

***The Hard Side of Love***  
**Hebrews 12:4-11**

*“God’s casting is not meant to be sheer punishment for our sins. Rather, God chasten us with redemption in mind. God loves and receives those whom He chastens.” - Jerry Vines*

*“This is the side of God’s Love Jesus never experienced until He got to the Cross, and He experienced it for us.”*

**I. What chastening pictures about the love of our Lord. (v.5-6)**

A. Chastening draws the picture of a resilient love.

**Hebrews 12:5** *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him.*

**1 Corinthians 13:7** *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

B. Chastening draws the picture of a receptive love.

*“A father doesn’t love his child when he refuses to correct him. The father loves himself. He doesn’t like the displeasure and inconvenience of having to discipline his child and then listen to him cry.” - Adrian Rogers*

**Hebrews 12:6** *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

*“Jesus loves us too much to let us stay the way we are. Patiently, earnestly, with great dedication he is intimately involved in making our life better.”*

**II. What chastening proves about the love in our salvation. (v.7-8)**

A. Chastening proves the security of our salvation.

**Hebrews 12:7** *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

**2 Samuel 7:14** *I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: (v.15) But my mercy shall not depart away from him,*

*“Discipline is not the same thing as punishment. The purpose of discipline is training. God uses discipline to bring us back into a right relationship with Him so that we can receive His love.”*  
- **Henry Backaby**

B. Chastening proves the sonship of our salvation.

**Hebrews 12:8** *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye illegitimate, and not sons.*

**Proverbs 13:24** *He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*

**III. What chastening provides in our sanctification. (v.9-11)**

A. Chastening provides parental guidance.

**Hebrews 12:9** *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

**Proverbs 3:12** *For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. (v.13) Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

*“A good father’s correction produces a certain amount of fear, respect, and (eventually) love. Because the heavenly Father makes no mistakes — and knows far more about what His children need to grow and learn than earthly fathers do — His sons and daughters can submit to His loving discipline with full confidence.”*

**- David Jeremiah**

B. Chastening provides personal gratification.

**Hebrews 12:10** *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. (v.11) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

