

LESSON 4



CORRECTION AND DISCIPLINE

Scripture Texts: Ephesians 6:14; Colossians 3:20-21; Hebrews 12:7-9; Proverbs 3:12

In Deuteronomy 6:4-10, God gave instruction on how to teach children constantly, day after day, and week after week, until they are brought into another land, in which much shall be obtained. This is the ultimate purpose for our interest and training of our children. Is not faithful church attendance of great importance here?

MEMORY VERSE: *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."*

Exodus 20:12

The Question

The question may be asked, "How severely should we punish our child?" The purpose for punishment is that a goal may be reached. What will it require to reach that goal which is to cause the child's will to be brought into subjection to the will of another? We correct the child because we love him, as recorded in Proverbs 3:12.

A number of things determine the severity of the punishment.

1. Is this the first time or has it happened before?
2. How severely a crime has been committed? Even though small, it is a crime and should be handled as such under the circumstance.
3. Is there a true misunderstanding involved, or was it outright disobedience?
4. Did the child attempt to cover the wrong?
5. Was the disobedience against the law of the home, man's law, or the law of God?

Others could be mentioned, but these will do for the present. When you, as a parent, have told your children what discipline will be given, do not fail them; follow through. Say what you mean, and mean what you say. The children, in time, may apply a Scripture found in Proverbs 12:22 to the parents, if the parents fail to do as they say. The Bible states that we should not spare the rod, because in doing so, we will spoil the child. This is true, contrary to modern thinking and child psychology. Spoiled children find it difficult to be brought under the law of the community in which they live.

God's Answer

Read Proverbs 22:15; 23:13; 29:15-18; 20:30. Do not let the child's crying and pleading cause you to change your mind, as we read in Proverbs 19:18.

Correction, if done in a correct manner, proves your love for the child. Correction and discipline should have the support of both parents at all times in the presence of the children. No differences on the subject should ever be discussed in the presence of the children. This can hinder your prayers.

Other forms of correction can be used to good advantage also. Rather than the rod, for example, confining them to their rooms, dropping their allowances for a certain time, and taking away certain privileges for a short time can be used. Use whichever proves to be best for the particular child. The child's will must be broken while he is still young and tender. If parents do not enforce laws on children in the home, law enforcement officers may have to use force if they break the laws of the community. More important, God will not be able to get them to submit to His laws when they face the choice of taking God's way or walking after their own ways. God's wrath was kindled against Eli, the priest, because his sons did evil. Eli was chastened severely and cursed of God for neglecting to do his duty in governing his children, as we read in 1 Samuel 2:12, 27-30 and in 1 Samuel 3:13-14.

It would be wrong to punish or correct a child for doing something that you are doing. We should be careful not to blame a child when the root of the matter may be in us. At all times, keep your punishment under control. We need God in our hearts, that His gentleness, His mercy, His love, and His righteousness might always be manifested before the children and that they may grow up to be men and women of faith and confidence in God. Wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ Jesus, and it takes wisdom from above to know when to correct, in what way to correct, and the amount of correction or punishment needed.

JUST A THOUGHT

**It is a bit difficult to sell anyone a product you've never
used, or a religion you've never lived.**

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