

2 John

Lord's Return / Great Books / Overlook / Proverbs 30:5

I believe the Lord's return is soon, and so when we get to heaven and see John we can say what few people can (for most don't spend the time reading them), John your second and third book were great. People can have a tendency to overlook these next two books. I can have the tendency to overlook these next two books of the Bible; they are small, they look so much like 1 John which we study so in-depth, that it appears we are rehashing things we have already studied, and not to mention they are so close to the Book of Revelation that we want to get on to the good stuff, so we might think. But Proverbs 30:5 says:

(Proverbs 30:5 NKJV) Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

And thus we are reminded, God has a rich word here in these next two little books, but powerful books.

Elder / No Retirement – Just Beginning / Life Richer & Richer / Best Chapters

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER - Written by John. John refers to himself as “the elder” because in addition to being the last surviving apostle, at the time he wrote this letter, he was most likely close to one hundred years old. That's the great thing about ministry, there is no retirement program. A thirty-three-year-old player in the NFL is considered an old man. But in the things of God, a man that age is just beginning. Because our lives become richer and deeper the longer we walk with the Lord, there is no disqualification for age. If you look at the life of Jacob, his life just got richer and richer with age, and as we say his best chapters were yet to come, and too can it and will it be for you and I.

Elect Lady / Home Church / Is Your Home a Church

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER, To the elect lady and her children - Written to, the elect lady and her children. Who this lady is we do not know, but very likely it was her home that was where this early church met, for most, close to all of the churches in that day met in homes. Christian, do you consider your home a church (I don't just mean when you have visitors)? Do you consider it a place for God's Spirit to move, in both you and your children. A place where God's Word can be studied and taught. A refuge where one feels secure and at rest, and place where peace rests upon it? A place where you can have fellowship with the Lord, and fellowship with one another? If you don't then you should, and then adjust accordingly within your home. This little book is a great book to come back to over and over again for the model in the home.

The Theme of the Book – “Truth & Love”

(2 John 1:3 NKJV) Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. – Take careful note of the last part of this verse, “in truth and love”, this is the theme of this short little power-packed epistle.

Personal Correspondence – Eaves Drop / Early Church – Upside Down / People - Problems

Because they were written as personal correspondence rather than as doctrinal statements or historical records, John's second and third epistles afford us the opportunity to eavesdrop on the early church, to read mail addressed to the group who “turned the world upside down” (see Acts 17:6). And in so doing, we see that the old adage is indeed true: Wherever there are people, there are problems. So it is that in 2 and 3 John, John deals with people problems in the early church. In 2 John, He deals with them generically; in 3 John, he deals with them specifically.

Speak Truth – Holy Spirit Application / Problems – Upside Down

There are times when we must speak the truth generally and let the Holy Spirit make application specifically. But there are also times when, like John, we must speak the truth to people individually and personally. So the church that turned the world upside down, they too had problems, which should encourage us today. Makes us think, hey Lord you used them to turn the world upside down, then so too can You use us.

Lessons – Application / Congregational – Family - Individuals

The lessons seen in John's last two epistles have great application to us congregationally, as families, and as individuals.

Outline of 2 John:

- John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)
- John - Commands her to continue in her Love (2 John 1:5-6)
- John - Cautions her in her Love (2 John 1:7-11)
- John - Comforts her with his Love(2 John 1:12-13)

Much to Say – Important what Said

(2 John 1:12 NKJV) Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. - I have many things to say to you, but I am only going to say 13 verses of things, that means what he says in these 13 verses are the most important of what he has to say. We would do well to examine them closely.

John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)

John commends her for the love that was found in her home, and in her children.

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

(2 John 1:2 NKJV) because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

(2 John 1:3 NKJV) Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

(2 John 1:4 NKJV) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Commended for Love in Her Home

John commends her for the love that was found in her home, and in her children.

John talks of Love More / Truth - 39 – 20 – 9 – 5 - 5

Although John talks about love more than any other writer in Scripture, he also emphasizes truth more than any other writer—using the word “truth” twenty times in his Gospel, nine times in 1 John, five times in these opening verses of 2 John, and five more times in 3 John.

