

Too Big To Spank

Ephesians 6:1-4 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise; that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Discipline: (systematic training)

- Parents first duty is to train their children to obey them and transfer that same obedience to God ("For the Lord's sake" Colossians 3:20,23,24; Ps. 40:8). Children are not naturally obedient. Teenagers must continue to learn obedience as well.
- The early years shape Teen years (early training secures lifelong habits) Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." There is a direct connection between how a child is brought up and how they turn out.
Problem: To many of us we can't return to childhood and try to do it right. We are presently living with the consequences of our failures as parents to train our children to obey and honor us. Yet, there is no time like the present to respond in obedience.
- To discipline is really to disciple our teens in the things of God (Eph. 6:4)

Christ's Example:

Luke 2:51,52 "Then he (Jesus) went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them... and Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

Hebrews 5:8 "Although he (Jesus) was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and once made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Bad Examples Of Discipline:

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "...a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him... all the men of his town shall stone him to death..." (Exodus 21:15,17; Leviticus 20:9)

1 Samuel 2:12,17,22-25 (Eli, Hophni, Phinehas)
"Eli's sons were wicked men, they had no regard for the LORD." (they were involved in leadership in the temple v.1:3) "They were treating the LORD's offering with contempt."



(they were immoral) "They slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." (Eli was more worried about his reputation than what his boys were doing.) "I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds." "His sons did not listen to their father's rebuke." "I (the LORD) told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about ...and he failed to restrain them." (v. 3:13)

Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son..."

Proverbs 23:13,14 "Do not withhold discipline from a child..."

Proverbs 29:15,17 "...a child left to himself disgraces his mother."

George MacDonald, The Lost Princess, p. 133

"As for you," she said, "you are sufficiently punished by the work of your own hands. Instead of making your daughter obey you, you left her to be a slave to herself. You coaxed when you ought to have compelled; you praised when you ought to have been silent; you embraced when you ought to have punished; you threatened when you ought to have inflicted. And there she stands, the full-grown result of your foolishness! She is your crime and your punishment. Take her home with you and live hour after hour with the pale-hearted disgrace you call your daughter. The worm at her heart has begun to teach her what she is. When life is no longer endurable, come to me."

In order to have a garden of weeds it is not necessary to do anything but let it go (neglect). The lack of discipline has a destructive impact on the future course of a teen's life.

Question: How are we as parents failing to discipline our children?

Areas We Fail In Disciplining Our Teenagers:

1. Little or no discipline (bribery)(example of child at park)
 - danger of rationalism (trying to reason or negotiate)
 - danger of argumentation (trying to convince by heated argument)
 - danger of choosing least path of resistance. (not want any conflict)
2. Inconsistency (harsh then lax is confusing)(treat siblings differently)
3. Lack follow through (our word means nothing/just empty threats)
4. Timing of consequences is delayed

Ecclesiastes 8:11 "When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried

out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong."

5. Consequences don't hurt or cost teen very little (punishment should fit the crime/pain is a deterrent – no pain no gain)
6. Left only to one partner/not unified in discipline process/one partner undermines other. (Teen may pit one spouse against the other)
7. Done in anger which leads to embitterment rather than change of heart
Psalms 38:1; 39:3 "O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath." My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue..."
 - We yell and display inappropriate behavior (lose control ourselves)
 - We become irrational (in our words/actions)



- We may misunderstand how love is expressed
Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

Biblical Discipline:

- **Loving controlled discipline**
Proverbs 3:11,12 "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."
 - Address heart issues, not just external behavior modification.
- **Painful discipline** (not acts of abuse or cruel violence)
Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
Proverbs 23:13,14 "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death." (20:30)
Limitations:
 - There is a time to stop corporal punishment
(anger, physical violence between parent/child)

- Restricted privileges/"grounding" must be costly/painful
- Be aware of the danger of isolation or little supervision
A teens room is not a place of complete privacy.
- A teen must be held responsible for their choices.
Consequences must follow sinful behavior.
Consequences must also follow accidental mistakes.
(You break it you buy it.)

