

## Parental Sponsored Delinquency

### Dr. J. B. Buffington

Turn to Proverbs 29:15. I am afraid that most parents have no idea of the magnitude of the problems that our young people face in the world. You just cannot imagine it — little boys and girls on drugs in first and second and third grade. We just cannot conceive it. This message tonight is to try to stir you up about the children. I love children. I love young people. Sometimes when I preach so hard, folks think, “Well, he doesn’t care.” If I did not care, I would not open my mouth because you lose a lot of friends. Folks get offended. Tonight’s message is on “Parental Sponsored Delinquency.” Delinquency is bad, terrible; but when adults sponsor it (and they sponsor it ignorantly and unthinkingly), that is doubly bad. Proverbs 29:15: *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

Let us pray. Dear Father, please help me tonight. My words lack power; Thy Word does not. I pray this evening for an audience. Give me the ears of moms and dads and these young people. Help these young people to know one day they are going to get married (most of them, if not all of them) and have families. What they are sowing today, they will reap in their families if they are not careful. Help me to help young people. Help me to help parents to help their children. This evening, please fill me with Thy Spirit. Make the Word of God alive to our hearts. Give us liberty and freedom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

There are two dangers mentioned in the Scriptures, and both of them are extremes in rearing children. The father’s danger is found in Ephesians 6:4: *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath . . .* That is the basic extreme of a father. He whacks them upside the head and says, “Why did you do that?” He provokes them to wrath. The other extreme is mama, who in this text left the child: . . . *a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.* That is the indulgent, easy business. That is the pendulum on this side. Now, mom and dad can commit both of these, and sometimes mom and dad will swing places. Sometimes, it is the mama that throws everything around, and dad is the indulgent one. I want to primarily speak about this verse, Proverbs 29:15. Now, the rod and reproof — that talks about both of them. There are so many books out on the home today. You cannot improve on this. If it takes books to do it, with all the books out, where did our mothers and dads and grandparents raise such tremendous families when they did not have any writers and did not have any books? All they had was the Book. Times have changed, but the heart of a child and the hearts of parents are the same and the words are the same. Mothers and dads, I want to challenge you to pick up the Book and trust the Book. What the Book says is contrary to modern psychology and modern education. Modern education has not turned out a generation of God-fearing young people, but this Book has.

**NOW, CONSIDER FIRST OF ALL, THE CHILD’S NATURE.** Now, we are talking about your children, my children, my nature, my grandchildren, your grandchildren, and great grandchildren. What does the Bible say about the nature of a little child? We take and hold that little child in our arms, and they are so sweet. I love children. I love babies. They are so sweet and angelic and so cuddly and so wonderful. When we do that, we fail to recognize what God has to say about the nature of a child. If we do not understand what we hold in our arms, a privilege and a responsibility, then we swing to the one side or the other. Now, here is a divine revelation about your little boy and your little girl and your grandbaby. . . . *they go astray as they be born, speaking lies.* The Scripture says in Psalm 58:3: *The wicked are estranged (separated) from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.* They are born going in the wrong direction. Psalm 51:5, David said: *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* He said, “I was shapen in iniquity; and in the very moment of conception, my problem began with sin.” Now, that is what the Book said. That does not sound too good about these little cuddly, sweet, wonderful, angelic little boys and girls. But, the Book says that. Proverbs 22:15: *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.* (Now, the potential to be a fool is in the heart of a little cuddly, tiny, sweet baby.) *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.* Ephesians 2:3 says that we *were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.* These little, sweet, innocent, angelic, cuddly, loving little children are by nature the very nature that they got at their birth which they got from their parents which they got from their parents which they got from Adam. By nature, they are children of wrath. That is not a very pretty picture. Now, that is the child’s nature.

**CONSIDER, SECONDLY, THE INSTRUCTION OF THE SCRIPTURE.** When Scripture instructs me, it is telling me something that I will not naturally do. For instance, if the Bible said, “Fear not. Fear not. Fear not. Fear not,” that tells me that fear is a common problem. So, God deals with it. Turn to Proverbs 29:15. Watch now. *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . .* You say, “I want my child to have wisdom.” How do you get it? *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . . The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . .* If a child does not fear his parents, he will never fear God. A child should learn to fear his parents in the proper sense. (I am not talking about terror stricken, but I am talking about a respect and an awe for mother and dad.) The rod, not just the reproof, but the *rod and reproof* (One deals with the physical, and the other deals with the intellectual.) *give wisdom*. Now, you can say, “I don’t need the rod. I am opposed to the rod.” Then you are opposed to Scripture. You say, “I can do all of mine with talking.” That is what we tried to do with the nations of the world. We tried to do it with Russia. We tried to talk with Russia, and Russia only knows physical, force; and they respect that. Now, *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . .* That is a declaration of the Word of God. “All right, I want my children to have wisdom, and I have to use a rod and reproof.” It gets their attention in the proper sense, and then they are open for teaching. That is the beginning of knowledge. Until they learn that, they do not learn anything worth while as far as spiritual values are concerned. Now, that is the Scripture’s instruction.