Apostle of Love – Truth / Love rather Honest / Economy USA / True for You – Pilate - Jesus

I find it interesting that it was the “apostle of love” whom the Lord tapped on the shoulder to also be the one who stressed truth. Love and truth must go together, because when you talk about love, it's very easy to get mushy, to become sentimental, to begin to say, “I'll just love that person rather than be honest with him.” Such is not the case with John. And his example is a needful one in a day when the economy has eclipsed integrity as our nation's top priority, in an age where what is true for one person may or may not be true for another, in a culture that embraces Pilate's question, “What is truth?” (John 18:38), rather than Jesus' declaration, “I am the truth” (John 14:6).

Batten the Hatches – Nor People led to Destruction / Truth & Love Vital / Eph 4

While I don't want to be one who causes people to batten down the hatches whenever they see me coming, neither do I want to let the church or my kids walk in ways I know will be destructive. Our relationships with our kids, our spouses, and our sisters and brothers in the Lord cannot survive without truth. That's why Paul says we are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)—for both are vital:

(Ephesians 4:15 NKJV) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ;

Church – Home – Heart / Have to be Truthful if Truly Love / Elect Lady

Whether it be in the church, in the home, or in your heart, you have to be truthful, you have to be honest, if it is truly love. You have to have them both together. The elect lady's home was filled with both truth and love, and it effected the children in her home. John commends her for that.

(2 John 1:4 NKJV) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Parents – Model Integrity / No Compromise

Mom and Dad, make sure you model absolute integrity to your kids. Never let them see (or even the unseen things) you compromise truth even in little, seemingly insignificant ways—for such actions will plant seeds in their hearts that will take root, causing them to be people who do not walk in integrity or deal with others honestly.

John - Commands her to continue in her Love (2 John 1:5-6)

(2 John 1:5 NKJV) And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.

(2 John 1:6 NKJV) This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

Commended – Now Commanded / Unbeatable Team – Dynamic Duo / Harsh - Dangerous

After commending her for walking in truth, John reminds the elect lady of the command to love. Truth and love are an unbeatable team, a winning combination, a dynamic duo, John ties them together so nicely here in these first 6 verses. Truth without love makes a person harsh. But love without truth makes a person dangerous because he will allow cancers to grow and problems to take root in his life, in his family, on the job, or in the church.

613 / Jesus Sums up – Love / Heart of Every Command is Love / Our Benefit – Others Benefit

The Jewish rabbi's determined that there were 613 OT commandments; Jesus summed them up simply to love. That is what is the heart of every commandment, love, for it is for our benefit and the benefit of others when we do the right thing to and for them.

Fear not Commandments – Releases Love / God's Word Stable – No 2nd Rev

We need not fear the word command, it is not binding, but releasing. God's commands, His Word, releases God's love in our life. God's Word is true, it is stable, it never needs to be amended and updated (notice there is no 2nd revision to the Bible):

(2 John 1:2 NKJV) because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

Word – is Truth & Love / Draws me in – Fall Deeper in Love / Not Ink – Word that Became

His Word is truth and love, and it draws me in, and I just fall deeper and deeper in love with His Word because it is truth and love. I am not falling in love with ink on paper, but the Word that became flesh:

(John 1:1 NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....

(John 1:14 NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Commend – Command – Now Cautions

"I commend you for walking in truth," said John, "and I command you not to forget love." And then he issues a word of caution....

John - Cautions her in her Love (2 John 1:7-11)

(2 John 1:7 NKJV) For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

(2 John 1:8 NKJV) Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

Watch Out for People – Jesus Hasn't Come – or Will Come

"Watch out," John says, "for people who say or imply that Jesus hasn't come in the flesh, or isn't coming in the flesh, who tell you not to get too serious about prophecy and not to look for Jesus to return physically."

Watch Out – Don't Get Fuzzy – Sloppy / In Name of Unity – Open Minded / Things Worked For

He is saying watch out lady, John says don't get fuzzy in your thinking, your theology. That in this idea of love, make sure you still realize there are deceivers, don't let your theology get sloppy, for there is a spirit of antichrist that wants us to water down our theology, all in the name of love, unity, being open minded. In verse 8 he says don't lose the things you worked for, what you have gained, don't lose you full reward.

