiness (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16). Every step in the training process is designed to raise up Christian children. In comparison, nothing else matters, and the children know that. Education, job and social skills are secondary.

Hebrews 12:5-11 connects discipline with love. God loves us and disciplines ("chastens") us. Likewise, if parents love their children, they discipline them. This is love in the fullest sense of the word - doing what is best for the child, not what feels best to the parent.

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# Preacher's Pen points

## Taming the Storms of Life (Parenting Adolescents)



### Preparing for the day (Some questions you need to ask yourself)

What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ have I already \_\_\_\_\_?

*Discipline your son while there is \_\_\_\_\_, and do not desire his death. (Prov. 19:18)*

What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ am I \_\_\_\_\_?

Are you \_\_\_\_\_ upon your children in unhealthy ways?

Is your life too \_\_\_\_\_ with responsibility to be available?

Do you model a good relationship with your \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you have things in your life that need to be \_\_\_\_\_?

### Principles to guide the parents of teens (Things you will need to do)

Earnestly \_\_\_\_\_ them and communicate it constantly through your words and deeds (Tit. 2:4)

Engender respect by \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 7:12)

Give them a consistent \_\_\_\_\_ of faith in the Lord and respect for godly principles (Josh. 24:15)

Ground all your requirements of them in terms of what is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and for their ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 6:24)

Make them earn your \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk. 16:10)

Know who has their \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 15:33)

Boldly \_\_\_\_\_ and hold them \_\_\_\_\_ for misconduct (Eph. 6:4)

Expect the \_\_\_\_\_ of them (Prov. 29:17)

Don't lose faith in the power of godly \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 22:6)

**You are the greatest influence upon your children! Don't you ever forget that! If you do your job well, you may find out that the "storm" was a minor squall on the sea of life; and that actually there's much about those days that you would be glad to revisit. Let me encourage you to be the parent your child needs.**

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Afterward - not before! -it yields the "peaceable fruit of righteousness" (vs. 11). Unfortunately, we live in an age of instant gratification. We want the results without the work. But any discipline takes time and work and this is especially true in trying to mold these little minds and hearts into God-fearing men and women.

Researchers have shown that children desperately want this discipline. James Dobson illustrated this by removing the fences that encircled a school yard. Did the children run out in the street, delighted with their new-found freedom? No, instead they huddled in the middle of the playground. For a small child, a school (or a home) without boundaries and rules can be a very frightening place.

If discipline is this crucial, then it deserves all the time and effort we can give it. A survey in Maryland found that, on average, parents spend just 15 minutes per week in meaningful dialogue with their children. Sounds like many parents want to raise their children like they operate their TV set - by remote control!

Discipline is the best-rewarded hard work and the most tragic easy work there is. It is at once time-consuming, tedious, frustrating and exhausting. But, if you're a parent, it is the most important work you do. It has far-reaching effects on the church and the world. But it takes time, your time (see Deut. 6:6ff). Discipline is instruction, so we take time to tell the child how to discern between right and

wrong. Discipline is training, so we take the time to show him how to function, and then let him try and fail, and try and fail again (that's frustrating!). Discipline is correction, so we take the time and energy to help him adjust his attitude and behavior, not just lash out at him in anger when he makes a mistake.

Communication comes before correction. Before we punish a child for disobedience, he needs to know precisely what we expect of him. When the child obeys, we ought to show our approval. But when he violates the clearly stated rules, swift and firm correction must follow. We must both clarify the rules and then enforce them (Prov. 29:15 says that permissiveness brings shame to the mother). The child may need a spanking (Prov. 22:15; 23:13-14, though "rod" may well refer to both verbal and corporeal punishments), but there are alternatives as well. As an example, "logical consequences" would require the child to clean up his own mess. "Natural consequences" means the child suffers the consequence of his or her action.

Sensitive, godly parents are well aware of the challenges facing them today. It sometimes seems overwhelming. But you can rise above the crowd, and train up children who will grow to love the Lord. God promises wisdom, if we will ask for it (James 1:15). By the grace of God, you can do this job. You must do it. Parents, "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10).

--David Posey, *Christianity Magazine* (edited)