

# Intentional Parenting

(because it doesn't happen by accident)

Principles of Chastening

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Introduction: No better example exists of childrearing than that of our Heavenly Father. His chastening \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:4) His children through \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 3:16) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 12:5). By studying His example, believers learn to be contented children of God and better parents of their own children. Consider these six principles:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in chastening: a tendency to forget its promised blessings (v. 5a)
  - a. "And ye have forgotten" means that these readers had become totally \_\_\_\_\_ to a truth they should have known, i.e. that God chastens His children in love.
  - b. The principle they had forgotten was an exhortation—an \_\_\_\_\_—for those enduring God's disciplinary hand.
  - c. The writer of Hebrews suggested that his readers consider the \_\_\_\_\_  
(speaketh suggests "to reason with") of discipline as it relates to a father and his child.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of chastening: the mandate to teach and reiterate its benefits (v. 5b)
- a. “Despise not” means that chastening should not be \_\_\_\_\_; it should not be disesteemed.
  - b. “Nor faint” implies that one is tempted at times to \_\_\_\_\_ or grow weary during times of discipline (see Gal. 6:7-9). At these times he must remind himself of the benefit of chastening.
  - c. “Rebuked” suggests the nature of God’s Word is at times negative and takes the form of a \_\_\_\_\_. Children must not grow calloused to the warnings of authority nor think they no longer need them.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of chastening: the need to exercise discipline with a heart of love (v. 6)
- a. Chastening is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of love; it is an obvious expression of love.
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ side of chastening—corporal discipline—is the means by which God initiates restored fellowship to Himself. He desires to receive (v. 6) and delight in (Prov. 3:12) His children.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ of chastening: a means to signify sonship (v. 7)

- a. The pejorative word bastard means “an illegitimate son.” The reader of that day would understand the meaning to be that these were not children in the sense of having any valid claim to \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Interestingly, the absence of discipline was viewed as a \_\_\_\_\_ and the absence of long-term commitment.
- c. Apparent believers who seem to have no compunctions for sin or consequences because of sin should \_\_\_\_\_ themselves whether or not they be in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

5. \_\_\_\_\_ of chastening: an example to demonstrate a much more noble and consistent example (vv. 9-10)

- a. In the OT, one’s response to his parent’s chastening was literally a matter of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 21:18-21); hence the promise, “be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live.”
- b. Man’s chastening tends to be self-centered and self-guided (after their own pleasure); God’s chastening is \_\_\_\_\_ (for our profit).
- c. Children are \_\_\_\_\_ when the godly character of the leader becomes the godly character of the follower (partakers of His holiness).

6. \_\_\_\_\_ of chastening: a strategy to employ regardless of how unpalatable it may temporarily seem (v. 11)

- a. At times I must choose what is \_\_\_\_\_ grievous to secure that which will be ultimately joyous.
- b. Like athletes in a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, children can manifest the fruit of righteousness after a systematic regimen of spiritual chastening (see also 1 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 5:14).