

## Disciplining your Children

Disciplining our children many times seems to be a hard thing to do unless we understand the reason for discipline. We also need to understand that there is a right way to discipline and a wrong way to discipline.

Yelling, screaming, using vulgar language, hitting, slapping, kicking, throwing our kids against a wall or floor is not called discipline. That is called abuse.

First of all, we need to understand that children don't like to be disciplined because of their fleshly nature. We need to remember that when they are little they are exploring and learning new things and they need to be taught what is acceptable behavior and what isn't acceptable behavior. If they keep doing the unacceptable, then there needs to be consequences.

When we discipline our children we may get a positive response or we may get a negative response. Many times, we can allow a negative response to keep us from disciplining them. In some cases we don't discipline our children until we are fed up and mad, and then we blow up. But we need to understand that this is not called discipline. Discipline is something we continually teach our children and apply when necessary.

### Understanding the importance of discipline

Pro. 27:5 "Open rebuke is better than secret love." This means we go around always telling other people about how naughty our children are and never do anything about it. It is like having a best friend who is doing something that is harmful to himself and others and you keep thinking that this is not good for them. When you're talking to other people it comes out in conversation but you never confront your friend even though you know he needs to change. That's called secret love - it is hidden.

The word 'rebuke' means *chastisement*; figuratively (by words) *correction*, *refutation*, *reproof* (even in defense). The correction should not be "Because I say so". If the child doesn't understand, we need to give them an answer to why we are correcting them.

A good example of this is when we begin to teach our children not to walk out on the street, and when we need to walk on the street (because there's no sidewalk!), teach them where to walk.

Sometimes it's good to teach by illustration. You could take a play car and a doll and make a road on paper and show them what could happen if they walk on the road.

Pro 13:24 NIV "He that spares the rod hates his son: but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

Pro 13:24 CEV "If you love your children, you will correct them; if you don't love them, you won't correct them."

Pro 13:24 "Whoever refuses to spank his son hates him, but whoever loves his son disciplines him from early on."

Some people never correct their children and just let them do what they want.

The Bible says that you hate your children if you refuse to correct them. Correction is to start as soon as they are born and continue until they leave your household. There is a proper time for a spanking....and a spanking is not a beating and is

not to be done with a belt or sharp object. Always keep in mind that if a child doesn't understand why they are being spanked or disciplined it will only bring resentment. They must first be told.

Discipline should never be carried out in anger or hatred and it should always be followed by an affirmation of your love for them.

Pro 29:15 "The rod and sharp words give wisdom: but a child who is not guided is a cause of shame to his mother."

Pro 15:32 "He who ignores discipline despises himself, but who ever heeds correction gains understanding."

Heb. 12: 4-11 NIV—vs. 4 "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."

vs. 5 "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you,

vs. 6 because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son."

vs. 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

vs. 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

vs. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

vs. 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

vs. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

2 Tim 3:16 "Every scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. vs. 17 They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things."

Eph. 6:1-3 NIV—vs.1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Vs. 2 Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise. Vs. 3 that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

We need to teach our children to accept the Bible as truth and that there are rewards from the Father God for obeying their parents in the Lord.

Pastor Schelling