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**HOW NOT TO LOSE YOUR CHILDREN**

Dr. Mike Wells

[Proverbs 22:6](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Proverbs-22-6/), “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*.”

The Biblical pattern for a successful ministry is found in the success of the family unit. Nothing speaks as authoritatively as the successful parent. Please don’t misunderstand, some of the best Christians I know have had children who have broken their hearts and disappointed their Lord. In no way am I discrediting those dear saints who did their best in the rearing of their children. I am saying that there is more power behind the punch of a child who is walking in their parent’s spiritual footsteps successfully. All parents, especially those in service for God, must do everything within their power to prevent and warn their children of the pitfalls of life. The parent must make serving God the most enjoyable thing in the world. One time a parent said to me “You can take a horse to water; but you can’t make it drink.” My response was “At least he’d know where the horse trough was.” Parenting is one of the most complex activities of life. I would like to give a few ideas that have proved to be helpful to Mrs. Wells and myself. I hope these will help.

1. Always remember if you have no family you have less of an effective ministry.
2. Never allow the child to get the upper hand.
3. Make all ground level ground and avoid favoritism.
4. Maintain an open door policy. Your children should not have to go through your secretary to get to see you. I have seen this first hand with our pastor.
5. You and your wife should never argue in front of the children.
6. Build up a bank account of compassion and trust with your children.
7. Never let your discipline exceed your bank account of compassion and trust.
8. Never push your children to be any particular profession in life, just pray.
9. Give the young ones plenty of hugs and kisses.
10. Give immediate discipline when they are between 0-9 in age.
11. Maintain daily family devotions that are practical and not preaching.
12. Make house rules very plain. Pastor and Mrs Wells had them on the Refrigerator
13. Rehearse house rules often. Make sure its very clear.
14. When it comes to a conflict between your child and another authority, take the side of authority.
15. Give the child opportunity to explain his side of the story.
16. The younger the child the shorter the time span should be between the crime and the punishment.
17. The older the child the longer the time span should be between the crime and the punishment.
18. The younger the child the quicker mom should give the punishment.
19. The older the child the more dad ought to be the executioner of the punishment.
20. Assign household chores for each child to do.
21. Inspect what you expect.
22. Raid their rooms once a month.
23. Help your children with their school projects and other events.
24. Allow a lot of different authorities to be a part of their lives.
25. Watch how they conduct themselves around other adults. The less respect the less spirituality exists in their lives.
26. Be heavily involved in their homework.
27. Work together as a family in bringing people to church.
28. Go soul winning together as a family.
29. Allow no TV commercials on your TV set.
30. TV programs destroy a lot of Bible teaching. It indoctrinates. Screen everything.
31. Play a lot of board games.
32. Never allow the children to be alone in their rooms except for sleeping.
33. No radios, TVs, or internet service in their rooms.
34. No personal transportation until college.
35. Never let teenagers be alone without an adult being present.
36. Never allow your child to work on Sundays, church nights or during church wide soul winning.
37. Make sure every child is involved in the soul winning and bus ministry along with you as a parent.
38. Ask the youth director, principal, camp director, teacher, or pastor about possible bad friendships. Split up any clichés where the children are bad for each other. They may be good children individually, but together bring out the worst in each other.
39. Do not get mad when someone else corrects your child.
40. Stay in the same church and quit running away every time troubles come into your family; especially when it involves your children.
41. Watch out for those who just enter into the teen years and do not let them deceive you into turning you against their authorities. By now they have become experts at wrapping you around their little finger.
42. Show personal interest in each child.
43. Tough love is greatly needed today.
44. Teach the children to work and to finish tasks.
45. Win souls together as a family and bring your converts to church together.
46. Refuse to have hateful or rebellious attitudes in your home.
47. No raised voices in the home except by dad and mom and only occasionally when necessary.
48. Make the home a place where a sweet spirit exists.
49. Do not try to be buddies with your children; be a parent. You can become buddies after they are married and grown.
50. Love their mother and let them see your expressions of love.