

## **TRAINING A CHILD FOR LIFE**

Proverbs 22:6 says, “**Train up** (chanak/ qal impv) [command] a **child** (naar) [childhood] in the way he **should go**, even **when he is old** (zaqen/ hiphil impf) he will **not depart** (sur/ qal impf) from it.”

There are two systems for training up a child for life: The Divine System and the World’s System,

- **The Divine System is God’s.** It operates from Divine Viewpoint thinking (DV) for life.
  - (Eph.6:6) “Not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”
- **The World’s System is Satan’s.** It operates from Cosmos Diabolicus [worldly] thinking (CD) for life.
  - (2 Tim.2:26) “And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

<b>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Training a Child for Life.</b>
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### **1. As we have noted in our introduction, a child can be trained to go the ways of the Lord or to go the ways of the world.**

Unfortunately, some homes train in both areas at the same time. For example, I would hear adults say, “**do as I say and not as I do.**” I was trained by my grandparents to do the right things no matter who tells you.

Right things were based on institutional or cultural moralities. For example, I was taught not to steal, cheat, lie and respect your elders. These were normal boundaries for behavior.

On one occasion, the phone rang for an adult in the home. I was told by the adult to say she wasn’t home. This put me in a dilemma. Do I obey the adult authority and lie - “Do as I say and not as I do.” I told the person on the phone that she wasn’t available. I was able to do this because I had been taught to not lie but to think how to tell the truth.

This was Training a Child for Life or “in the way he should go.” As a young person, I was able to apply **situational ethics** to life at the age of 12 because of the way I was trained.

### **2. Timothy was an example of a child trained by his mother and grandmother by the Divine System.**

They trained him to go in the way of the Lord by teaching him the word of God (2 Tim.1:5-7).

(2 Tim.1:5) “For I am mindful of the **sincere faith within you**, which **first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice**, and I am sure that it is in you as **well.**”

(Rom.10:17) “So **faith comes** from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

They trained Timothy WELL in the Divine System. This established Timothy for the world (divine viewpoint thinking) but **not of** the world (cosmos diabolicus thinking).

### 3. Eli trained Samuel well in word of God for service but poorly for family life.

Like many communicators of the word of God, Eli taught the importance of application of word of God everywhere except in his home (Josh.24:15).

(1 Sam.2:12) “Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the Lord.”

(1 Sam.2:22) “Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.”

(1 Sam.2:24-25) “No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the Lord’s people circulating. “If one man sins against another God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?” **But they would not listen to the voice of their father**, for the Lord desired to put them to death.”

(1 Sam.3:13) “For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, **because his sons brought about a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them**.”

**The Satan’s world system of CD thinking resulted in** “living ungodly lives (2 Pet.2:6b)” and “Lawless deeds” (2 Pet.2:8b) and anarchy of the soul against Lord – “And especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties (2 Pet.2:10).”

**Warning:** “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.” (Heb.3:12)

### 4. Samuel is another example of how pattern of (CD) worldly thinking can be develop through childhood training “In the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Prov.22:6)

Samuel does not have to go the way of the world (CD). However, he must put off (CD) and put on (DV) by the renewing of his mind by word of God (2 Tim.3:16-17; Eph.4:22-24).

This brings us to our lesson text and Samuels sons (1 Sam.8:1-6).

**The doctrinal point to the spiritually mature believer parent is to never stop godly parenting no matter what the age of your children or grandchildren.**

(1 Sam.8:3 -4b) “His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.” “Behold, you have grown old, and **your sons do not walk in your ways**.”

(1 Sam.8:6) “But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’”

**If your children do not walk in the ways of the Lord, they walk in the ways of the world whether they give a give a nod to God or not.**

(2 John 4) “I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.”

(3 John 4) “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”