

# parent's discipline

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## The parent as \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Unbiblical discipline

- Depends excessively on controlling the child
- Disciplines in uncontrolled anger (Prov 14:17; 16:32)
- Disciplines just because the child is an inconvenience
- Disciplines without a balance of encouragement (Rom 13:7; Heb 10:25; 1 Thes 5:14)
- Thinks discipline will hinder creativity and potential
- Thinks discipline will warp the child (Prov 22:15)
- Neglects timely correction (Prov 19:18; Ecc 8:11; e.g. 1 Sam 3:13)
- Withholds the use of the rod (Prov 23:13-14; 22:15; 13:24; 19:15)

*Discipline is unbiblical when it depends excessively on correction without a balance of instruction; is done in anger or with selfish motives; is done without a balance of praise; is delayed; or if the rod is completely withheld.*

### 2. Biblical discipline

- It is loving (Heb 12:5-15)
  - Helpful limits provide a good setting for learning
  - Helpful limits establish order
  - Helpful limits also protect the child from things he cannot handle
  - Helpful limits reveal the need for teaching
  - Helpful limits expose his inability to keep the standard and his need for a savior

No standard → no sin → no need for a Savior

Low standard → Pharisaism → no need for a Savior

God's standard → sin abounds → need the Savior's grace

- It is wise
  - Wise rules are reasonable
  - Wise rules are definable (Prov 4:20-22)

- Wise rules are useful (1 Cor 9:24-27; Gal 6:7; Prov 13:13-15; 15:19)
  - Cause and effect emphasizes the results of our choices (1 Cor 9:24-27; Gal 6:7) Ask your child, "Which way will you choose?"
  - Cause and effect illustrates the benefits of leaving foolish living and pursuing wise living (Prov 15:5, 10:8)
  - Cause and effect can lead to repentance
  - Cause and effect can demonstrate a contrast of reward and consequence (Deut 27, 28)
- Wise rules include rewards
- Wise rules include consequences
  - Must be enforced
  - Must be based on the child's age and maturity
  - Must be based on the nature of the offense
  - Must be done in love and with self-control
  - Should be stated ahead of time (as much as possible)

### 3. Summary

- As you discipline your child:
  - Stress that you give rewards or penalties because of the child's choice.
  - Stress the fact that it is God who is concerned with his behavior, not just you.
  - Re-teach that behavior originates in the heart.
- Remember:
  - Encourage a lot: the child must know that his parents and God approve as well as dislike certain behavior and heart attitudes.
  - Pray a lot: you need God's help in this (Prov. 3:5,6).
  - Every problem is not major: the child's failure does not mean the end of the world.
  - Don't give up; you're in it for the "long haul." In fact, a child's failures (and his accompanying conviction of sin and guilt) are opportunities for teaching and counseling.
  - These events allow you to stress his hopeless condition, his need for salvation, and the

strength that comes through Christ alone.

- Expect to visit problems again. Sin and bad habits with children, as with us, may reappear.
- Consequences don't eradicate our sin nature. Also, bad habits can occur again because parents let down their guard on that particular issue.
- We start giving "warnings" and "reminders" instead of following through, being consistent, and continually praying for the child and for wisdom.
- Trust the Lord. He is faithful. He even uses our mistakes for good. Don't worry; if you don't think you handled something right this time, you may get another chance!

## Recommended Resources

1. *Withhold not Correction* by Bruce A. Ray
2. *Get Outta My Face* by Rick Home (about reaching angry, unmotivated, disinterested teens with biblical counsel)
3. *Don't Make Me Count to Three* by Ginger Plowman
4. *The Disciple-Making Parent* by Chap Bettis