

How to Keep From Raising a Rebel **1 Samuel 2-3**

Introduction:

1. Every baby begins life the same way, cute and innocent looking. But, we must remember two things about this:
 - First, every baby is made of the same substance as you and I: fallen, sinful flesh.
 - Second, within every child's body is a heart that the Bible says is desperately wicked, and in it dwells foolishness.
2. So, we mustn't allow looks to deceive us. If you have an infant, and you do not believe me on this and you feel that your child is a little angel incarnate, come back and let's talk at your child's second birthday.
3. Trust me, when children are born and they're still little babies, no parents plan on *their* children being rebels, or *their* children doing destructive things (either to themselves or to others).
4. But, here is reality: as a parent, you have an awesome responsibility to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If you do not take this responsibility seriously, your children could end up being rebellious and angry teenagers or adults.
5. Here in our text, the high priest of Israel, Eli, raised two rebels. He was in full-time service for the Lord, and his children were raised around spiritual things, yet they were rebellious, corrupt, and evil young men. 2:22-25
6. These two boys didn't get in this condition overnight. As a parent, Eli made many critical mistakes that cost him dearly. But, I'm thankful that God placed this in the Bible so we can learn from Eli's mistakes. As parents, how do we keep from raising a rebel?

Take personal responsibility for your child's spiritual training. 2:12

1. 1 Samuel 2:12 is very telling. Eli's sons "*knew not the Lord.*" Isn't this amazing? Eli was the high priest. He was in full-time service for the Lord. These boys were raised around the temple and spiritual things, yet they knew not the Lord.
2. Whose fault was this? Was it the other priests and Levites? What does Ephesians 6:4 state? This tragedy must be placed at the feet of Eli. It appears that Eli was so busy in serving the Lord that he didn't take the time to invest in his sons' lives, spiritually.
 - Maybe he thought like many parents, "As long as my kids are around the Bible and around spiritual things, they will be alright." It didn't work so well for Eli.
 - So many parents think, "If I take my child to church, drop them off in Sunday School, make them go to Youth Group when they are teens, they will know the Lord and serve Him." This is wrong thinking.
3. Parents, you must take an active, daily role through your godly example and biblical teaching. You must provide the training your children need to know the

Lord, and to love and serve the Lord. The Bible gives **you** the responsibility. We are here to help you grow and learn the Word and give you tools, but when it comes to your kids, it is your job.

4. You cannot blame the Youth Group, the Youth Pastor, or the church if your children are rebels. You are the primary influence in your children's lives, and it is your responsibility to use that influence to train your children spiritually.
2 Timothy 3:15

Refuse the temptation to become a permissive parent. 3:13

1. As we said, Eli's sons were corrupt, but how did they get this way?
 - The Bible reveals it to us in 3:13. Notice God's analysis, "*...his sons made themselves vile, and he **restrained them not.***"
2. Eli was a permissive parent. He **allowed** his sons to do evil. Finally, when he was old, he gave them a toothless rebuke in 2:23-25. But he allowed them to continue in their sins.
3. This idea of being a permissive parent begins when kids are little. "Now Johnny, you stop that. That's not nice. I'm going to count to 10 (I'm going to allow you to rebel for 10 more seconds)." You tell your toddler not to touch it and they do it anyway and you giggle.
 - When you have a face-off with your children, you as a parent have a choice. Either give in to them and be a permissive parent, or be more stubborn than them and insist that they do right.
 - I'm amazed at how many teenagers **tell** their parents what they are going to do. Guaranteed, this started in childhood with permissiveness by the parents.
4. Your children or teens do not know what is best for them. That is why God gave them parents. Parent, it is **your job** to discipline your children and control their behavior. You are the parent. It is your job to drive the foolishness out.
Proverbs 22:15
5. It must start early. If not, it will soon be too late. Proverbs 19:18, 29:17

Never lose your children's respect by indulging their every desire.

1. When you read 1 Samuel 2:13-17, one thing is clear. These boys got whatever they desired. They expected it. And if people wouldn't give them what they wanted, they took it by force. In plain words, they were spoiled brats.
2. When we read 2:29, God said that Eli had honored his boys above God Himself. When they were doing wrong and dishonoring God with their actions, rather than telling them "no" and God "yes," Eli told God "no" and his sons "yes."
3. He let them do whatever they wanted to do. He indulged their every desire. When people began to complain and it began to become embarrassing to Eli, he tried to rebuke the boys and get them in line, but notice 2:25:
 - It says, "*They hearkened not unto the voice of their father.*" It was too late. They had no respect for dear old dad.

4. When parents give in to their kids' every whim and every desire, and refuse to stand up to their children and make them do right, they end up raising rebels who will end up disrespecting them throughout their teenage and adult lives.
5. Parents, you must start early. You must demand that your children listen and that they show you proper respect. You cannot afford to raise spoiled children that are used to getting whatever it is they want. It will end up causing you great grief.
Proverbs 17:25, 10:1
6. Parents, it is our job to teach our children to listen and have teachable spirits. How do they learn this? By parents who don't give them everything they want.
Proverbs 13:1

In Conclusion:

1. Remember, parents, we only get one chance to raise our children. There are no "do-overs." They will either bring grief or joy to our hearts. Notice these two verses in Proverbs: Proverbs 17:21, 23:24.
2. I'm sure Eli realized his mistakes, but much too late. The boys' character had already been set and established. It was a very sad ending with both boys dying premature deaths.
3. Parents, this is a sobering lesson for us all, but a very important and beneficial one. God put this text in the Bible for a reason. I believe it is to challenge each of us to raise children that love the Lord and are godly.
4. You can do it! You have the Lord and His Word to help you every step of the way!