Not Seeker Friendly / Won't Lose Reward / Nor Bible Beaters

I can tell you this, this is not a seeker friendly church. We will never water down the gospel and the truth, in order not to offend, because the word here tells us when we do, we lose what we have worked hard for, and we lose part of the reward that God has for us. Nor is this a Bible beating church either, we tell the people the truth, in love, and then commit the rest to prayer and working of the Holy Spirit. People need to hear the truth, it is the only things that can set them free:

(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:33 NKJV) They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"

(John 8:34 NKJV) Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

(John 8:35 NKJV) "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever."

(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

(2 John 1:9 NKJV) Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

(2 John 1:10 NKJV) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

(2 John 1:11 NKJV) for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Clear That Day – Persecution / Today no Fears – Bring Errant Doctrine

For the most part in John's day it was mostly black and white, fairly clear on who believed and who didn't. For persecution was ever so present, and your profession of faith could get you killed. Today, in American its easy for people to say I am a Christian for they have no fear of persecution, so we have to be even more on guard than early church was about these people who would bring errant doctrine.

Transgression – Beyond Set Point / We not to be Involved with Them / No God Bless - Home

Transgression means to go beyond a limit that is set. We are not to get involved with people who don't believe in the literal, physical coming and return of Jesus. This is a strong word. We are not to say, "God bless you," to such people, or to invite them into our homes. Those who reject Jesus Christ, those who are not looking for Jesus Christ, those who have diminished the Person of Jesus Christ are to be shunned.

OKJV

I like the OKJV for better clarity on this passage:

(2 John 1:10 KJV) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

(2 John 1:11 KJV) For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

No Shotgun / Not Ok what Preach / Jesus 2000 yrs ago – Throne – Earth / Lamb - Lion

Does that mean we get the shotgun and run them off the porch, no it means we are not say it ok that you don't believe that Jesus is God, the Holy God, that He left the throne 2000 years ago to come to this earth to be brutally beaten and scourged, nailed to a cross, for my sin, and for your sin, and that He is coming back, this time not as a Lamb, but as a Lion, and instead of taking the propitiation (the wrath for sin), He will be pouring His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.

Can't Say Bless You – Sake of Unity / Inking we Agree / Only 1 Way

We can't say "God speed", God Bless You, we can not, for the "sake" of unity give them any inkling that we agree with their doctrine, that all roads lead to heaven, or that their road leads to heaven, but there is only one way, through "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" – Jesus Christ:

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

1 Empty Tomb

There was only one empty tomb, just one!

Receive in Home / No Host Bible Study / So You don't Lose Reward

Verse 10 - do not receive him into your house - Also, we are not to receive them into your home, meaning don't let them come into your home and host their Bible Studies week after week, God says don't do it. One reason is so you don't lose the things that you worked for, that you may receive the full reward.

What did Paul say in 1 Timothy:

(1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

(1 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Amazed Christians Sucked Away / Parents Guard Kids – No Tolerance / They sow Seeds

I am amazed at how Christians have been swayed or sucked into errant teaching. We are told guard ourselves from allowing them into our lives to continually plant their seeds of heresy. Also, parents, you need to guard your children and make sure that there is no one in their lives that has an avenue to continually plant heresy into their minds. You can't continually have them in your home, and in your life, as they drop a little here and a little there, and over time some of it has seeped into your very being, or that of your child. Our children need to see that we have no tolerance for these things, we shun them immediately, so when they leave the house and go to that university, or that workplace, that won't sit around and engage these people and allow anything to creep into their doctrine. For most of you, you have invested a lifetime in training your children in the way they should go, you can not allow anything to penetrate them that can rob them of that full reward.

Neighbor Next Door / Endorsement

Know this, you bless them, you allow them and have a Bible study, when they go next door, they will be sure to let your neighbors know, oh yes I just left their house and we had a wonderful time. They will use you as an endorsement, and all that work you put into your neighbor could be ruined.

