

Four Kinds of Parents

Eph 2:2 — This describes where we all came from. No matter how right our principles or noble our philosophies, we walked according to the course of this world and were totally influenced by the spirit that is now at work in the children of disobedience. That's why we can't rely on anything we learned about raising children apart from the anointing. The ruin that comes from slack, permissive rulership is evident when you look at the course this world is taking.

What happens to a nation when its rulers do not give a speedy trial? Ecc 8:11— rank lawlessness.

Pr 13:24 — The Word says PROMPTLY.

Only *prompt discipline* can fulfill Eph 6:4. Anyone who imagines that a child can grow up to have regard for (fear of) YHWH apart from parents who execute speedy judgment on every offense, does so in defiance of the facts. Mal 4:6 — A complete disintegration of the Earth and its social fabric is at stake if fathers do not do their job (Ps 68:5-6).

Even the social sciences recognize the bad fruit of improper discipline. One study on child-rearing practices shows that parents can be classified as either permissive or restrictive, and as either warm or cold. The four kinds of parents studied were:

- a. warm restrictive;
- b. warm permissive;
- c. cold restrictive;
- d. cold permissive.

The Results

1. The warm restrictive parents produced rule-conscious, law-abiding children who valued adult approval.

2. The warm permissive parents produced children who were self-confident and very sociable, but would twist the rules. They were friendly but spoiled.

3. The cold restrictive parents had children who were willing to obey, but were anxious and tended to be angry with themselves.

4. The cold permissive parents produced hostile children who more often than not were delinquents.

The *preferred children* were produced by warm, rule-conscious parents who set boundaries and rules for behavior, combined with love and affection. The children who were raised in *any* other manner were actually *damaged*.

So do we congratulate ourselves that we aren't the cold permissive type and justify our flesh? — "Well, I may not be very affectionate with my children, but at least I keep them under control." — "Yeah, I know I'm a little loose, but I think I make up for it by being warm." — Do we really want to raise children that toe the line but are insecure? Do we want self-confident, outgoing children that will change the standard to suit their own desires? What kind of children do we have to produce if we expect *them* to raise up the Zakar?