Look at Proverbs 29:17: *Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest . . .* Now, you want rest? Correct your son. Correct your daughter. *Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.* Correct him. That means, “That’s wrong, son!” “That’s wrong, daughter!” “That’s wrong!” “That’s wrong!” “That’s wrong!” That seems about all that parents can say. You look for some positive something to say, and all you are saying is the negative, “Don’t! Don’t! Don’t!” You wish somewhere that you could find something to say, “Yes! Yes! Yes!” *Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.* Now, with correction, God promises to give rest to the soul and delight, if we correct. That is instruction. All right, we have the word *rod, reproof, and correction*. Rod is the physical. Reproof is addressed to the mind. It is oral. And, correction is direction. You do not go in that direction. To correct means you are going in the wrong direction. “That’s wrong, son. This is the way.” Turn to Proverbs 23:13-14: *Withhold not correction from the child . . .* (It is easier to put it off. It is easier to nag. It is easier to promise. It is easier to threaten. It is easier to just ignore.) *Withhold not correction from the child . . .* (Sometimes, I preach a message like this, and some parent takes it and hears one word and goes home and gets them a yard stick and begins to work. You did not listen to the whole business. I had a man that went home. I had talked about the rod and reproof. He went home and went way beyond and gave his son four hundred and something licks with a paddle trying to break his will. That was solved when he first got started if he knew what he was looking for. He did not know what he was looking for. What else could you ever do? That is not what I am talking about.) *Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.* (Now, he will sound like it. I used to turn on the radio really loud. I pulled down the windows and turned the radio up really loud and lined them up outside. The ones on the outside were generally praying for the one on the inside and crying and begging and pleading, all of that. It sounded like there was a slaughter going on, but there was not.) *Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.* (This says, what?) . . . *deliver his soul from hell.* Hell is a reality. There are many a boy and girl in the penitentiary that defy God and man and judges and everybody else. They will tell you that they will do what they want to. You can turn them out and shut them up and turn them out, and they are absolute rebels. They never learned the first step in wisdom because of the fact of the rod and reproof never gave them wisdom and mom and dad never put the fear of God in their heart and life. That is sad. Did you deliver a soul from hell? You say, “Oh, you are cruel.” Not if you keep him out of hell. Turn to Proverbs 19:18. Now here is the word *chasten*. He talks about correction. He talks about a rod. He talks about reproof. He uses a word now *chasten*, child-training. That has to do with the whole business. When God chastens us, it does not mean that He whips us. That is part of it, but the whole educational process is chastening. *Chasten thy son while there is hope . . .* (You better do it while there is hope. Mothers and dads, how early in life you must start! You must start early, or what happens? It is beyond hope. If you wait until your son is a junior and you decide, “Okay, I am going to start cracking down,” I am

sorry; you missed the boat. There are some children who are by nature more adamant and more stubborn than other children. There are some parents in this church who have some children who have talked to me — I mean, little, tiny, most rebellious as rebellious as any adult could ever be. They got that by birth, by nature. It just shows up stronger in some, but they all got the potential. *Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.* He will cry. He will weep. He will beg. If it is the paddle or if it is something that you have taken away from him or he wants to go somewhere that he ought not to go and he begs and pleads and cries, do not let up! The Bible says: . . . *let not thy soul spare for his crying.* Do not let up! *Chasten thy son while there is hope . . .* and you need to start on this matter of child-training before the child is born. How do you start out? Pray for them. You start child-training the moment they are born. You do not wait until later. Turn to Proverbs 13:24. I am about to get to my message. These are just some foundational things that I want to say. Proverbs 13:24: *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.* The word *betimes* means early. He is up at it early. He chastens him betimes. You get started early. That could be early in life. That could be early in the morning because that is generally when the problems start, early in the morning. *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.* If I understand this verse of Scripture, the biggest obstacle to a child's welfare is a parent that will not discipline his child. He does not love him. I mean, he is the greatest obstacle to the welfare of the child because of the fact, "I love him too much to discipline." No, you do not. You are indulgent. Some have the idea, "If I spank him, I lose him." You will not lose him if you do it right. There are parents who are afraid. They say, "If I take this or do this, then they will leave." You have already lost him. The moment a parent is on probation, you have already lost him. Get it down. The moment you are on probation, "If I do this or that, then I lose them" — you are never on probation if you are in the Word of God. You are on the offense, and you are in control. In the Book, the Word of God, God promises these things. The biggest obstacle to a child's welfare is a parent who will not — the Bible says: *spareth his rod* — deal with his child.