Old Dogs / Young Kids

Now when the doorbell rings and it is some crusty old dog, totally set in his ways, just tell them Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and by Him and Him only, there was only one empty tomb, consider that this day. But if some young ones show up, I step out on the porch, and say how are you, and do the work of an Evangelist (2 Tim 4:5). The next day usually they show back up again, but this time with the old crusty dog, and I give them the way the truth the life speech. Some show up to deliberately deceive you, and they are hardened to it, others show up who are just deceived, and you have opportunity to sow seeds into their life.

Apply Also

These words can be applied to who a person dates and marries. These words can be applied to who we continually hang out with. I am not talking seclusion from the world, but watching out for those who will draw you away from the Lord.

Strong Words from John / Apostle of Love

It's a good thing these strong words come from the pen of John—for if Paul had written them, this severe warning could simply be attributed to his forceful personality. But the fact that this warning comes from the "apostle of love" makes it all the more imperative.

John - Comforts her with his Love(2 John 1:12-13)

(2 John 1:12 NKJV) Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

(2 John 1:13 NKJV) The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

Commend – Command – Caution – Now Comforts / Face to Face

Finally, after commending, commanding, and cautioning, John comforts. "I'd like to deal with many more things," he says, "but I'll do it face-to-face rather than with pen and paper." I'm coming to see you face to

face, and that would bring this woman comfort, fill her with love, my brother John is coming to see me, we will fellowship together.

Psalm 45

David said in his psalm:

(Psalms 45:1 NKJV) My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

Fellowship in the Home/Church

It is such a blessing, a great comfort in love, when the brethren get together and the words of the Lord are being spoken and shared. I love getting letters and email, but I love it so much more when I can look the person face to face, hear their words, see their smiles, or even their tears, and that we can embrace one another, hold one another. I look so forward to our times together, I'm glad we have mid-week because I don't want to go a whole week. My heart and my soul are lifted each and every time we come together.

Verse 12 - that our joy may be full – As we fellowship with Him, and with each other, our joy is full.

Outline 2 John:

- John - Commends her for her Love (2 John 1:1-4)
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John commends her for the love in her home, and we should consider our homes a church, a place where God has full reign. John commands her to continue in love and truth, the dynamic duo. John cautions her to watch out and not let that love get sloppy, and lead her to deception, and the deception of her children. And lastly, John says I'm coming to fellowship, looking forward to seeing you face to face, and talking about the goodness and love of our Lord.

Children Walking in the Truth

2 John 1:4

(2 John 1:1 NKJV) THE ELDER, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

(2 John 1:2 NKJV) because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

(2 John 1:3 NKJV) Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

(2 John 1:4 NKJV) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father

Rejoice to Hear / 3 John

John writing to the elect lady, and he says, "I rejoice to hear that your children are walking in the truth (by the way that word "some" is not found in the original Greek). In fact in 3 John he says he has no greater joy than to hear that his children walk in the faith:

(2 John 1:4 KJV) I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

(3 John 1:4 NKJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Thayer Dictionary Definition:

1) to walk

- 1a) to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities
- 1b) Hebrew for, to live
 - 1b1) to regulate one's life
 - 1b2) to conduct one's self
 - 1b3) to pass one's life

No Greater Joy / Reading – Talking – Applying / Pro Football – Love Jesus

It is true isn't it, those of you with children, and those that will have children, there is no greater joy than to know that your children walk in the truth. It is a joy to hear them talk about the Scriptures, reading the Word on their own, having devotions, applying the Scriptures to their lives, to seek the Lord, to trust the Lord. As we watch them grow in the Lord our hearts are filled with joy. I say I don't care what my child grows up to do for a living, whether he be a successful businessman, a Pro football player, or a ditch digger, just as long as he loves Jesus and lives for Him.

Opposite is True / Mega-Church - Dissapointment

The opposite is true if they walk not in the truth. It wouldn't matter if this church became a mega-church, if I revolutionized world mission, hosted crusades that lead tens of thousands into the kingdom, none of that would matter, and I would consider my life a disappointment if my son did not walk in the truth, did not grow up in the Lord and continue with Him.

