

EPHESIANS 6:4

GOD'S PROSCRIPTION & PRESCRIPTION FOR PARENTS

God summarizes every Christian parent's duty with two requirements.

1. A Proscription

2. A Prescription



"A sensible and pious mother once remarked, 'If I may have but ten years of the life of a man of seventy, to form his character, give me the first ten.'

Many parents, who would on no account fail in governing their children properly, defeat their own designs in this particular: by delaying to bring them under subjection, until their wills have become obstinate, their passions strong, and until by frequent practice, they have learned to govern, rather than to obey. This delay arises in part from the idea, as erroneous as it is prevalent, that children do not understand what is required of them until at least two years old; and in part from a secret dread of which perhaps the parent is scarcely conscious, of beginning this contest for supremacy. This is a radical error and the frequent cause of habitual disobedience and open rebellion in succeeding years. I once heard a clergyman remark that 'the overbearing spirit which is exhibited in the cradle is the same which in manhood constitutes the despot and the tyrant.'"¹

¹ *Letters on Christian Education* (Avinger, TX: Simpson Publishing Company, 1993), 18.