

1 2  **Effective parents have 3 qualities**

- They teach their children the fear of God
- They keep their children's hearts by remaining emotionally connected to them
- They are physically present with their children and affectionate towards them
 - Like a 3-legged stool, lacking any of these three qualities can damage your children.
 - Having all three qualities does not guarantee success, but without these three qualities, success is the exception rather than the rule.

3  **The olive plants around your table**

Psalm 128:3

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4  **A God-ordained analogy**Children are “like” olive plants:

- Purposes of Olive Trees
- Propagation of Olive Trees
- Provision for Olive Trees
- Production of Fruit and Olive Oil
- Pruning of Olive Trees
- Protection of Olive Trees
- Preserving the Harvest

5  **Purposes of Olive Trees**


- Imprints of Christ
- Introducers to Christ
- Illuminators of God’s Word
- Imparters of Blessing
- Imparters of Beauty
- Inheritance of Joy

6  **Propagation of olive trees**

1. Train roots of character
2. Train children to serve instead of rule (Psalm 75:6 secret)
3. Support with strong ties to Bible and family
4. Incrementally release children to ministry
5. Teach them to find their own rhemas
6. Foster continued spiritual growth
7. Prune the good; preserve the best
8. Don’t eliminate trials; let them learn through trials.

7  **Protecting the Harvest**

Recognizing the enemies of your child’s soul

8  **We interrupt this sermon to PRAY!**9  **Protect from wrong influences (olive midge)**

- *Prolasioptera berlesiana paoli*
- Attacks only the olive fruit.

- Wrong influences mock the fruit of godly living. They promote:
 - Dissatisfaction with parents' provision.
 - Rebellion against authority.
 - Conforming to the world's standards.

10  **Protect from wrong influences (2)**

- Look for Danger Areas:
 - Fiction
 - Internet / email (Know the book rule)
 - Smart phones
 - Text messaging
 - Instant Messaging
 - Pornography
 - Rock Music / CCM

11  **Protect from wrong influences (3)**

- The olive midge lays rapidly-developing eggs in olives damaged by the larger olive fly which created a hole in the olive.
 - Unconfessed sin is the "hole" the enemy exploits.
- Sensual acquaintances will exploit spiritual damage in your child.
 - Regularly assess spiritual damage and assign restorative character projects.

12  **Protect from wrong influences (4)**

- A fungus appears when the midge lays her eggs. This destroys the fruit tissues but feeds the larvae.
- A dark oval mark appears on the surface of the olive.
- FIRST & MAJOR SYMPTOM: Loss of Brightness in Eyes

13  **Protect from wrong influences (5)**

- Larva completes development in 8 to 10 days, feeding on the fungus. Fruits drop.
- Lack of a clear conscience allows "parasitic" sins, music, and acquaintances to drain spiritual vitality while still manifesting external "good works."
- However, these works will fail to have lasting value and spiritual fruit disappears from the child's life.

14  **Protect from wrong influences (6)**

- Midge attracted to olives by chemical given off when pit just begins to harden.
- Danger is greatest before child makes and keeps his own vows and before he has learned to stand alone.

15  **Protect from wrong habits (black scale)**

- This very small adult female attaches itself to the host, and hides her eggs (the real danger) under her immobile body.
- Little habits = big problems (Proverbs 4:23).
- Seemingly harmless "entertainment" (TV news, reading fiction, etc.) can kill a life of prayer and spiritual meditation.

16  **Protect from wrong habits (2)**

- Adult egg-laying females are preceded by the hibernating 2nd- and 3rd-instar nymphs.
- Harmful habits are preceded by a "sleeping" or "hibernating" spiritual alertness.
 - Jesus warned Sardis to remain vigilant (Revelation 3:2). Sardis was twice overtaken because it was not awake and alert to danger.

- Parents must help children identify any “hibernating” wrong thoughts indicating a failure to yield rights to God. (Daily spiritual accountability.)

17  **Protect from wrong habits (3)**

- The scale feeds by piercing of the host tissues and sucking the sap.
- Wrong habits are CAUGHT – entering through our “piercings” or openings (eyes and ears).
- Wrong habits create energy-takers instead of an energy-giver.
 - Parents, examine your habits too!

18  **Protect from wrong habits (4)**

- *S. oleae* occurs on the underside of twigs and leaves.
- Small but harmful habits pose the greatest damage when they do not come to the attention of the one in authority.
- Children may try to hide the habit from view. Be alert!
- The strength of sin is in its SECRECY!

19  **Protect from wrong habits (5)**

- Dads, check with your radar – your WIFE!
- Establish fences around the cliff:
 - Monitor / control Internet activity.
 - No computers in bedrooms; use in open areas only.
 - No smart phones without protection. Restrict messaging if necessary.
 - Beware the night! (Sin loves darkness.)
- Pray on the armor of God with your children.

20  **Protect from wrong habits (6)**

- MALNUTRITION: The damage to the young olive is the result of the absorption of nutritional material and water contained in the sap.
- TREATMENT: Apply horticultural white oil.

21  **Protect from wrong habits (7)**

- MAJOR SYMPTOMS OF WRONG HABITS = Lack of:
 - Scripture meditation
 - Personal Bible reading
 - Finding personal rhemas
- TREATMENT:
 - Anoint with blessing
 - Pray daily for the conviction of the Holy Spirit

22  **Protect from the gall of bitterness**

- Gall is the most serious of olive diseases.
 - Caused by a bacterial infection after a wounding of the tree.
 - Can defoliate and kill small olive plants and shoots.
 - Infection rate is related to the number of wounds.
- Bitterness results from a failure to properly treat a wound.
 - Your anger damages your child.