It Applies to All of Us

Maybe you say this doesn't apply to me I have no kids, well maybe someday you will, and even if you don't have kids, these same principles apply for you if you are helping to disciple other children. The same principle will apply for you older brothers and sisters discipling your younger brothers and sisters (maybe it might even be the younger discipling the older).

No Need for Ophra / Manual Empowered by Holy Spirit

We don't have to listen to Ophra or Dr. Phil on how to raise our children to walk in the faith, we get to go to the manual that is inspired, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Outline for raising our Children to Walk in the Truth:

- Walking Together With Them

- Walking Ahead of Them
- Walking Honestly Before Them
- Walking Away from Them
- Walking Closely Behind Them

Walking Together With Them

Morning Prayer

This was the morning prayer in the home of the Jewish family.

(Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

(Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV) "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

(Deuteronomy 6:6 NKJV) "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

(Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV) "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Morning Devotions

I can't stress enough about the morning devotion with your kids to establish that pattern in their lives. As you sit in your house, at the supper table, when you lie down, the evening prayer with the little ones.

Making church a part of life, the coming together for the study of the Word, for fellowship, for prayer, and the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42). That all these things are just a normal part of everyday life.

Teach Them on the Way

But look also, we are to be teaching our children as we walk on the way, as we go about everyday life:

*(Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV) "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, **when you walk by the way**, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

But I'm Busy / On the Way – Grocery Store – Church – Mall / Talk don't Preach

You may say I am so busy, it is not that I don't want to, its just I don't have time to schedule a Bible Study in the Home, in fact we are here at the church three times a week as it is, sometimes 4, how am I going to squeeze another day in there? Look here at what Deuteronomy is saying, while on the while. While on the way to the grocery store, or on the way to the church, on the way to the school, to the mall, you talk to your child, not preach, but talk. Use the scenes of life to talk to your child about the Lord.

Grocery – Goodness / Sports – Saved / Nature – Word / Drunk - Destruction

When you are at the grocery store talk how good the Lord is for providing this food for the home. Find out who is born-again on the sports team and share their testimony with your child while on the way to the park or watching them on television. When you see the birds of the air tell them how the Lord knows them and provides for them, how much more so will He do the same for you (Matt 6:26 / Matt 10:29-31). When you pass the bar, or the drunk passes you on the road, share with your child the dangers and destruction of that lifestyle.

Boston Univ – 43 Seconds / Share Along the Way / Initiate the Conversation

A recent study at the University Boston determined that the average Father spends 43 seconds a day in meaningful conversation with his kids. The Bible says one of the keys to sharing the spiritual things with your child is share them along the way. How?, you initiate them, you start the conversation, you steer the conversation there. There is a heavenly model of what we are to do/how to do it on earth.

Heavenly Model – Rev 7

In the Book of Revelation, one of the Elders (one of the 24) came to John and said who are these arrayed in the fine robes, and John says I don't know, so the elder told him.

(Revelation 7:13 NKJV) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(Revelation 7:14 NKJV) And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Elder Initiated – Don't Wait for Children to Ask / Share Your Devotion – Bibles Study - Noah

The elder initiated the discussion, and so too must we. We can't wait for our children to ask us the questions about spiritual things, we must initiate them. We study the Word verse-by-verse, so share with them what you are learning. Share with them what you pondered in your morning devotion. Ask them

question of what you are studying. Ask them, what do you think John thought when he heard the angel speak? Here is what I think. What do you think Noah thought when he felt the first rain drop, here is what I think. Parents, elders that are discipling, initiate the conversation, lead it to spiritual things, take your kids with you along the way. You'll be amazed at how much your children desire deep meaningful conversation, and we have the privilege of sharing the Scriptures with them.

Walking Ahead of Them

Walk Together – Walk Ahead / They will Walk in our Footsteps

Not only are we to walk together with them, but we are to walk ahead of them. The people we are ministering to (kids, work mates too) are going to walk in our footsteps, therefore we must walk ahead of them.

