A Biblical Guide to the Stages of Parenting

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I. Cop: Set boundaries, _____, "train up [your] child in the way he should go" (Prov 22:6).

A. The first stage: Parent as a cop, from toddlers until middle school.

i. This stage begins when your child is _____ and _____.

ii. The transition between stages should be _____, there are _____ lines between them.

iii. The cop stage is _____ to the rest of parenting.

B. As a cop, teach children how the universe works, especially that they are _____.

i. Our natural drift is toward _____—the same is true about children.

ii. The point of the cop stage: teach your children _____ and _____.

C. In order to reorient children away from autonomy, parents must set _____ and enforce rules.

i. This is a key aspect of the cop phase: very hands-on in correction, tight boundaries.

ii. Positively, this stage is all about teaching your children _____.

iii. Negatively, this stage is all about strictly enforcing _____.

D. What is the goal of the cop stage?

i. The goal is to "train up a child in the way he should go" *so that* he won't depart from it.

ii. When _____ ends and _____ starts, we want our children to be well-equipped.

E. Example: how a cop handles finances.

i. Teach how to earn, spend, save, and give money with _____.

II. Coach: Give guidance, advice, and correction _____.

A. The second stage: Parent as a coach, from middle school to 18.

i. You don't have less authority, but you exercise it differently by giving more _____.

ii. You don't stop giving correction, but the way you discipline changes.

B. The coach stage is all about giving your children freedom, encouraging them from sidelines.

i. As coach, you want your children to start _____—but not too far.

ii. This does not mean that you stop teaching, but that instruction changes.

1. A move into deeper forms of instruction—not just the what, but the _____.

2. Grammar, logic, rhetoric—parrot, pert, poet—cop, coach, counselor.

iii. The coach stage is the _____ of "training a child up in the way he should go," and the first baby step towards "even whe he is old he will not depart from it."

C. Example: how a coach handles finances.

i. More freedom: give _____ to follow, trust them to follow, correct if they don't.

III. Counselor: Provide wisdom and advice when _____.

A. The third stage: parent as a counselor, beginning at 18 and continuing throughout adulthood.

i. You _____ stop being a parent, but now you offer guidance and wisdom when asked.

ii. Your goal is to _____ for your children when they need you—they will need you.

B. The counselor stage is the _____ of "training a child up in the way he should go."

i. If you start early and lay the foundation, then the counselor stage will be less _____.

ii. Being very hands-on as cop enables you to be less hands-on in adolescence & adulthood.

C. Example: how a counselor handles finances.

i. Be ready to _____ when children make their first major financial decisions.

IV. Where can we go wrong?

A. The most common mistake parents make is to flip the order around: _____.

i. Parents assume that kids will learn everything from school, so they _____ the cop stage.

ii. A child who wasn't given clear boundaries and consequences _____ becomes an adolescent who thinks there are no boundaries or consequences.

iii. So, the parent tries to _____, with little success.

B. So, if you still have children in the cop age-range, then intentionally _____ now.

i. Teach them _____, and discipline them when they depart from it.

ii. What if you have children in the coach age-range, but never acted as cop?

iii. What if you have children in the counselor age-range, but you were never cop or coach?