



## WEEK 5 – “Loving Discipline”

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we focused on training the hearts of children. God requires much more of us than just teaching them head knowledge. Tonight, we will focus on setting proper expectations for obedience and discipline. From early on, we want our children to begin evaluating their own responses so that they will recognize sin and **LEARN** to repent. Our training includes two parts. First, we use the word of God to train their hearts. Then, we use the rod of correction and reproof to change wrong behaviors. Children need to understand that **all** sin brings **PAIN** and has negative consequences. They can learn early in life through loving, parental discipline or later by God’s direct and indirect chastening. As usual, **all** Christians will benefit from this study.

#### 1. *The Balancing Dilemma*

- ✓ All decisions have consequences; good parenting must have **CONSEQUENCES**.

Consider this balancing challenge for parents:

- 1) Love without discipline produces **SPOILED** children. (*This is not really love.*)  
**Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15; Heb 12:5-13**
- 2) Discipline without love produces anger, DISCOURAGEMENT, and rebellion.  
**Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4**
- 3) Teaching and discipline without **EXAMPLE** produce bitterness, resentment, and error.  
**Judges 2:11-12; 21:25; Ecclesiastes; 1Kings 12; 1Tim 4:12; Heb 13:7**
- 4) Example without teaching produces VAGUENESS, authority issues, and instability.  
**Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 2Tim 3:13-17**
- 5) Without dedication, parents inevitably **NEGLECT** their stewardship and responsibility.  
**1Corinthians 16:13; Heb 10:25; 1Peter 5:8-11**

**NOTE** All of these important elements must be balanced to ensure our children grow up to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and obey His commands for their benefit.

## 2. The Rod of Love

- ✓ The Bible is clear that true **LOVE** for children **must** include a physical rod.

**Proverbs 13:24** – *He that spareth his rod HATETH his son:  
but he that LOVETH him chasteneth him **BETIMES**.*

**NOTE** Discipline without training from the Bible may change the outward behavior for a time, but it is the word of God that changes the heart. But using the word of God without the physical discomfort of a spanking only gives part of the picture.

**W1828 “Betimes”**  
*Timely; soon; in a short time; before it is too late.*

Children need to understand that ALL sin brings PAIN and has NEGATIVE consequences. They must learn early from a loving parent before it is too late.

- ✓ The Bible says that our heavenly Father chastens us **because** He **LOVES** us.

**Hebrews 12:6** – *For whom the Lord LOVETH he chasteneth,  
and scourgeth EVERY SON whom he receiveth.*

**NOTE** God expresses His love by His loving discipline to aid in our spiritual growth and change that we might experience His goodness and righteousness. God’s “rod” includes negative consequences in life scenarios including school, work, health issues, finances, relationships, marital problems, and marriage outside His will.

## 3. God’s Form of Discipline

- ✓ The Bible teaches us God’s form of discipline includes **BOTH** “the rod and reproof.”

**Proverbs 29:15** – *The ROD and REPROOF give wisdom:  
but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

**NOTE** The corrective side of discipline includes admonishment and chastening (spanking) with the rod. Some would say that the rod is merely a symbol of discipline and reject the whole idea of using physical forms of discipline as in spanking. That it is a symbol of discipline is true, but to reject it as a picture of corrective discipline in the form of physical discipline is to take the very heart out of the word. Of course, God does not approve misuse of physical discipline.

### The rod vs. the hand

*Parents’ hands should be sources of love and comfort for a child. A rod would be a small stick or object.*

### Sample Procedure

*Apply the rod to the padded area directly; nurture with love; offer forgiveness and teach repentance toward God; pray and ask for God’s help with future obedience.*

### Why chastisement fails to work:

- 1) Wrong instrument.
- 2) Hard enough to get child upset, but not enough to outweigh **PLEASURE** of sin.
- 3) Parents chastise through clothing that is too thick.
- 4) Mom and dad are not like-minded in this area of discipline.
- 5) The parents are inconsistent in the manner and timing of discipline.
- 6) Parents fail to establish clear boundaries and rules.
- 7) Parents are afraid the child will not love them.

The reasons for discipline using the rod and why it is so essential:

- 1) We discipline... **because** God has **COMMANDED** it. **Prov 13:24**
- 2) We discipline... **because** children **NEED** it. **Prov 22:15**
- 3) We discipline... **because** it WORKS when properly applied. **Prov 20:30**

**NOTE** God has made man to hate pain and suffering. Therefore, he will generally go to almost any length to avoid suffering or pain. Pain, then, is EDUCATIONAL: it alerts us to the fact something is wrong. It is naturally corrective. Because of this, physical discipline that hurts and is delivered consistently, but in love with a child's well being always in view, has a unique way of passing through the body (in this case, the 'seat of learning') to the soul (the mind, emotions, and will). The result is inner control and changed behavior or, as the word of God says, "*so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.*"

The pain of spanking reaches the innermost part of the child because they are more stimulus prone; they are more affected by pleasure or pain than by their moral faculties of reasoning. For younger children, depriving them of rewards or privileges like a snack, a game, etc., does not get through to the issues of the heart like a loving, painful spanking. The pain from the rod is quicker and more immediate to the situation. It brings direct and immediate attention to the wrong that has been done, it settles the issues quickly, does not allow attitudes to fester, and does not condemn the child.

On the other hand, punishments like denying a child some privilege or sending him to his room, often fail to cleanse because they allow the disobedient attitude to remain and fester. This can build resentment and even greater rebellion. Confinement may bring remorse because the child got caught, but it often does not bring repentance.

A rod of correction is one used with intent and in a manner that brings correction with understanding. It is used in love, **under control**, long enough to bring REPENTANCE, consistently, with instruction, and out of confidence and faith in the word of God. Amen.

**Out of control?**

*It is a glaring, contradiction for a parent to use a rod to bring control in a child when the parent is out of control.*

What are the aims of discipline?

- 1) Godliness and Christ-like behavior. **Heb 12:10-11** (Obedience to God and salvation.)
- 2) Obedient ACTIONS with happy ATTITUDES. **Prov 23:7** (God's will for every child.)

▪ **Obedience involves three things:**

- 1) **Immediacy** – children must learn to obey immediately. If the request is NOW, then the parent must expect a child to obey NOW and be ready to follow through for failure to obey. Stay strong.
- 2) **Completeness** – obedience includes thorough, complete obedience according to the age level or capacity of the child. Failure to discipline and teach children complete obedience has a lasting impact. A child will carry into adolescence and adulthood resulting in poor patterns of behavior.
- 3) **Willingness and a good attitude** – the Bible says *serve the Lord with gladness (Ps 100:2)*, and DO ALL things *heartily, as to the Lord (Col 3:23)*. This means children must be taught that obedience to a parent, teacher, employer, etc. is an obedience to the Lord and to fail to obey joyfully is rebellion and to act like and follow the pattern of Satan himself, who is rebel of rebels!

**Important Point**

*If a child needs to be yelled or screamed at in an ugly tone to get obedience, the child is not the only one in the wrong; the parent is also for failing to set clear expectations and discipline appropriately.*

**4. Personal Application**

- ✓ What are you going to do today to **CHANGE** for God's glory? for your family?