

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#73) The Proverbs of Solomon 13:24- It Doesn't Take A Village To Raise A Child Who Has Both Parents!

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 13:24:

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

The old "spare the rod, spoil the child" is truthful but not a quotation of Scripture. No amount of beatings can ever replace the effect of parental love, understanding, patience, and instruction. Children are to "obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (**Ephesians 6:1**), but fathers are specifically commanded, "Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (**Ephesians 6:4**). Fathers must "bring them up," not beat them down! Discipline includes instruction and enforcement of what is "right," not dictatorial and tyrannical outbursts arbitrarily enforced with a "rod!" ***THIS PROVERB GIVES ABSOLUTELY NO PERMISSION TO ABUSE CHILDREN!***

Listen to the other proverbs on the subject:

- Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction. (**Proverbs 19:18**)
- Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him. (**Proverbs 22:15**)
- Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. (**Proverbs 23:13**)
- The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. (**Proverbs 29:15**)
- Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul. (**Proverbs 29:17**).

"The rod" is the last line of discipline to be applied (*not the first or only line*), but children must be reminded that there is a limit placed on their actions, beyond which they must not go in respect for parental authority.

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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There is a time limit on good parental guidance, and that is “while there is hope,” or while the child is formative. It is “the rod and rebuke” that “give wisdom,” not just “the rod” without explanation and corrective instruction, but not “rebuke” without “the rod.” All the “rod of correction” is designed to do is sober up the child’s attitude and focus on the seriousness of the parent’s instruction, basically, “wipe that smile off your face!”

Unfortunately, in this society filled with divorce and remarriage, custody battles, sexual relations without marriage commitment, a child is “left to himself.” The mother or father who thinks the child can handle things all alone is self-deceived and has abdicated the greatest authority on earth: nurturing a soul. They will give account on the Day of Judgment. *Every child raised without proper discipline is a child raised without proper love, for discipline indicates loving care.* The “father,” specifically, should be the obedience school for a child.

Every male who sires a child without a marriage commitment to its mother is:

- (1) Profaning god’s sacredness of life;*
- (2) Disrespecting the mother of a life;*
- (3) Ignoring the God-given responsibility to properly instruct and guide the child’s life;*
- (4) Creating an illegitimate child without love (Hebrews 12:5-11); and*
- (5) Held accountable on the Day of Judgment for each and every soul he has neglected!*

It still requires a married couple (male and female) to properly raise every child.