**NUMBER THREE, THE CARELESSNESS OF PARENTS.** Look at Proverbs 29:15. Here is the heart of my message, and I want to meddle and come to your house tonight. Proverbs 29:15: *The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.* Or bringeth his father to shame. "Left to himself" means without restraint. The verb translated there *left* is used of a wild ass. It is allowed to roam anywhere he wants to in the wilderness. When we think about "left to himself," it is not talking about a mother that goes to work and leaves the child with a babysitter. It is not talking about that. There were no mothers that went out into the work force when Solomon wrote these words. He is talking about a mother or a daddy that allowed the child to make his own decisions instead of making the decisions for them. Moms and dads, it is your responsibility to make the decisions for them when they make wrong decisions, and you keep on making those right decisions; and those decisions do not stop when they graduate from high school. Some of you chicken out. You say, "Well, they graduated from high school. My job is done." No, it is not. You just think it is. You just copped out. Let us look at the Book. He is not talking about the mama leaving the children; he is talking about what they want to do. "All right. Let them make their decisions." Here are two men. Turn to 1 Kings 1:5. Here was King David. He was a great prophet but a poor parent. I would rather be known as a good daddy than a great preacher. Now, that may not sound spiritual to you, but whether it sounds spiritual or not, I would rather be a good daddy than a great preacher. I am serious about that. While I am getting everybody else saved, the devil gets all of my kids. I would not call myself a success if I had a million folks that got saved. Does that make sense? A mother who neglects her children and lets her children go to the dogs and she is out knocking on doors trying to get somebody saved has got some things mixed up somewhere. I am not opposed to soul winning. That is not what I am saying. We need to come back. I would rather it be known that I built great homes than a great church. If you build great homes, you can build a great church. 1 Kings 1:5: *Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king:* (Here is David's son saying, "I will be king.") *and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.* David raised this boy and never corrected him and never told him, "You cannot do this." He never had opposed his son in anything that he wanted to do.

This man died a violent death. His sons died a violent death. Absalom died a violent death. This man died a violent death. The Scripture says: *And his father had not displeased him at any time.* Now that is sad. “My son is my buddy.” No, you are not a very good friend. Turn to 1 Samuel. Here is a man named Eli. He had two boys. It is strange that Samuel had some boys that did not turn out right, and the Bible does not point anything of accusation at Samuel, the man of God. I do not know why, and I am not going to try to interpret Scripture. I am not going to try to explain it away. The Scripture does not point at Samuel as a failure, and Samuel’s boys were not very good boys. The Scripture does point at Eli as an indulgent daddy that either began too late or did not do it severe enough. These boys were not school boys. These were grown boys. They were wicked. They were selfish down at the tabernacle. They were immoral. Then God sent a little boy by the name of Samuel to tell Eli in 1 Samuel 3:13: *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.* Now, the second chapter tells where he talks to his boys and says, “Now, boys, you ought not do this.” But, I repeat again. Either he started too late, he was indulgent early in life and tried to reverse it; or else he did not take a strong enough stand because the Scripture points at Eli and says, “I will judge your house because you did not restrain your boys, and you knew what they were doing.” What happened? Here is a family that died young. His boys died. The whole family was wiped out. That is very serious. Turn to Psalm 81. I am trying to lay the foundation for this thing of a child left to himself — how serious it is. When it talks about God, I do not know of any greater judgment in the Scripture when it talks about God’s judgment — first, on His people and then on the lost. For instance, three times in the book of Romans, it talks about sinners: “God gave them up.” “God gave them up.” “God gave them up.” He gave them up because of their heart. He gave them up to what He has already warned about our nature. He gave them up to do that which was already in their heart with no restraints whatsoever. God gave them up, and they went down, down, down. Look at Psalm 81. Here is God’s people. God wanted to lead them. God wanted to direct them. They said, “We are not going to be directed.” Now, look at God’s judgment. God does not call fire to come down from Heaven. God did something else. In Psalm 81:10: *I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. “We’re not going to do it. We don’t like it. We do not want to go that way.” Christian, you can tell God, “I ain’t going to do it.” Now, He may do to us like He did to Jonah and soak our head in salt water and seaweed for three days and three nights. You cannot tell our brains from caviar after God gets through. Jonah came out running. God may say, “Okay, you want to have your way? All right. I will take the bridle off. I will take the restraints off of you.” He said: But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.* (He is showing the seriousness of leaving them to themselves.) *So I gave them up unto their own hearts’ lust . . .* Young people, in your heart, you have homosexuality, fornication, adultery, cheating, lying, and thieving. You name every sin that any man has ever once committed, every sin that any woman has ever once committed. You have the potential in your heart, and I have the potential in my heart. *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* All God has to do is just back off and take off the bridle and say, “Okay, if you want your way, I will let you have your way.” That is the most severe judgment that God can ever give to any man in this life. *So I gave them up unto their own hearts’ lust: and they walked in their own counsels.* They did not pray about it. They figured out, “This is what I am going to do.” They did not pray about it. They did not go to the preacher and ask him to pray about it. They did not ask mom and dad what to do about it. They just made up their mind, “This is what I am going to do.” God said, “All right, if you will not listen to me, I will let you have your own counsel. You are bright, and you are smart. You know all things. You just go right ahead.” What a predicament they got themselves into! *Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!* You say, “That is an awful judgment for God to allow people to have their own way.” Okay, transfer that over to a parent that allows their child to be left to himself. “Make your own decisions.” What an awful judgment, indulgent mama and daddy, you are putting upon your children.

