

Child Discipline

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Deu. 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

Deu. 21:19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

Deu. 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard.

Deu. 21:21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

America today is faced with a cultural crisis. The roots of this cultural crisis have been around since the beginning of time. The fact that in the earliest bits of instructions which the Lord gave to the children of Israel (in our text) tells us that the tendency in some kids is to run wild if left to themselves. And our cultural crisis is that, as a nation, we have lost control of our kids.

We have some great kids in America today! Many of them are shining examples of proper raising and discipline by parents. But they have the cultural cards stacked against them. Almost every aspect of our society today encourages children to rebel against their parents. This is especially true where government has intruded into the parenting arena. Today, a parent's son or daughter can sue their parents in court for about anything, and win. A parent's daughter can go down to the school nurse and get birth control pills without anybody consulting the parents. That same daughter can go down to the school nurse and get set up for an abortion without ever consulting the parents.

Teachers are encouraging students to quit being boy or girl and start being a flaming homosexual, a transgender, or whatever they want. Parents aren't allowed to intervene in this. Why am I bringing this up? Because human rebellion has its strongest roots and most damaging influences in sexual lawlessness, and educational leaders and government lackeys are promoting that above everything else they are doing to encourage a divide between children and parents.

Almost every aspect of what our children are being fed by our system will be teaching them that parents and adults in general are stupid, that they are petty dictators and there is no need to obey them in anything.

All this godless lawlessness is not something that crept upon us in the middle of the night. As I said, the germ of it was in human children from the beginning. But there is another

element that must be present for this godless lawlessness to get a foothold in a society, and for it to become the norm for how children will behave. That element is a breakdown in discipline in the home and in the culture of that society.

Now most of you who are older remember well what Mother and Dad did to straighten you out about something and to give you an attitude adjustment. But by the time World War II came around, not only was dad working long hours at the factory or field, but Moms began to go out in droves and work in public jobs. So, at that time, kids began to be farmed out in a big way to school, grandparents, and babysitters. This is the place where discipline began to break down.

These surrogate mothers did not discipline like Mom and Dad, and Mom and Dad were too distracted to do a good job at discipline. This thing developed all through the 50s, 60s, 70s, etc., right up until today. The more this became the way of life, the more the disciplinary laxness crept through our society. At the same time, there began to arise a class of so-called experts on human behavior and child-rearing who came to the conclusion that children should never be whipped, never be scolded using negative connotations. Children must all be positively reinforced with corrections turned into praise, etc.

During the 70s and 80s, some of you continued to correct your children and for some of us, but even some of those children grew into teenagers and became absolute rebels, abandoning most of the conservative teachings we had given them, and some of them abandoned the idea of correcting their children. By this, the crisis of lawlessness grew even more.

How did this come about? We may ask, “was it failure on my part? Did I not correct and discipline my children like the Lord teaches?”

The answer to that may well be, “No, it was not failure on your part and yes you did discipline appropriately.” But let’s remember that the stage had already been set, and there were actors on that stage teaching and acting out the godless lawlessness that had already crept into our society. Probably, kids that your kids played with, young adults in our society, and worst of all, teachers and advisors were corrupt to the core about discipline. Our kids may have been influenced by all of that to abandon their teaching and go wild in many cases. In just that way, we have gotten to this place as a country where appropriate discipline has gone out the window.

Today, I want us to take a tour of God’s instructions about discipline. I am very fearful that we will never get back to the right way of discipline as a nation. Once a powerful government gets control, and a generation or two of parents abandon proper discipline, the

end product will be dictated by them. That is where we are today regarding laws, behavior, protections, and philosophy about child discipline.

I. Going back to our text, I want us to glean one thing out of it as a starter: namely that God looks upon rebellion of children who cannot be brought under control as a serious enough offense that it is worthy of death. (Go back and read the text, do some commentary). I emphasize this simply to show us how far from God's standard humanity has gone.

- ❖ Notice that the first step in this very serious process is that the parents must chasten the child to try to bring him in line
- ❖ The son is probably a teenager (drunkard-gluttony)-should we discipline teenagers? What does your teaching in this society suggest (hint: American society says it's no use to discipline teenagers).
- ❖ Notice that it requires the parents to take sides with God's way of discipline rather than trying to cover up the son's rebellion and godlessness

II. Moving on, I want us to be reminded that the Lord explains to us where the right kind of discipline comes from:

- ❖ **Heb 12:6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- ❖ Here's the obverse of that: **Prov 13:24** He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.
 - Note how absolute this statement is. Because the Lord says it, I can say it: if you find a man who will not whip his son, he hates that son.

III. **Prov. 19:18** Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

- ❖ Let's learn from this that if we let discipline slide, there will come a time when there cannot be any confidence that it will be effective ("while there is hope")
- ❖ Second thing to understand: we will be tempted as humans to slack up when all the crying rips at our heart strings (let not thy soul spare, etc.)
 - We need to remember this about discipline for a child: **Prov. 22:15** Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

IV. **Appropriate Discipline: Prov. 23:13** Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou **beatest** him with the rod, he shall not die.

Prov. 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod....

V. **Promised Positive Results:**

Prov. 29:15 The rod and reproof **give wisdom**: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to **shame**. (hint: rod and reproof will save mother from being ashamed).

Prov. 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall **give thee rest**; yea, he shall **give delight** unto thy soul.

Prov. 23:14 "...and shalt deliver his soul from hell."