

# Parental Responsibilities: Discipline

## *Biblical Parenting Class – Weeks #2 and #3*

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### I. Your discipline must be shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your children

- A. They are made in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- B. They will exist for all of \_\_\_\_\_ either in heaven or hell
- C. They are \_\_\_\_\_

- Proverbs 22:15

"Remember children are born with a decided bias toward evil, and therefore if you let them choose for themselves, they are certain to choose wrong. The mother cannot tell what her tender infant may grow up to be – tall or short, weak or strong, wise or foolish; he may or may not be any of these – it is all uncertain. But one thing the mother can say with certainty: he will have a corrupt and sinful heart. It is natural for us to do wrong... Our hearts are like the earth on which we tread; let it alone, and it is sure to bear weeds."

– J.C. Ryle

- Proverbs 23:13-14

"A gardener may sow the choicest seeds; but if he neglects to pluck up weeds, and prune wild overgrowth, he must not expect to see his flowers grow, or his garden flourish. And so a parent may deliver the best instructions; but if he does not, by discipline, eradicate evil tempers, correct bad habits, repress wicked corruptions, nothing excellent can be looked for."

– John Angell James, *The Christian Father's Present to His Children*

### II. Your discipline must be shaped by \_\_\_\_\_ discipline of His children

- Deuteronomy 8 – A Picture of God's Discipline
- Hebrews 12:4-11 – Principles of God's Discipline

- A. What is God's relationship with His children?
- B. Who is disciplined by God?
- C. Why does God discipline His children?
- D. What are the specific goals of God's discipline?

"Our motive for discipline is to bring our children into a subordinate relationship to the authority of the living God and not just to ourselves. If we seek to make our children submit to us alone, we have failed in our biblical responsibility. Rather, God says that we are to bring them into submission *to Him*. All of our discipline, nurture, instruction, and warning must be framed in this context: To bring them to the point where they become obedient disciples of Jesus Christ."

-Bruce Ray, *Withhold Not Correction*, p. 48

E. What are the means of God's discipline?

F. How does God discipline? What are the characteristics of His discipline?

### III. Your discipline must be shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture

A. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ discipline when your children are \_\_\_\_\_

- *Proverbs 19:18*

- *Proverbs 22:6*

B. Do not discipline in a way that \_\_\_\_\_ your children to \_\_\_\_\_

- *Ephesians 6:4 (Colossians 3:21)*

- Chapter 8 "Parents who Provoke" in *The Faithful Parent* by Stuart Scott and Martha Peace or *The Heart of Anger* by Lou Priolo

C. Recognize that "\_\_\_\_\_" is the primary means God has given you to discipline your children

-*Proverbs 29:15*

-*Proverbs 13:24*

-*Proverbs 10:13*

-*Proverbs 26:3*

-*Proverbs 22:13-14*

-*Proverbs 22:15*

"The rod is a parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness toward his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured, and controlled use of physical punishment to underscore the importance of obeying God, thus rescuing the child from continuing in his foolishness until death."

-Tedd Tripp, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, p. 104

*Why don't people use the rod of discipline?*

*Why the rod as opposed to other forms of discipline?*

*Does that mean I can never use other forms of discipline/consequences?*

*When should I use the rod?*

*When should I not use the rod?*

*How should I use the rod?*

#### A Suggested Model of a Wise, Gospel-Centered Spanking

1. Consider if discipline is \_\_\_\_\_ and can be \_\_\_\_\_ administered
  - Was there a clear act of disobedience?
  - Am I angry?
  - Am I most offended at how their sin affected me or how it offends God?
  - Am I able to administer discipline without humiliation?
  - Am I prepared to direct them to the hope of the gospel?
  - Am I prepared to forgive them if their sin was against me?
2. Pick an \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pick a \_\_\_\_\_
4. Point out the \_\_\_\_\_ issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the discipline
6. \_\_\_\_\_ with them
7. \_\_\_\_\_ with them

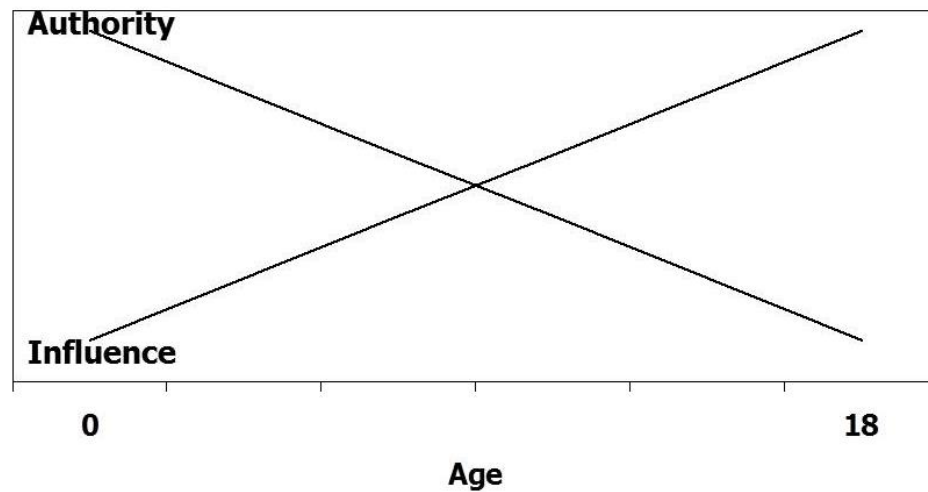
8. Have them go make it \_\_\_\_\_ if they have sinned against someone else or go \_\_\_\_\_ in the manner they would not before when possible
9. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in your relationship

#### IV. Your discipline must be shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of your child

A. Transitioning from \_\_\_\_\_ discipline to \_\_\_\_\_ - discipline

B. Transitioning from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(from *Shepherding a Child's Heart*)



C. Transitioning through the different \_\_\_\_\_ of life

- Infants
- Toddlers
- Older Preschool and Elementary Children
- Teenagers

"Often the parent must sacrifice time, energy, and personal desires to obey the Lord and discipline the little one 'while there is hope'." *The Faithful Parent*, p. 57

V. Your discipline must be shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_

A. Biblical discipline is vital to your children \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel

B. Biblical discipline is vital to your children \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel

"Grace doesn't mean no discipline. Instead, it changes the *way* we discipline. We combine discipline with love and acceptance. We discipline our children and point to the forgiveness won at the cross..."  
-*Gospel-Centered Family*, p. 47

C. Biblical discipline is vital to your children \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. Read back through Hebrews 12 and Deuteronomy 8. Are there any aspects of God's discipline that were surprising to you? How should His example shape your discipline as a parent?
2. What should your goals be in disciplining your children? How are these different than what has been true for you in the past?
3. How are you prone to provoke your children to anger? What practical steps can you take to change?
4. Is "the rod" a primary means of your discipline? If not, why hasn't it been?
5. Why is it so important for your children to learn to obey your authority?
6. By God's grace, what will you strive to change about how you discipline your kids this next week? What steps will you take to implement these changes?