Okay, let us look at the application. How do parents leave their children to themselves? They do so by allowing them to make their own choices about right and wrong instead of making and directing them according to the Word of God. First, turn to Ephesians 6:4: *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to*

*wrath: but bring them up in the nurture* (That is discipline.) *and admonition* (That is instruction.) *of the Lord*. Now, dad, that is your responsibility. You are the high priest of your home. Daddy, you are to determine where your boy or girl goes to church, not them. You are to determine whether they go to Sunday School, whether they go to the morning service, or Sunday night, or Wednesday night. That is daddy's responsibility. If you let your children make their own decisions whether they lay home in the sack while you go to church or if you let them make their decision as to what church they go to or how often they go to church, you have run from your responsibility. That is your responsibility. This is the day that families leave churches because the young people want to go to this church over there. You are not supposed to be led by the children. The children are supposed to be led by the high priest of the home, and the high priest of the home is daddy. If you do not take the high priest early in life then all of a sudden you see them getting away from you and you decide, "Hey, I am going to be high priest," I am sorry, you sold it a long time ago; and you missed your early opportunities. A man ought to be able to say, "In this house, we are going to church -- mama, papa, brother, and sister." There is no question. There is no reprieve. There is no begging. "We are all going to church." One of the compromises that failed when it tried to save Moses was: . . . *go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD* . . . and leave mama and the kids at home. When you go to church, God intends for the family to go to church. Mama goes to church, and papa goes to church, and brother, and sister. The whole family goes to church, and nobody stays at home. That is your responsibility, Dad. Going to church ought to be settled early in life to where it is never asked, "Can I stay home?" You do not even think of that question, "Can I stay home?" "Why, no! We do not stay home; we all go to church!" I see children left to themselves. You let your children go to Southern Baptist churches. Well, why did we come out of the Southern Baptist convention? You let them go to Pentecostal churches. You think, "They are good people." Brother, listen, I do not believe in their doctrine. I am not talking about how they are good or bad people. That is not the issue. "You are not going there. You come to church with me." I am going to ask you a question, "Does the Book say that?" Does the Book say that? I am not scolding tonight. I am trying to stir you up to see the responsibility. Moms and Dads, you need to get in on this thing on Sunday. And, Sunday through Saturday night, you need to find out what is going on with your children. You need to make some decisions for them that you have been allowing them to make. It is not their decision to make; it is your responsibility under God to make those decisions. Did you know that for some of you there is really no necessity for us to hire a youth director? All we need is a Sunday School teacher in the youth department. Why hire a youth director? To work with our young people. But, they come to Sunday School, and you never send them to any of the activities. It is kind of expensive to hire a man. Why you can get somebody to teach Sunday School on Sunday morning. Are you with me? We could fire the youth director and take his salary and put it on the buildings. Why have a youth director? Oh, you say, "Activities." No, not for activities. You can send them to the YMCA and the YWCA. You can send them to boy scouts and the bowling league and the baseball leagues and all those leagues if you want activities. Send them somewhere for activities, and it is still cheaper. You ignore the fact that you have a youth director. Why do we hire a youth director? To try to work with the spiritual welfare of the boys and girls, the young people, not just on Sunday morning but all during the week — an interest in our children. We are interested in young people, or we would not have a youth department and a youth director. Some of you say, "Well, I do not need him," and you do not back him up. All you need is a teacher in the youth department to teach your boy and girl on Sunday morning. That is all you need. Oftentimes, parents think the Christian school is going to take care of the spiritual welfare of their children. I have got news for you. There is no school that ever can take care of the spiritual welfare of your children. If you send them to school to take care of the welfare of your children, you have a great surprise coming. Dad, it is your responsibility, not church.

Second, turn to Psalm 101:3. I am trying to help you. I am not trying to embarrass you; I am trying to help you. Psalm 101:3: *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes*: That is the very passage of Scripture that you can put on the top of your television set. Who is the monitor of the television set? "Son, you cannot watch that." "But, I want to." "I do not care what you want. You are not going to watch that. I do not care how old you are; you are not going to watch that in my house." Who is to be the monitor? "That is my business. Children, you cannot watch that. You cannot listen to that. Turn it off." "Oh, mama, mama, mama." I have gone into homes, and parents have said, "Turn it off, little fellow." The little fellow would not turn it off.

