

# Family Matters



*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."*

## The Lies Of Modern Psychology: (un-Biblical views)

- Children are innocent or basically good at heart
  - Proverbs 22:15** "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
  - Psalms 51:5** "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."
  - Psalms 58:3** "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies." (Romans 5:12,19)
- Rebellion/disobedience is "normal" childhood behavior/just a phase
  - 1 Samuel 15:22,23** "Obedience is better than sacrifice, rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry." (Ps. 78:8; Neh. 9:26; Zech. 7:11; Dan. 9:5; Heb. 3:12)
- Rationalism - reason & negotiation get desired behavior
- Behavior Modification: what is desired is compliant behavior
  - Psalms 28:3** "Those who do evil... who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts." (Prov. 26:24,25)
  - Matthew 15:8,9** "They honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me..."
- Pragmatism: If it works, keep doing it/If it doesn't work, change it.
  - Galatians 6:9** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
  - 1 Corinthians 15:58** "Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:13** "Never tire of doing what is right."
- Phobia of physical abuse (fear spanking will scar/push kids away)
  - 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."
- Misunderstanding of love
  - Proverbs 13:24** "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him (early)." (19:18)  
(The lack of discipline has a destructive impact on the future course of a child's life.)

- Who defines “child rights” “fairness” “moral/ethical oughts” “desired behavior” “entitlement”? Who is the authority on child-raising? Colossians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:19-25 (Many of the leading Child Psychologists are atheists.)

## What is the difference between discipline and punishment?

(chastisement or corporal punishment: infliction of pain for correction or restraint of a child’s disobedience.)

## 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.”  
 Revelation 3:19 “Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent...”  
 Psalms 89:32,33 “I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging, but I will not take my love from him...” (rebellion causes alienation/separation) (discipline that will bring back into right relationship)
- **Painful discipline** (not acts of abuse or cruel violence)  
 Shaping the will (heart) without breaking the child.  
 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.”  
 2 Samuel 7:14,15 “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men. But my love will never be taken away from him...”  
 Proverbs 19:25 “Flog a mocker and the simple will learn prudence, rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.”  
 Proverbs 20:30 “Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.”  
 Proverbs 10:13; 19:29; 26:3

Definition of “rod”: symbol of that which will inflict appropriate pain sufficient to end the child’s rebellion.

Questions:

- When should you spank and when should you not spank?  
 Issue of willful disobedience or dishonor:  
 Issue of timing: (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

- Should parents use a neutral object –v- the hand.
- What happens when it isn't painful – problem of physical strength needed to generate pain.
- When is spanking no longer efficient/effective?  
"while there is hope" "early" (Prov. 13:24; 19:18)
- How many? How hard? How often? Appropriate?  
(frequency/intensity)(break point/submission)
- \* Limitations of "time outs" or withdrawing/restricted privileges:
- \* Importance of privacy:
- \* Each child is unique: (strong will/compliant/desire to please)  
Mathew 21:28-31 Which child would you prefer?
- \* Give an appropriate reward/consequence for +/- conduct:  
"let the time fit crime" A teachable moment: Justice/mercy
- \* Caution: discipline should never beat the child into submission or be guilty of brute force (wrestling parent against child).
- **Goal: The result of discipline** (or lack thereof)
  - Proverbs 19:18** "Discipline (chasten) your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death (destruction)."
  - 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." (Prov. 3:11,12)
  - Proverbs 22:6** "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (early training secures lifelong habits)
  - Proverbs 15:5,32** "A fool spurns his father's discipline, but

whoever heeds correction shows prudence." "He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding."

**Proverbs 13:18** "He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored."

**Proverbs 28:23** "He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue."

**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.)

**Proverbs 21:15** "When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous, but terror to evildoers."

- \* There is a direct connection between how a child is brought up and how they turn out.
- \* Kids need boundaries/structure = safe/security
- \* Loving discipline is the balance between 2 extremes: love w/o discipline and discipline w/o love
- \* The early years are foundational for what is to come Galatians 6:7 "A man reaps what he sows..."
- \* Parents must diligently do what is right, even when it is difficult, even when tired, God blesses obedience (Gal. 6:9)

The Problem Of Emotional Repentance: (Matt. 27:3; Lk. 6:46; 2 Cor. 7:8-11)  
(Sorry they got caught/sorry for the embarrassment/sorry for pain)

The Problem Of Partial Obedience: (1 Samuel 15:3,9,13,14,22,23)

The Problem Of Conformity Without Heart Change: (Matthew 23; 15:8,9)

### **Parental expectations of children should include:**

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 1<sup>st</sup> time obedience (delayed obedience is disobedience)
4. Proper attitude when corrected (body language)  
"Honor" is the hearts disposition behind obedience.  
External compliance that veils an insubordinate heart is not God-honoring (angry, reluctant, defiant obedience).

What is inappropriate behavior during discipline for a child to exhibit?  
(Saying No!, physical resistance, screaming, pouting, a temper tantrum, ignoring, flight, fight, anger)

## Questions To Ask As Parents:

1. Was I clear in what I asked my child to do or not do and did I state the consequences that would follow? (expectations, rules, standards)  
"This is what I expect of you..."
2. Did they hear and understand what I meant?
3. Is my child willfully, deliberately, disobedient, rebellious, dishonoring, or defiant to me or my authority?
4. Is this a matter of chastisement or training?
5. Is this the first offense?
6. What form of consequence is appropriate for discipline?
7. Is this a teachable moment to teach justice or mercy/grace?
8. How will I re-affirm my love for my child?

**Caution:** Make sure before you discipline you know the truth.

Proverbs 17:26 "It is not good to punish an innocent man, or to flog officials for their integrity."

Proverbs 18:17 "The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him."

## **Children Should:**

- Honor their parents with their words  
Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Proverbs 20:20; 30:11
- Show respect to parents in every way  
Leviticus 19:3; Proverbs 30:17 (facial expressions)  
Question: How are children disrespectful to parents?
- Follow/heed their counsel  
Proverbs 23:22-25; Deuteronomy 27:16; Ezekiel 22:7

## **Passages To The Child:**

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, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke."

Proverbs 15:5 "A fool spurns his father's discipline..."

*Sociologists from Harvard University found that there were four primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency in children. (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)*

**Question:** What Is Your Ultimate Goal In Disciplining Your Children?  
(train up regenerated, obedient, honoring, God-fearing children)