

How to Raise a Heartache

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Introduction: You will never regret taking the time to give your children back to God.

A. Consider the precious soul of your child and zealously seek God's way. **(Eph 6:4)**

1. When you face your own death there will be great comfort and joy in this!
2. Only a complete commitment would prepare parents for this work. **(Deut 6:4-8)**

B. We need the humility to always ask and seek the Lord's wisdom in this matter.

1. God will bless the humble prayer asking for help.
2. God's people have often failed in this very thing. **(Judges 2:10)**

3. We are going to make a list of "things not to do" based upon the failures of king David with his son Absalom.

I. Do not take sin or the consequences of sin lightly

A. David committed sin and covered it up for over a year.

1. David was idle and gave into temptation. Had he know what would have followed he would have never thought about doing this. **(Gal 6:7-8)**

2. Once caught in Satan's snare David went much further.

B. The greatest consequences of sin will be seen in your children. **(2 Sam 12:10)**

1. We can fool the world but rarely will we fool our families.
2. How many of David's children died without God?

II. Do not show weakness or indifference in dealing with sin in the home

A. A child's concept of God and of sin and righteousness come from the home.

1. There were great consequences to polygamy (Favoritism, lack of attention and association, loss of respect).
2. When sin is ignored respect for both the parent and God is lost! **(Heb 12:6-8)**

3. Inconsistency can produce bitterness with potential lifelong consequences.

4. Dishonesty is taught when you chose to close your from justice. Those who flee from conflict to "help" their children are making a great mistake!

B. David did nothing to act when Absalom's sister was raped. **(2 Sam 13:1, 19-22)**

1. Imagine how David's complete inaction affected Absalom.
2. If David was not going to act then Absalom was. He would commit murder.

III. Do not refuse to consistently stand on principle

A. When you walk by faith you will walk by mercy and justice.

(Psa 101:1; Isa 30:18; Hosea 12:6; Mt 23:23)

1. When we have 2 sets of rules between those we “love” and for the others we do not care for then we are being “partial” and are fighting God. **(James 2:1, 4)**

2. Our children will see us as hypocrites. **(Rom 2:21-24)**

B. Time and emotions do not change what is right. Deciding to compromise because of relationship or self-pity does not help the one astray.

1. How many think that they love their child more than God does?

2. The best gift you can give your children is a living faith that stands upon a doctrinal core. This must be both taught and lived. **(Eph 4:14; Acts 20:18-20)**

C. Absalom should be executed if he ever returned to Israel.

1. He was right to flee. God is a God of justice and David should have accepted that in his heart. **(2 Sam 13:37-39)**

2. David let his desires corrupt his heart. **(James 1:14-16)**

3. Perhaps his guilt pushed him to think he should act beyond what was written.

IV. Do not listen to the council of the ungodly

A. Righteous company and unrighteous company will affect you. **(Psa 1:1)**

1. David willingly let Joab “manipulate” him to bring back Absalom. Joab was simply taking political advantage of an opportunity. **(2 Sam 14:19-21)**

2. Situation ethics becomes very appealing when we no longer act on principle. We can boldly proclaim good as evil and evil as good.

B. You will lose respect of those who are godly. You also will lose touch with reality.

V. Do not salve your conscious by taking meaningless actions

A. David thought that words would make him look strong. **(2 Sam 14:24)**

1. This “toughness” was not the way God said to deal with it.

2. Absalom knew that David was made of jello and he would take full advantage.

B. Absalom used a temper tantrum to cross the line that David drew. **(2 Sam 14:28-33)**

1. Absalom would now get whatever he wants.

2. He would now play on David’s emotions and came to despise his father.

VI. Do not promote your child’s self-esteem on worldly principles.

A. David should have known what would happen to a child that is never rebuked.

1. Absalom is praised for his looks against Godly standards. **(2 Sam 14:25)**

2. He is given material things and allowed to flaunt it. **(2 Sam 15:1)**

3. This display of worldliness caused him to be greatly praised by worldly people.

4. He is allowed to publicly undermine David's government by promising "hope and change. Where was David? **(2 Sam 15:1-5)**

B. When you give money and things to deal with your guilt concerning your failing as a parent you will curse your children.

1. Where did Absalom get his money? Did he work?

2. With idle time he openly undermined David's kingdom and the work of God.

VII. Do not refuse to learn from your mistakes

A. David refused to recognize the seriousness of Absalom's actions even after his great public sins. **(2 Sam 18:5)**

1. Why do you think Joab killed Absalom and hid that from David?

2. Joab did not respect David. **(2 Sam 19:5-8)**

B. May God help us to avoid the terrible consequences suffered by David and his family!

Conclusion: Our God will help us be the kind of parents that will succeed! **(Prov 22:6)**