Mama said, "Turn it off. Turn it off. Turn it off." The child sat there and knew good and well that mama or daddy was not going to do anything. They sat there and never turned it off. Whose responsibility is that? That is a parent that is indulgent, that copped out on their responsibility. You turn it off! If you told them to turn it off, you make sure that they turn it off if it takes you to the end of the millennium. I am not mad tonight; I am preaching. Television. The world is on television. Teach your son and daughter, "Do you know what they are trying to tell you? They are trying to teach you that all police are brutal. That is what they are trying to brainwash you on. This is what they trying to do here. Here they are trying to belittle your nation." Oh, Archie Bunker! How many people watch Archie Bunker? Archie Bunker laughs at everything that is vile and has you laughing at sacred things. You think it is funny. He is deliberately making you laugh at things that you treasure! He is wicked! I do not know much on television that you can watch, even the news. You cannot watch that. A child left to himself. "Well, he wants to." When you stand before God, you will not give that answer. That is your responsibility. I can see me telling my daddy; oh, my soul! I can see me speaking to him like that. I mean, a cyclone, a tornado, a hurricane, and an earthquake would all hit me at the same time and be over so quickly even before I got the words out of my mouth. It would be all over. You let them look at what they want to. You bought the set. What are you doing? Sponsoring juvenile delinquency. You buy the car. You bring them to church and let them take the car and go off somewhere else. "No, you are not going anywhere. We are going to church. This is God's day." You tell them where they are going to church.

Let us go a little further. Turn to Proverbs 1:10. You monitor their friends. "You mean to tell me parents are to pick my friends?" That is what I said. You do not know how. Kids do not know how to pick friends. Look at Proverbs 1. Here is a father talking to his son. *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood . . . (Don't do it!) . . . Cast in thy lot among us . . .* and so forth. He warns. Hear me. Turn to Proverbs 13:20. You are to sit down with your son and daughter. *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.* "Son, if you run with fools, you will be destroyed." Look at Proverbs 28:7: . . . *he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.* You are to monitor their friends. You are to monitor who the girls run with, the guys that the boys run with. You are to monitor the guys that the girls date. You are to know who they are. If you do not know anything about them, you cannot date them. If you do not think that I practice what I preach, I have daughters who will stand up in this congregation and tell you, "Daddy, okayed who I dated." I never was wrong about anybody that I warned and said, "No, you cannot do it." You see, young people, God gives parents discernment that you do not have. You are playing the fool when you try to make your choices and mom and dad are trying to talk to you, and you will not pay any attention. You are ruining your life. God gave you somebody over you to discern and recognize character. When you refuse to listen, you are in trouble. "That guy is not for you." You cannot play with that boy. You cannot play with that girl. You cannot associate with them. Parents, you have got to be involved with who your kids run with. You as a daddy and as a parent are to monitor who they can go with and who they cannot go with and who they can date and who they cannot date! Am I making myself clear? Oh, you say, "You are a fuddy duddy." Well, I am a happy fuddy duddy. You let them choose. God put you over them to choose. If a guy pulls up in the yard and honks his car horn, he is not for you. If a girl wants to sneak out of the house and not tell her parents, that is not the kind to marry. She will do the same thing with you.

Let us move a little farther. We have talked about friends and television. Let us talk about music. Turn to Ephesians 5:19. Dad is to decide what kind of music you are to listen to. You say, "I do not like that." I did not ask you if you liked that. God said that. My mama was a sweet lady, but my mama meant business. You say, "I do not know why in the world they bring beer and put it in the refrigerator." Mama could handle that. These are great big ol' boys, and there are five boys in our family and four girls. These are great big ol' boys. It was very simple. Mama would go to the refrigerator and pour it outside. It was not a problem. You bring a deck of cards in the house. No problem. There was a fireplace, and mama put them in the fireplace. No struggle. No problem. Just simple. Anybody boiled up? Nobody boiled up. You say, "That is strange." Well, it was not strange. That is Bible. Ephesians 5:19: *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;* None of the music that you have heard tonight will seduce you off into sin and will arouse the old nature, but rock music will bring out all the violence and

