



**MIS** UNDERSTOOD

TRAIN UP A CHILD

Proverbs 22:6

# (MIS)UNDERSTOOD

Train up a child in the way he should go,  
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

How is this passage usually interpreted?

“Child training works. You can make your children great in the sight of God and men...A properly trained child will fear God and live a wise and righteous life as an adult...Do not question this promise...It is a promise, not a possibility...If trained consistently, they will revert to their training as an adult. Believe it. Count on it.”

Jonathan Crosby

“The way we look at Proverbs 22:6 is really a reflection of our faith in the God of the universe...As we reflect on His character, goodness, faithfulness, and love for us, we can count on Him to keep our children aiming in His direction...Be encouraged today that we can bank on Proverbs 22:6 as a promise.”

Sarah Beth Marr

“Doesn’t Proverbs 22:6 promise that kids who are raised properly by their parents will turn out alright? That’s not been our experience at all. Our college-age son walked away from his faith a year ago and started engaging in some extremely destructive behaviors. Now his younger sister seems to be following in his footsteps.

We're a Christian family and we've always tried to raise our kids in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Where did we go wrong?"

Anonymous letter to Focus on the Family

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

How is this passage usually understood?

Parents who raise their children according to God's Word have a guarantee that their children will become God-honoring adults.



# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- Proverbs are not meant to be guarantees.

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

“Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

“Good things come to those who wait.”

“A picture is worth 1000 words.”

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

“The generous man will be prosperous,  
and he who waters will himself be  
watered.”

Proverbs 11:25

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

“The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.”

Proverbs 10:27

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

Do you see a man skilled in his work?  
He will stand before kings; he will not  
stand before obscure men.

Proverbs 22:29

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- Proverbs are not meant to be guarantees.
- The meaning of this verse is uncertain.

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

“Dedicate a youth to his way, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

His own way? Or God's way?



# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- Proverbs are not meant to be guarantees.
- The meaning of this verse is uncertain.
- Children are responsible for their own choices.

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching...My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent...My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your feet from their path.

Proverbs 1:8,10,15

# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- Proverbs are not meant to be guarantees.
- The meaning of this verse is uncertain.
- Children are responsible for their own choices.
- God the Father has rebellious children.

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

When Israel was a youth, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. The more they [the prophets] called them, the more they went from them; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to idols.

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

Yet it is I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love...I bent down and fed them.

Hosea 11:1-4

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What does the passage mean?

*As a general principle,* children raised to know and obey God will become adults who know and obey God.

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Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king”...His father [David] had never crossed him at any time by asking, “Why have you done so?” And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.

1 Kings 1:5-6



# TRAIN UP A CHILD

Discipline your son while there is hope,  
and do not desire his death.

Proverbs 19:18

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

**“Just 1 percent of teens ages 15 to 17 raised by parents who attached little importance to religion were highly religious in their mid-to-late 20s.**

## TRAIN UP A CHILD

**In contrast, 82 percent of children raised by parents who talked about faith at home, attached great importance to their beliefs and were active in their congregations were themselves religiously active as young adults.”**

**David Briggs**

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What does the passage mean?

*As a general principle*, children raised to know and obey God will become adults who know and obey God.

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How can we apply this?

- Pray for your children.
- Follow Jesus faithfully, and teach your children to follow Jesus faithfully.
- Trust God with the outcome.



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