Importance of discipline in privacy:

Each child is unique: (give an appropriate reward for conduct)

Different strokes for different folks

- **Goal: The result of discipline** (or lack thereof)

Proverbs 19:18 "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death."

Proverbs 29:15,17 "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother. Discipline your son and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul." (10:17; 15:32)

Hebrews 12:7,10,11 "... For what son is not disciplined by his father? We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it... Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you." (Blessing and prosperity is promised to those who obey it.)

- * Teenagers need boundaries/structure = safe/security
- * Loving discipline is the balance between 2 extremes:
love w/o discipline and discipline w/o love
- * Parents must diligently to do what is right, even when it is difficult, for God will bless our obedience.
- * Parents must judge righteously (Prov. 18:17; 17:26).

Parental expectations of teenagers:

1. Listen to parents request (eye contact)
Eph. 6:1 "obey" means to listen intently and conform to a command (hear and heed)
2. Verbally respect parents authority ("Yes, mom!/yes dad!")
3. Timely obedience (delayed obedience is disobedience)

4. Proper attitude when corrected (body language)
 "Honor" is the heart's disposition behind obedience.
 External compliance that veils an insubordinate heart is not
 God-honoring (angry, reluctant, defiant obedience).
5. Follow/heed their counsel
 Proverbs 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
 but he who hates correction is stupid."
 Proverbs 13:1 "A wise son heeds his father's instruction."
 Prov. 6:20,23; 15:5,32; 23:22-25; Deut. 27:16; Ezek. 22:7

What sinful patterns as parents have you participated in as a reason for why things are the way they are? How are you going to change for the better?

Philippians 3:12-14 "Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Sociologists from Harvard University found that there were four primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency in teenagers. (1) the father's firm, fair, and consistent discipline; (2) the mother's supervision and companionship during the day; (3) the parents demonstrating affection for each other and for the children; and (4) the family's spending time together in activities where all participated. (John Mac Arthur)

What Is Your Ultimate Goal In Disciplining Your Teenager?
 (What are you trying to accomplish?)

Discussion Situations:

- The disobedient/defiant (incorrigible)
 Proverbs 22:15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
 Proverbs 29:15,17 "A child left to himself disgraces his mother."
 Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son..."
 1 Samuel 15:22,23 "Obedience is better than sacrifice... rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."

Cause:

Solution:

- The dishonoring
 Proverbs 30:11,13,17 “Those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.”
 “Those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful.” “The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother...”
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The resistant
 Proverbs 12:1 “He who hates correction is stupid.”
 Proverbs 15:5 “A fool spurns his father’s discipline...”
 Proverbs 15:32 “He who ignores discipline despises himself...”
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The unmotivated/lazy
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”
 Prov. 6:6-11; 10:4; 13:4; 14:23; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25,26; 24:30-34;
 26:14,16
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The ungrateful (2 Tim. 3:2)
 Philippians 2:14 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing.”
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The exasperated (angry)
 Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...”
 Proverbs 29:11 “A fool gives full vent to his anger...”
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The deceitful (Prov. 26:24-26)
 Psalms 101:7 “He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.”
 Psalms 32:2 “...In whose spirit is no deceit.” (1 Pet. 2:22)
 Proverbs 12:19,22 “Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.” “The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.”
 Cause:
 Solution:



- The untrustworthy (They do not honor their word.)
 Leviticus 5:4 "If a person thoughtlessly takes an oath to do anything"
 Psalms 15:4 "...who keeps his oath even when it hurts."
 James 5:12; Titus 2:7,8; Matthew 5:33-37; Proverbs 8:6-8
 Cause:
 Solution:
- The violent/abusive
 Proverbs 19:26 "He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace."
 Exodus 21:15 "Anyone who attacks his father or his mother must be put to death." (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9)
 Cause:
 Solution:

Closing Thought:

"United we stand, divided we fall" (We need each other)
 Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens"
 Hebrews 10:24,25 "Spur one another on, encourage one another"
 James 5:16 "Pray for one another" "confess your sins to one another"
 Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpens iron, one sharpens another"

Question: What do you ultimately want from your teenagers?