

# **Growth of the Family**

*John Crawford*

I. Introduction.

II. Discipline can be handled if consistent.

III. You cannot impose your desires on people.

A. If your children do not like something you want them to do, you ask what can you do rather than what you can control.

B. We have to accept responsibility and at the same time accept a lack of control.

C. A lot of things if you can wait until tomorrow can be taken care of.

IV. You cannot heal a wound if you ignore it. (Jeremiah 6:14)

V. How to handle problems.

A. Avoid it if possible.

B. Discover the real problem and deal with it if possible.

C. Keep the lines of communication clear.

VI. Advantages of starting off right.

A. Do all you can to start out right trying not to lean always on 1 John 1:9. (Genesis 18:19)

B. Just because you can restore your relationship with God completely does not mean that you will be able to restore every wrong before man.

C. We are all sinners and this is important to come to accept.

D. Do not be afraid to apologize and to humble yourself.

E. Do not expect supra-spirituality.

F. Trust relationships and people and do all you can to merit trust. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

VII. Growth. (2 Corinthians 3)

A. There comes a time when we must apply what we know through the Word. (James 1:25)

B. A soldier should never ask for a promotion - he should only ask for an opportunity to distinguish himself on the field of battle.

C. When it comes to fixing the spirit we get at the end of our rope and are helpless.

D. Our sufficiency is of God who makes us able ministers in the spirit. (2 Corinthians 3)

E. We must work in the spirit.

F. Do we keep a “veil” on our faces to hide the glory fading or shining? We want to daily live with a bright face through the works of the Spirit in our lives.

G. In beholding Jesus we are changed.

H. We do need discipline, but the Lord has to accomplish it finally.

**Application questions**

1. How are we to handle problems in the home?

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2. What is the relationship between growth and the Spirit?

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3. What are some tips that stand out to you concerning starting off right?

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