

Parental Responsibilities: Discipline (Pt. 1)

Biblical Parenting Class – Week #2

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)

Ways parents provoke their children to anger:

- 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

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?