

Discipline of Children

TEC - 8/23/2020

Why should we Discipline our Children?

1. It is good for the child

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

“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

2. It will lead the child toward wisdom & knowledge

“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.” Proverbs 22:15

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

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

“Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.” Proverbs 15:32

“A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.” Proverbs 13:1

“A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.” Proverbs 15:5

3. Kids are sinners

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5

“as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Romans 3:10-12

Kids are sinners just like us, and God is asking us to do with our kids, what he does with his kids:

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” Hebrews 12:5b-6

4. We are commanded to

“4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[b] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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

What does the bible say we should be doing, exactly?

The Rod

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

“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.” Proverbs 23:13-14

“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.” Proverbs 13:24

“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.” Proverbs 22:15

How should it be used?

With control, restraint, and faithfulness in mind. The intent is for the child feel a sting of pain associate with their sin.

When should the rod be used?

There is much room for debate here. Ultimately this is an adiaphora issue for each parent, but should be connected with disobedience.

How can I know if I'm not being faithful with using the rod?

1. Physically injuring your child
2. Not using it at all

Who should be implementing this method of discipline?

In every case, the scriptures are addressing parents.

What about other methods (time-out, removal of toys and other privileges, appealing to conscience)?

There is freedom to use other methods as supplements to the rod.

The rod should decrease in use as the child grows.

Arguments against the rod

1. It harms the child physically

Only if used sinfully. Faithful discipline using the rod does not injure.

2. It harms the child psychologically / It hinders their development

Studies on this subject do not actually make this conclusion.

3. It's the strong preying on the weak / The powerful oppressing the powerless

God uses superior power and force to restrain evil in the world

The Lord has given parents power and authority over their children for their good.