Story of Son & Dad – Liquor Store

True story, You may remember the story. The dad was a Christian, he went to church, and he enjoyed his wine, though he would never admit it, sometimes too much. It was Thanksgiving that day in Chicago, snow had been falling and blanket the whole town. Dad was out of wine so he put on the jacket and coat, slipped on the snow boots, and went out the front door on the way to the convenience store that was only a block away. Half way down the block he hears something behind him, he turns and there is his little 6 year old boy in his hat, jacket, and snow boots taking giant steps behind him. The dad says hey buddy what are you doing, and the boy without looking up, very intently continued to take his giant footsteps right in the same steps of his father, said I'm walking in your footsteps daddy. It hit dad that day, that his son was walking in his footsteps, right to the liquor store, and he never drank alcohol again.

You may Say What's Wrong – Bubbly – TV / Can they Handle It

You may say what's wrong with a little bubbly now and then, a little flesh on the TV screen, I can handle it. Lets just say for the sake of argument that you can handle it, but can they, will they? What will it do to your son or your daughter, or the person you are disciplining.

I do it in Secret / King David / Grew Faint

Maybe you say well I do it secretly. Let me tell you there is a spiritual principle, and what you are in secret, is what you become to others. King David gives us the spiritual picture:

(2 Samuel 21:15 NKJV) When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint.

*(2 Samuel 21:16 NKJV) Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of **the sons of the giant**, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David.*

*(2 Samuel 21:17 NKJV) But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, **lest you quench the lamp of Israel.**"*

No More Fighting David / 4 Giants Killed

So David is old now, he goes to battle and almost gets killed, and his men said no more, lest you die and extinguish the light of Israel. Then:

*(2 Samuel 21:18 NKJV) Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, **who was one of the sons of the giant.***

*(2 Samuel 21:19 NKJV) Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed **the brother of Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.*

*(2 Samuel 21:20 NKJV) Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; **and he also was born to the giant.***

(2 Samuel 21:21 NKJV) So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

*(2 Samuel 21:22 NKJV) These four were born to the giant in Gath, **and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.***

Verse 22 / Wait a Minute / Years Earlier David Killed Goliath – They were not There

Mark verse 22, look at it closely, it says these 4 giants were killed by David and his men. Wait a minute we just read that David was too old to do it, it was his young men that killed these giants, how can this be. Well, years earlier David killed a giant named Goliath (1 Samuel 17), and none of these men were there, and consequently it had an effect on these men.

The Men became Giant Killers Also / Saul Didn't / Parents Kids will Pray – Read / Immorality

Because David killed a giant named Goliath, those who followed him killed giants as well—even though they were too young to have seen him kill Goliath. I point out to you, King Saul was afraid to fight the giant, and consequently, not one of Saul's men ever killed a giant either. David's men killed 4. Mom, dad, teachers, disciplers, those that you teach will become like you. If you are a man of prayer, so too will your kids, in the Word, so too will your kids. If you are given to immorality, so too will your kids, we see the picture in David's family. Oh that we would raise up giant slayers

David & Bathsheba / Tamar – Amnon – Absalom

So, too, when David confessed his acts of murder and adultery, he was forgiven completely. But murder and immorality would crop up in the lives of his children (2 Samuel 13). David has sexual relations with Bathsheba, and maybe you remember the story, his son Amnon rapes his sister Tamar, and then his son Absalom kills Amnon.

(2 Samuel 13:1 NKJV) After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.....

(2 Samuel 13:14 NKJV) However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.....

(2 Samuel 13:28 NKJV) Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant.".....

Principle is Clear / They will become Like Us

Thus, the principle is clear: Whether or not our kids or those we disciple see what we do, they will inevitably become like us as they follow us in ways we don't think they even know about. If, Mom, you are a woman of prayer, your children will pray. Dad, if you're doing battle with the giants of selfishness and darkness, your kids will too. Whether we know it or not, who we are and how we walk even when we think no one is watching will directly affect those we're parenting, mentoring, and discipling.

