

## Discipline and Parenting

### 1. Discipline and the Parent's Responsibility

- a. Children belong to God. Parents are entrusted with children. Biblical discipline is one responsibility delegated by God.

- b. Biblical support

Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching

Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### 2. The Importance of Discipline

- a. Discipline is a gesture of God's kindness and love.

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, <sup>12</sup> for whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights.

- b. The way to a God-honoring life is travelled on the path of discipline.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life

- c. Discipline is important because obedience is commanded. Obedience brings blessing from the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### 3. The Goal and Benefits of Discipline

- a. Learning to embrace discipline paves the way for learning and wisdom, which is an essential service to our children. All that is necessary to set a child up for a life of foolishness is nothing. Discipline is a critical, God-given means to deal with the curse of depravity.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is sensible.

Proverbs 15:32 He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 19:27 Cease listening, my son, to discipline, *and you will* stray from the words of knowledge.

- b. Discipline can purge and eradicate a measure of evil.

Proverbs 20:30 Stripes that wound scour away evil, and strokes *reach* the innermost parts.

- c. Discipline is a means to deplete foolishness (innate and learned).

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

- d. Discipline is a means to impart one of the greatest gifts in life: wisdom.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

#### 4. The Heart of Discipline: Love

- a. The love of God in discipline:

Proverbs 3:11-12 <sup>11</sup> My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His reproof, <sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

- b. Discipline itself is loving:

Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Proverbs 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

Proverbs 29:15-17 <sup>15</sup> The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. <sup>16</sup> When the wicked increase, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall. <sup>17</sup> Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.

## 5. Occasions for Discipline and Instruction

### a. Disobedience

- i. Defined: failure to comply with a standard.
- ii. Unless a parent is requiring a child to sin, a child is required to obey his/her parent(s). God requires children to obey. Doing so fulfills their role as children.
- iii. Described: Obedience is to be all the way, right away, with a “happy heart.”
- iv. Deliberate: disobedience may be intentional.
- v. Non-deliberate: disobedience may be accidental.

### b. Disrespect

- i. Defined: an attitude of contempt, disrepute.

### c. Deceit

- i. Defined: intentionally distorting or concealing the truth; a deliberate attempt to mislead.

## 6. The Process of Discipline

- a. Explain
- b. Ask
- c. Clarify
- d. Discipline (Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.)
- e. Pray
- f. Comfort
- g. Affirm
- h. Forgive
- i. Restore

## 7. The Gospel in Discipline

- a. God is holy. He requires perfection (Matt 5:48).
- b. Man is sinful, including dad and mom. Our need is as great as our kids (Rom 3:23).
- c. Christ obeyed perfectly. He never needed discipline (John 8:29, Heb 4:14-16).
- d. Christ willingly took our ultimate discipline in substituting himself on the cross. He appeased the wrath of God (1 John 4:10).
- e. When we repent and trust in Christ, we are justified. We will not be condemned (Rom 5:1, 8:1).
- f. God deals with us from then on as his greatly beloved children, never to be disowned from his family (Rom 8:32, 38-39, Heb 12:6).