

RUSSELL SANDERS
12-7-2020
PROVERBS TO LIVE BY
PROVERBS 29:15, 17

Proverbs gives much instruction for life, including child rearing. Consider the following one.

Proverbs 29:15, 17 (NKJV) says, ***"¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. ¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you rest. Yes, he will give delight to your soul."***

Have you ever seen a child that always gets his way? They often are given whatever they want. There is little or no discipline. This creates problems later on. The mother is usually the one that the grief affects the most emotionally. Fathers are usually less affected and sometimes will "write off" or be disassociated from the child upon becoming an adult.

Children need discipline. When they are wrong, a "rebuke" is in order. Verbal correction needs to let the child know why he is wrong. If he understands it, he is more likely to correct the behavior.

Some of the more severe infractions may require "the rod" (not necessarily a literal rod). This means spanking. Modern liberals have erroneously labeled all spanking as child abuse. Nothing could be further from the truth than that particular lie which has been perpetrated. However, it can become abusive if the parent renders the spanking in a very angry mood; they get carried away with it. A parent who has that kind of lack of control should not give a spanking.

My father was one such of those. That is why my mother would do the spanking. She would do it slowly and methodically and would explain the reason for the whipping. It was effective. Usually one spanking corrected the matter once and for all.

Children need to know their parameters. Set limits. Let them know what is expected of them to do and to not do. An undisciplined child usually feels unloved by the parents. They intuitively understand that if Mom or Dad really loved them, they would set boundaries for behavior and enforce it. A child who feels unloved will become not just a problem child, but also a problem adult.

Proper correction and instruction will give you "rest" when they are grown. This "rest" means you can have peace in how they live and conduct themselves. It brings delight to your soul to know they have turned out well. It gives the son or daughter "wisdom" which means understanding how to live life well.

It does not mean everything will turn out perfect, but it does mean they have a solid foundation of understanding (wisdom) for the journey of life.