Walking Honestly Before Them

Genesis 32 – Wrestles with the Lord / Broken / Jacob to Israel

Genesis 32 Jacob has his back against the wall, Esau before him, Uncle Laban behind him. That night Jacob wrestles with the Lord and God pops his hip out, breaks him if you would, and Jacob is broken. Jacob always had a plan, I can run, but now he can't even do that, he must now trust in the Lord. After wrestling with the angel all night, it was when Jacob's hip was dislocated that the angel said, "No longer are you Jacob—or Tricky One. Now you shall be Israel—Governed by God."

Next Day – Limping to Camp / Became and Honored Event

Limping into the camp where he had stationed his family, Jacob explained to them what had happened to him. And so impressed were his children by hearing of what had transpired in the life of their father that to this day they honor that event.

(Genesis 32:31 NKJV) Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

(Genesis 32:32 NKJV) Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

Be Real / Share Failures – Struggles / Be Honest – they will not be Disappointed - Thankful

Gang, when a dad, a mom, a teacher, or a mentor says, "Let me tell you about what I went through. Here's the difficulty I encountered. Here's what I learned the hard way. I limp to this day; I can never walk as quickly as I once did; but I'm changed,"—those who follow in his or her footsteps will be changed themselves. Walk honestly before your kids, and they will not be disappointed in you, but will thank you and honor you. They will be able to relate to you. Walk honestly and you will not only earn the respect of those who follow you, but you will keep them from making the same mistakes that plagued you.

Walking Away from Them

Hard – but Follow

As hard as this may sound, follow me on this:

(1 Samuel 1:24 NKJV) Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

Hannah – You Gave – I Give / Lord Waiting – I want to Bless you – Special Child

“Lord, if You give me a child, I will give him to You,” Hannah prayed. “That’s what I was waiting for,” said the Lord, “because I want to bless you with a special child”—which He did in Samuel. True to her promise, after Samuel was weaned, Hannah took her son to the tabernacle at Shiloh—and left him in the care of Eli, the priest.

How Do This / Son was God’s – Hovering Restrict what God wanted to Do

How could she do this? She realized her son was the Lord’s and her hovering over him would only diminish or restrict what God wanted to do in and through his life.

Times Parent must Walk Away / We Prone to Smother – No Consequences / Let God be God

There are times when a parent who wants to see his kids walk in truth must walk away from them in order to allow God to do what He wants to do in and through them. As prone as we are to hover and smother, cuddle them, intervene in every situation, never let them suffer the consequences for their action. There are times when we must let God be God in the lives of those who follow in our steps. We cuddle them, overprotect them, and then when they are of age to have to start making decisions that can effect their lives, they don’t know how to seek the Lord to do so, because we have played the Lord in their life to this point.

Illustration of Cocoon / Butterfly must Struggle

The illustration is a good one; seeing a cocoon swaying from the limb of a tree, you decide to help the butterfly by carefully cutting a slit in the cocoon. Yet although your cut allows the butterfly to escape with ease, it inevitably kills him because it’s in the very struggle to escape the cocoon that the butterfly gains the strength and ability to use his wings. As it squeezes out the little hole, that little hole forces the fluid in the body out to the wings. No struggle, then the fluid stays in their body, they become bloated, can’t move or fly, and then eventually die and early death.

There Times we Must Walk Away / They Lord’s – he Given Free Hand to Work

There are many times when we must walk away from our kids not in apathy or anger, but in the realization that they are the Lord’s and that He must be given a free hand to work in their lives.

Seek First / Parents Upset / Afraid to Upset Them / Must be Obedient to Him

Parents, you need to do what the Lord tells you to do, when He says seek first the Kingdom of God, then you have to say sorry son youth activities do not supercede Bible studies or the things of the Lord. Parents get upset when I say this, they say family is first, but the statistics speak for themselves, especially today. Too many parents are afraid to upset their kids, but in the big picture of life, they are hurting their children by being afraid to say no. There are times when we have to walk away and say I can’t be there for the game, for the activity, God has called me to this or to that and I must be obedient to Him.

When? / When He Tells You

When? When the Lord tells you, so you need to be in prayer daily of raising your child.

