

Disciplining Kids – God’s Way

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Our Goal in Discipline:

Ephesians 6:4 – “And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”

Discipline – correction, nurture

Why Do Parents Need to Discipline Their Children?

The following passages clearly establish a Biblical explanation of why we need to correct our children.

Proverbs 22:15 – “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

Proverbs 29:15 – “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”

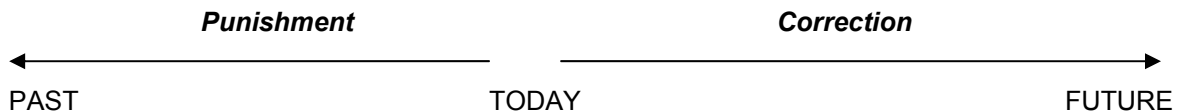
Proverbs 29:17 – “Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”

Why should we discipline our children?

We should discipline them in order to save them from their own foolishness. If left to themselves, they will follow folly and bring shame to themselves, their family, and to the Lord!

Is Biblical discipline punishment or correction?

Biblical discipline is correction because it focuses on the future of the child.



Proverbs 23:13-14 – “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”

Beat – to strike, clap

How can disciplining your child save their soul from hell?

The Goal in Correction: The goal in correction is to get the child to surrender their own will to that of the parents., who are seeking the child’s best interests. The rod, when used appropriately, is a tool that not only corrects, but prevents misbehavior. The child learns that when we say something, we mean it and that there are negative repercussions to ignoring us.

The Goal of the Gospel: Similarly, the Lord gives us instruction (the gospel) and commands us to surrender our will to Him in order to inherit eternal life. The consequence for ignoring this command is eternal death in hell. Raising our children to understand how to surrender their will and realize that consequences are real can be a benefit to them when they are seeking the Lord.

Read Hebrews 12:9-11. What is the result of loving discipline at the hand of good parent?

Godly discipline will bring forth the result (fruit) of righteousness in their life.

How Should Parents Discipline Their Children?

The way that you discipline (or don’t discipline) your children is a result of the center of your home.

Child Centered Home – No discipline and the child is the center of attention. They get what they want.

Parent Centered Home – The children are disciplined when they get in the parent’s way. The parents discipline out of anger. Abuse occurs in these homes

Christ Centered Home – Both children and parents are subject to Christ and His Word regulates when the children are disciplined and how the parents discipline them.

Biblical Principles for Spanking

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1. Make sure your temper is in check!!!

James 1:19-20 – “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

NEVER spank your child out of anger!

Your **plan** of discipline should be carefully thought out and not **random**.

2. Get the facts about the misbehavior before correcting.

Proverbs 18:13 – “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”

3. Conduct the discipline in a private place

Matthew 18:15 – “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

4. Make sure your child clearly understands what they did wrong and why they are being spanked.

Luke 12:47-48 – “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

If you can't clearly **explain** to your child what they have done wrong, you shouldn't **spank** them.

A good spanking session will also include **teaching**! The two go hand in hand!

5. Spank the child firmly and in accordance with their level of misbehavior

Proverbs 19:18 – “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”

Just because they **cry** doesn't mean they have learned the **lesson** yet.

When should we discipline?

Proverbs 13:24 – “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

- **Betimes** – diligently, consistently

Ecclesiastes 8:11 – “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Proverbs 19:18 – “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”

Scriptures consistently teach us that we need to discipline them **quickly** (as soon after the misbehavior as possible) and **consistently** (use the same correction for the same crime every time).

Should we always spank or are there other Biblical methods of discipline?

Spanking should be used for misbehavior that constitutes outright rebellion against the parents or is very serious in nature (lying, hurting others, stealing, etc...).

The correction for other areas of misbehavior (laziness, bad habits, not being quiet, arguing with siblings, bad grades in school) should fit the type of misbehavior. Look at the following passage.

Hosea 8:7 – “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.”

List some appropriate disciplinary corrections for the following problems:

- Poor grades in school (due to lack of effort) – **loss of privileges and increased study time**
- Arguing with siblings – **require resolution of the dispute and to do something for each other**
- Not keeping their room clean – **require them to clean their room and another room in home**
- Speaking in a disrespectful way – **require repentance and either a spanking or loss of privileges**