

One time when I was about 5 years old I did something I should not have done and so my mother sent me to my room to await the punishment she was going to unleash on me. I am overemphasizing this because she was not an abusive parent. She used punishment as a way to help me learn right from wrong.

While I was waiting for the executioner to arrive I had an idea. There was a plastic tablecloth folded in my closet. I took it out and stuffed it into the backside of my pants and waited for her to enter which she did moments later. She bent me over her knees and with a ruler in her hand began to spank me on my bottom.

However, there was only one spank and she thought it sounded unlike what she expected. Pulling up the backside of my pants she saw the plastic force field I had inserted and just started to laugh. Punishment stopped sooner than anticipated and I rejoiced that I escaped the penalty for my sins at least on that occasion.

Today's "What If...???" is...

***What if ALL the punishment for ALL your sins
has already been paid for?***

And if it has already been paid for what does that mean for us? Have you ever heard someone who is having difficult things happening to them say that God is punishing them? Or have you interpreted the bad things that are happening in your life as punishment from God because you are not the perfect little child that He has chosen to be in His family?

First we need to differentiate between punishment and discipline. The difference is remarkably clear is you look at who does God punish and who does God discipline. Both are painful however they have different purposes.

Punishment is the result of doing evil and is painful.

Discipline is something a loving Father does to help His children mature.

Through the Bible we learn that our God does both. Generally, He punishes His enemies and those who are evil. However, he disciplines those who are His children with a purpose of helping us make a change in our direction.

Notice what we read about the discipline we receive from our Father in Hebrews 12:10-11...

“...He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; **yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**”

Our Father disciplines us to help us make a course direction change. Sure, there are times when we are just doing what we want to do regardless of our Father's will for us. I would say looking at porn and engaging in sexual sin definitely fall on the List of things to DO NOT DO!!!

We know it is wrong and we hope we will get away with it...but we do not. Our sin does find us out and the terrible things begin to happen that caused us such great fear that we remained isolated so nobody would find out...and we become addicted to sexual sin.

The punishment we might face if our sin is found out...and it will be...can be very destructive to us, our marriage, our kids, and other family members. Remember this...sin has its own consequences The passage "the wages of sin is death" is found in Romans 6:23 and is addressed to Christians. Continuing in it will make the fruit of your Christian live shrivel and die.

Let's make one thing very clear. All the punishment for all of your sins was placed on Christ as He dies on the Cross. He died to pay all the penalty of all of our sins which demanded a death and He died for all...and we are part of that "all." See this in Hebrews 10...

"By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,"

And then we read in Hebrews 10:14...

"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."

So...

What if all the punishment for all your sins has already been paid for?

We are in Christ and our Father will not punish us for our sins...that was the greatest One and Done of all time. However, two things to note...

1. Sin always has its own consequences which we will experience as we sin more.
2. God will discipline us for sinning not because He wants to punish us...but because He is tired of seeing us hurting ourselves and needs to teach us to stop.

It is time for us to stop being angry at the pain sin has brought into our lives. It is not punishment because Christ has already paid the penalty for ALL of OUR SINS...so what remains is not pun