all the potential of your heart. Dad says, "You are not going to play rock music. Now, you may sneak off and do it, but you are not going to play rock music in my house. You are not going to bring it in the house." The sad thing is that parents buy the television, buy the car, and let them go where they want to go. You are sponsoring juvenile delinquency. "You are not going to take the car and go where I told you not to go. I bought the car. It is my car. You cannot go." The music. You say, "Well, look at these records," and parents buy the records. Listen to the music. Listen to what they have to say, parents. You throw the records away. You take the television. You determine the radio things. If you catch them repeatedly listening to what they ought not to on the radio, then take the radio away from them. "You are not going to listen to that stuff. I am not going to finance it, and I am not going to sponsor it. I repeat again, you may sneak off and do that, but you are not going to do it where I am looking and I am supervising. You are not going to do it." Here it talks about: *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*; We had a family that left this church and went to a church that has rock music. They left this church because the boy wanted rock music, and they got mad at me. They went to a church where the boy could have what he wanted. You are not supposed to give your children what they want; you are to give them what they need. You say, "Well, they like it." Have you listened to the words? Have you looked at the authors of them? Have you read about their lives? Have you heard the beat? I have been on a mission field, and I have heard that same savage beat. I asked the missionaries about it. It is the thing that the witch doctors use. It is on the field where they dance all night and give themselves to the devil and say, "Here I am, devil. Fill me." It is where people pray to be filled with the devil. Here is the music they use to prepare their hearts to be filled with the devil. They baptize them in the name of the devil. I have seen it with my own eyes on film. When they come up out of the river, they are as hard as a log. They are straight as a log. They are never the same again. This vile, pulsating beat is a preparation for their heart to be filled with the devil. You monitor their music. A child left to himself. Will you let him go in the back room and let him listen to what he wants to? You find out what he is listening to. Go in his room while he is there. Go in her room while she is there. Look through his records. You say, "You cannot have this. You cannot have this. You cannot have that. You cannot have that." You say, "He may beat me up." Yea, I do not have that fear. If you start out early in life: *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . . the fear of the Lord*. You start early in life, you will never fear that your boy or girl is going to rear back with a fist to hit you. I do not have that fear. I do not have that fear for my wife that one of my daughters is going to slap my wife, and my son is going to attack my wife. I do not have that fear. I have never had that fear. I do not ever intend to have that fear. Why? Because God meant what He said. You monitor their music. Next Sunday through Friday, he is going to be meddling. He is going to be showing you what little boys and girls are in to. The reason we are showing you this is for you to understand what is involved and how the world, the flesh, and the devil are after your children and for you to take hold of your household and say, "No!"

Let us go a little further. About their clothing. There has always been a difference in teenagers clothing and adults. I am not talking about that. The fads, I am not talking about the bell-bottom trousers and that sort of thing. But, brother, that which is associated with wickedness and immodesty and immorality — a flat, "No!" A fad comes along. A kid wears a pair of overalls, and everybody wants to wear a pair of overalls. But, when those fads are sexual, when those fads stir up the flesh of the opposite sex, when those fads with the low necklines and the short skirts, then what happens? That is mama's and daddy's responsibility to say, "You cannot wear that dress." "Son, you cannot wear that pair of jeans that is so tight. It reveals everything about you." You are not to wear the things associated with the rock crowd. Who is to decide? That is mom and dad's business. You say, "You mean to tell me that mom and dad can pass on my hair and dress?" Yes, sir. Kids' styles, the hair changes and so forth. When your hairstyle violates the clear teaching of the Word of God, then mom and dad are obligated to take the Word of God and say, "Son, boys and girls like to wear different hair styles. I do not expect you to wear your hair like mine, but here is what the Word of God has to say about this particular thing. Here is the Word, and this is what God said. I would not be the kind of daddy that I ought to be if I did not tell you to obey the Word of God."

Turn to Proverbs 22:24. Temper. You let them pitch a fit. When they pitch a fit, you just pitch one bigger. When they get mad, you just get madder. I am not talking about anger. I am just talking about when they get

mad and they think they are really mad and then they see you and say, "I was not mad at all when dad got a hold of me." That is what I am talking about. I am not talking about you in anger and rage. But, you put on such a demonstration and they say, "Hey, that was not very much of a shower. I did not do too big of a job of that thing." Proverbs 22:24: *Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.* "Son, you cannot run with that guy. He pitches temper fits. If you do so, you will start pitching temper fits, and you got it from him. The Bible says: . . . *anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*" The first time your little boy or girl — I do not care how little they are — pitches a temper fit, you stop it the first time. Now, I did not say go get a board with these tiny little things, but you can sure stop it just like that, "No!" If you start early enough, then you do not have to get so severe. "No!" You show your immediate displeasure when they draw back their hand like they are going to hit you. Anger. So you allow them to pitch temper fits and throw things everywhere? If he is a teenager and has been doing that, he has been doing it a long time because you allowed him to do so. You say, "I cannot control him." Yes, you can. There is not anybody who cannot control their temper. Oh, but you can. You do not want to. It just feels so good that you just get so much joy out of it. I could not control mine, and then I got saved, and my heavenly Father decided He would cure me. I am not saying that I am totally cured. I am better. I am not cured. Oh my, I was a grown man. I am not bragging about this. That is foolish. I am telling you something. I was with my wife in a restaurant in Tampa, Florida. We walked in there, and I was in overseas training. I had on my Second Lieutenant outfit. I was big stuff. I walked in this restaurant to eat on Sunday. I started to sit, and the waitress said, "You cannot eat here." She had blocked it off. I did not understand why, maybe it was so that they could wait on us better. I started to sit down over here. "I am sorry, but that is closed also." The first one kind of came up. The second one came up and got away from me. I was a great big grown man. I took my hat like a little boy and threw it down on the floor and stomped my feet downtown Tampa and said, "Where can I sit then?" That was really big, wasn't it? Oh, my heavenly Father. When He makes you go back and publicly apologize where you blew your stack, you have to knock that off because embarrassment of apologizing sure takes the thrill out of doing it. You just go back and say, "I am sorry. I blew my . . ." That will cure you. I know a preacher friend. He is a great big fellow, and there was a little tiny fellow. They really had it at a job. He was a big fellow. Everybody knew that they were enemies. They really had it out. One day, this great big fellow was sitting at a table, and he was eating dinner. This little tiny fellow walked up behind him and put a switch blade right on his Adam's apple, mouth wide open. He did not say anything. This big fellow says, "You know, I did not lose my temper. The fact is I was scared to move." He did not turn his head either way. He was really tamed. You can control your temper. What happens? When they pitch a temper fit, it is daddy's and mama's responsibility to say, "Hey, that don't pay. That does not pay. When you pitch a temper fit, then I pitch a bigger one." The HRS would not approve of that.

