



God's Loving Discipline

Hebrews 12:4-11

- 1) The Christian life is like a race (12:1-3; cf. 1 Cor. 9:24; Gal. 5:7; Phil. 2:16)
- 2) Why do Christians have to struggle? (12:5-11)
 - a) Because God loves us (12:5-8)
 - i) We're God's loved children (cf. Prov. 3:11-12)
 - ii) No discipline equates to no-love
 - b) We need correction for willful sin (2 Sam. 12:10)
 - c) We need prevention for future sin (2 Cor. 12:7-9)
 - d) We need education (Job 42:4-6)
 - e) We need our weak faith strengthened (Gen. 22)
 - f) We need holiness (12:9-11)
 - i) Discipline is necessary (Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14).
 - ii) Failure to submit to discipline entails death (10:26-27)
 - iii) Discipline yields "the peaceful fruit of righteousness"
- 3) Applications
 - a) Playing the victim? Embrace God's loving discipline
 - b) Been sitting out a while? Re-enter the Christian race
 - i) Some start well but never finish
 - ii) Some start then fall
 - iii) Some start then pause
 - c) Avoid the pitfalls