23  **Protect from the gall of bitterness (2)**

- Common wounds are:
 - Wrong pruning = Wrong discipline (anger)
 - Forcing a harvest = Forcing outward compliance; failing to deal with attitudes

- Hailstorm = Failing to offer protection in areas of their vulnerabilities
- Strong winds = Failing to develop strong stakes of love between the child and his family

24 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (3)**

- Infrequent “sprinkles” of rain can spread the infection to other parts of the tree.
 - Rain spreads indoleacetic acid produced by bacteria in gall. This acid damages more of the tree.
- This acid must be neutralized and then washed away to restore health.

25 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (4)**

- Occasional exposure to the Word of God (i.e. at church, but not at home) can cause bitterness to spread and worsen.
 - Children sense that God’s Word is only a “religious external” rather than the controlling influence of their lives.
 - They become more bitter sensing hypocrisy in their parents.
 - They have no real fruit or Christian joy because God is not an integral part of living.

26 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (5)**

- Untreated galls form on the young shoots and harden into a tumor.
- Untreated hurts lead to bitterness.
- Unconfessed and unresolved bitterness leads to a lasting “hardness” to the things of God.
- If not dealt with biblically, and quickly, bitterness can leave permanent scars.

27 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (6)**

- Galls are most apparent near wounds, but the effects of the infection are visible in almost every part of the plant, including the petioles (leaf stems) and lamina (vascular system).
- Bitterness in children most readily apparent in:
 - Devotional life (leaf stems)
 - What they begin to love (heart matters)

28 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (7)**

- Bitterness affects the whole man. It is evident in many ways:
 - Speech / deportment
 - Acidity level (pH) in our bodies / predisposition to cancer
- It will also defile others around us – so beware the root of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15).
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29 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (8)**

- Prevention = Disinfect pruning tools
 - Never discipline in anger
 - An angry parent is the #1 cause of bitterness in children
 - In your flesh “dwelleth no good thing.”
 - Position yourself as a fellow servant on the journey who wants to make them successful.
- Prune when the danger of infection is least likely – July or August

30 **Protect from the gall of bitterness (9)**

- The bacterial colonies are easily washed away with great quantities of water.
 - Seek forgiveness and restoration.
 - Help child confess sin of bitterness.
 - Search Scripture with your children for healing (Psalms) and insight.
 - Use the blessings of Scripture to bless your children.

31 **The cancer of bitterness**

- Otto Wartburg won the Nobel prize in 1931 for discovering how cancer begins
 - Caused by hypoxia; cells deprived of 35% of oxygen for 48 hours become cancerous
 - Bitterness begins when a perceived or actual injury or hurt deprives a person of receiving God's love and the encouragement of others.
 - Cells cease oxygen respiration – refusing to exchange nutrients and wastes with things outside of itself (essentially "walled-off")
 - Bitter people allow compromise in their lives because they have not the strength to fight it.

32 **The cancer of bitterness (2)**

- Becomes polluted with toxins and begins fermentation to produce energy
 - Bitter people allow their resentment to fester for a period of time
 - As the bitterness turns to anger, wrath, clamor, evil-speaking – the negative energy of their bitterness is manifested in increasing quantities
- Blood supply slows due to clumping of red blood cells
 - Bitter people begin to show a lack of love toward others.
 - They withdraw their presence (breaking of fellowship).
 - They cease serving others and the Lord.

33 **The cancer of bitterness (2)**

- Cells lack building blocks (fatty acids)
 - The bitter person lacks spiritual nourishment, encouragement from others (usually drops out of church).
 - They cycle downwards into depression, despair.
- Cell lives but it only multiplies and grows. It does not fulfill its designed functions.
 - Bitter people do not fulfill their life purpose of glorifying God and deprive themselves of eternal rewards.
- Destroys surrounding cells
 - Bitter people never keep bitterness to themselves. They tell others who are neither part of the problem nor the solution.

34 **Cautions for discipline**35 **Discipline in love**

1. Never discipline in anger. Angry fathers will have:
 - Rebellious children
 - Children who damage themselves
2. Check your own heart for sin first.
3. Clear any offenses that you have with others.
4. Pray!
5. Communicate grief – not anger – to child.

36 **Discipline in love (2)**

6. Appeal to the conscience of the child by asking them, "Is Jesus pleased with what you have done?"
7. Give the child two Scriptures:
 - Put off the old man – Where does Scripture say this behavior is wrong?
 - Put on the new man – What is the correct behavior?
8. Determine appropriate Scriptural chastisement or character projects.

9. Never use the hand as an instrument of discipline. Use a rod only when necessary.

37  **Establish clear guidelines**

38  **Establish clear guidelines**

- Give age-appropriate discipline
 - Is adolescence real?
 - Establish Rites of Passage
 - Girls – 12 years of age = woman
 - Boys – 13 years of age = man
- Help children to focus on their relationship with the Lord and whether HE is pleased with their behavior.
- Deal with the sin; communicate love to the sinner.

39  **Don't miss the main thing!**

- Avoid the dangers of legalism.
 - NEVER use a discipline chart of any kind if you don't understand the "main thing" – how to have an understanding heart.
 - Loving your children, staying emotionally connected to them, and being spiritually alert is the greatest key to PRESERVING THE HARVEST.
 - More on that next week...