Proverbs 20:4 and then I am through except for a couple of . . . no, I am not either. Here is another page. Excuse me. Everybody says, "Preacher, you are always saying you are going to quit. Just preach until you get through." Okay. Proverbs 20:4. I am taking that advice. Verse 4: *The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.* Here is the matter of laziness. Who is going to make him work? You say, "He won't work." Then mama don't cook for him. When he comes in, there is no place at the table for him. . . . *that if any would not work, neither should he eat.* Then he won't get out of bed. If he will not get out of bed, then there is nothing to eat for him when he comes to the table at dinnertime. You say, "That's cruel." No, that is not cruel. God has already established a law. While everybody else is eating, he is begging. You say, "Man, I cannot make him make up his room." I will tell you how. Do not do his laundry. Do not make up his bed. Do not serve any meals. Take away his refrigeration privileges and then say, "When you obey, then you get kitchen service and all that. Your service stops when you do not take care of what I tell you to do." You think, "Man alive, I just can't do this." Just stop the food service. It is your responsibility what manner of work.

Let me read you a couple of articles. Bishop Hopkins — don't know who he is, but, boy, he said something good. Listen. "Take this for certain, that as many a deserved stripe that you spared from your children, you do but lay them upon your own back. Those whom you refuse to chastise, God will make severer scourges to chastise you. At whatever cost, establish your authority. Let there be but one will in the



house and let it be felt that this will is to be the law. The child will readily discover whether the parent is disposed to yield or resolve to rule." Every child in this room knows exactly how far you can push mom and daddy. You know the place where they draw the line or whether they never draw the line. Every kid knows it. Mom and dad do not know it, but they know it. "The child will readily discover whether the parent is disposed to yield or resolve to rule, but however trifling the requirement, let obedience being small as great matters the indispensable point." For instance, watch a little, tiny child. You say, "He does not know what he is doing." He does know what he is doing. The Scriptures say so. "Son, daughter, sit in that chair." He sits, and mama says, "Okay, that is all right. You obeyed me." He disobeyed you deliberately. Every time, you tell him to do something specifically, he does it, but he does not do it where you told him to do it. That is rebellion. If you have to spend all night long, "Son, sit in that chair." I mean you spend all night long until he sits in this chair. Do you get me? If you have to spend all night long, and you do that, then you do not have to do that thing later in life if you would make that a rule in your house. "Hey, son. Hey, daughter. You can fight all you want to, but I am going to come out on top. That is a rule. You can make this long or short if you want to. If you want to make it a long, drawn out affair, then I've got time. You've got time. If it takes all night long for you to conquer. I said, 'Sit in that chair. Not this chair, but that chair right there.'" I see parents tell their kids. They think their kids obeyed. They did not obey you. They disobeyed you, and you gave them your approval. This quote is not finished, and neither am I. "The awe of parental authority is perfectly consistent with the upmost freedom of childlike confidence. It is the very foundation of it, for the child can hardly appreciate the kindness of the parent of whom he thinks is afraid to strike while it operates as a valuable safeguard against the fowls and follies of uncontrolled waywardness. But ever let us put the alternative vividly before us — either the child's will or the parents' heart must be broken, one or the other. Without a wise and firm control, the parent is miserable, and the child is ruined."