Walking Closely Behind Them

Together – Ahead – Honestly – Away – Behind / Job

So we are to, Walking Together With Them, Walking Ahead of Them, Walking Honestly Before Them, Walking Away from Them, and also we are to be Walking Closely Behind Them. Look at Job:
(Job 1:5 KJV) And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Job sacrificed Daily for Kids / 10 kids hard Work

Knowing that on feast days his sons would be tempted for it was a festive atmosphere, Job offered a sacrifice every day on their behalf. In so doing, he was saying, “I want to walk behind my sons to make sure they’re covered.” Every day, now that is hard work. Job had 10 kids, imagine the work it took to make sacrifice for 10 kids, to prepare the fire, to prepare the sacrifice, to offer the sacrifice, and still have to go to work after that, that was hard work.

Our Kids Vulnerable to Sin – Like Us / Cover them Daily in Prayer / Cover Vulnerable Spots

So, too, I know my kids are vulnerable to sin—because they're just like me. What can I do? I can cover them daily in prayer. What would happen if we got up every morning and truly sacrificed in prayer—not just “Bless my kids, Amen”—but talked to and waited on the Father on behalf of each one of them? We can cover their vulnerable spots, the places we know they are likely to be attacked. We can walk behind them protectively and prayerfully if we are willing to take the time and expend the same energy Job did.

The Examples of Jesus

Jesus Showed the Way

As we walk together, with, ahead of, away from, honestly before, and close behind our kids and those whom we disciple, as is the case in every area of spiritual life, we have the example to follow of One who walked in each and all of these ways:

- Jesus **walked with** the otherwise-saddened disciples on the road to Emmaus and opened the Scriptures to them, explaining all things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27). Then they were greatly lifted up. Jesus walked 3 years with His disciples teaching them and training them up.
- Jesus **walked ahead** of John's disciples in such a way that caused the Baptist to proclaim, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36), and they ended up following the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Jesus **walked honestly** before the skeptic, not saying, “Listen to My sermon,” or, “Watch My miracle,” but, “Touch My wounds” (see John 20:27).
- Jesus **walked away** from His disciples, to the point He allowed them to enter into the storm (Mark 6). Jesus walked away when He sent them out to preach about the kingdom (Matthew 10). And while they were gone, what did He do? He preached in their hometowns (Matthew 11:1). Had they not gone, Jesus wouldn't have moved in. So, too, do what the Lord tells you to do and watch and see how He moves into your city, how He touches and teaches your family.
- Jesus **walked behind** His disciples as He prayed for them constantly—not only as they toiled in the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:23), but even as they slept in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 17).

Jesus Showed Way – Does it With Me – Now Our Turn

Jesus shows us what it means to walk with people, to walk ahead of people, to walk honestly before people, to walk away from people, and to walk prayerfully behind people. He does that with me. He's done that with you. Now let's do the same thing for those we're discipling and parenting.

God Won't Violate Free Will / Increase Odds Radically / Claim Promise / Season of Rebellion

If you do, because God doesn't violate the free will of any of His children, there is no guarantee that your kids will be godly—but it increases the odds radically. And this is the promise you can bank on: Even if they do go through seasons or years or even decades of rebellion, the Bible says, “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Do What Your Suppose To / They'll Come Around / Great Joy – Children Walk in the Truth

Do what you're supposed to do, Mom and Dad—and even if your child rebels initially, he'll come around ultimately as he remembers the training, the example, the teaching, and the prayer you lived out before him. Do these things and, like John, your joy will be great when you see your children walk in truth.

No Regrets

Parents, this is work, it is hard work, it is spiritual warfare as the enemy wants to destroy your children, lead them on the path of self-destruction, or at the minimum diminish their witness for Christ. Parents don't look back at the end, and wish you would have done things differently with your kids, be grieved as you watch them drinking in the things of the world and wish you would have invested and sacrificed back then, then being grieved today. Don't look back and have regrets. And, even if your kids are older now, it is never too late to start these things, and trust the Lord will break through. It is never too late.

Outline for raising our Children to Walk in the Truth:

Walking Together With Them
Walking Ahead of Them
Walking Honestly Before Them
Walking Away from Them
Walking Closely Behind Them