Now, let me quote another fellow, and then I am going to quote myself, and then we are going to go home. Here is a fellow named Josiah Pratt. "I earnestly entreat you like the wise and experienced Josiah Pratt to his children." Now, he is writing to his grown children. "To subdue the wills of your children most tenderly if you can." By the way, there are different kinds of kids. There are some that a stern look breaks them all to pieces and brings immediate response. Then there are others that you really have to get their attention and get their attention and get their attention and get their attention. Listen, you do not use the same type of discipline on every kid. What you are trying to do is to get them to do what they are supposed to do. That is the goal. The goal is not to see how hard you can beat them. The goal is the transformation of their life. That is the goal. "To subdue the wills of your children most tenderly if you can, but if not, your duty and your love require measures which shall enforce obedience. Commit yourselves, as little as may be, into a contest with your children. Don't try to get into a contest with your children, but having done this, you must maintain the contest until the child yields." I had a contest with one of my children, only one of them, and it lasted over an hour. When I got through, I was sick. I was sick at heart. I was sick. They were little, tiny fellows, and I have never had any of that anymore. They were in first grade. I have never had a confrontation of resistance since. You stay until they yield. "Every such victory will make the next easier. If you yield instead of them, they have got in their mind, 'I got them this time,' and the next time is going to be a longer contest because they won round one. If they win round one and they win round two, the next contest is going to be a longer contest still. When you are down by two, you are down pretty bad." You do not ever allow yourself to lose any round. Now, I expect all these young people to come up and want me to sign their Bible when I get through tonight. "Every such victory will make the next easier, and in all likelihood, deter the child from entering in on another contest. You must make thorough work of it if you would bless the child. The guy with a heart is seen in combination with his self-will in trying to evade your authority. A very young child puts forth perhaps approaches to sin in acts of cunning and rebellion." I see little kids cunningly disobey mom and dad. Mom and dad told them to do something, and they did not watch to make sure they carried it out. They took what they did as being carried out. The kids real cunningly rebelled and won the victory right under your nose. Two more sentences on that. "Rely with unshaken confidence on the divine maximum: *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" Don't come back and quote some illustration about somebody that grew up in a home and now they are living for the devil. Do not quote to me

illustrations. That makes as much sense as a man coming to me about eternal security. He said, "I know a man who got saved, and now he is living like the devil. I do not care if the man made a profession of faith. I do not know whether he got saved or not and now he is living like the devil. You do not look at illustrations of what people do to judge whether a practice of Scripture is right or not. This Book says: *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* The Book said that and I am not going to argue some other maximum. I am not going to do it. The Book said it, and that is all I know.

Look at Proverbs 29:15 and one other passage of Scripture. Turn to Proverbs 13:18. I am not doing this to hurt or open wounds or scold. *The rod and reproof give wisdom:* That is the positive promise. Now here is a promise on the other side. Just as sure as the promise: *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . .* That is a promise. Here is a promise on the other side: . . . *but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.* That is a promise. If the first part is a promise, the second part is a promise. If the first part is true, the second part is true. Here the first part is true and the second part is true. It bringeth his mother or his daddy to shame. Look at Proverbs 13:18. It is a shame first of all that you did not pay attention to instruction. Proverbs 13:18: *Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction . . .* There are parents who hear a message like this and rebel and refuse to hear the instruction, and the days will go into the weeks and the weeks into months and the months into years. One day, when this promise comes to pass, He that leaveth a child to himself causeth his mother shame, it will come back to them. Here is the shame of guilt to the fact, "I heard the Word, and I believed myself and my feelings more than the Word. The shame of guilt that I failed to do what God said." That is shame. The second shame is the shame of public humiliation. I give two illustrations — Eli's sons. That is public. The second illustration is David with Adonijah and Absalom. That hurts. That hurts. That embarrasses. That shames. That is what the Scripture says. The objection that you make is, "If I put my son to pain, will he not hate me?" You are doing what the liberal does. He puts his reason against revelation. You are reasoning where God has revealed. You trust what you think more than what God says. "Why, I will make him hate me." Not if you do it right. You will not make him hate you. "I am scared that I will make him hate me." No, it will make him love you if you do it right. When left to himself, he was a deep and anxious trouble. Now, he shall give thee rest. Before he brought thee shame; now, he or she shall give delight to thy soul the moment the feelings of the child under correction will give way to the conviction of the parent's wisdom and regard for his profit. *The rod and reproof give wisdom . . .* Now, parents, please do not miss these services next week. When you see these services and what has transpired, mom and dad, then you take the rod and reproof and go home and teach your children wisdom, correction, chastisement. Monitor their friends. Monitor the TV. If you cannot monitor it, get rid of it. Monitor the television. Monitor the books. Monitor his friends. Monitor his clothing. That is your responsibility. Monitor where they go to church. Monitor how often they go to church. Monitor them. That is your responsibility. Now, wait a minute. Sometimes, we think, "When does it stop?" When I read the Bible, I find in this age a patriarchy. In the Old Testament, you have father, son, and grandchildren all living under the same house. Now, we have a little different marriage situation today, but the Bible teaches, "Son and your son's sons." It does not stop. A daddy's input and a daddy's direction is not to stop when they graduate from high school, when they graduate from college. It is supposed to be a lifetime thing of input and allowing them to live with lifetime input of help and guidance and direction. I am not talking about treating him like a little boy. I am not talking about that matter. But, I am simply saying that we do not come to certain ages and then, "I am through." No, sir. I do not feel that I am through until God calls me home. I want to influence my children and my grandchildren and my great grandchildren. I want to do it through their parents. I do not want to go in and take the daddy's responsibility. I am not talking about that kind of business, interfering in the home. I am talking about the matter of influencing direction. That is dad's and mom's responsibility all your life.