Disciplining Our Children

Tony Mauck · Proverbs 13:24

INTRODUCTION

- He who spares his rod hates his son. But he who loves it disciplines him diligently.
- Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child. The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.
- We need to decide something right now as we begin before we go any further, and that is do we believe God or not?

1 50 Years of Research Versus the Wisdom of Proverbs

- Researchers have been saying for 50 years that spanking is not a good way to discipline children.
- This article assumes a great deal of things that does not include the nature of the spanking that a biblically informed parent does.
- Sherry and I together probably didn't spank our kids any more than I was spanked when I was younger. And the funny thing is, I've never hit my wife in the face.
- Again, this research may reflect that some parents have not employed discipline as the Bible teaches it correctly.

2 The Motives of Effective Discipline

Ephesians 6:4

- One thing I want you to understand about these passages is that all spanking is not approved discipline.
- The purpose of the rod in the Proverbs is to impart instruction and training for the child's learning.
- But parents, let us not respond out of selfish anger.
- Let it be tempered by God's instruction about love. Love does not seek its own. Love is kind. Love is patient.
- A parent who is abusive, who disciplines for the wrong motives, or over much, is abusive and sins against God.
- We're to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

3 The Modes of Effective Discipline

- The Bible is not saying spank the child in every circumstance when he or she needs correction.
- Separate the child from the activity. Sometimes we call that timeout. Everything doesn't have to be a spanking.
- But when you do have to inflict a more severe punishment. Again, make sure the child understands why it is that you're doing this.

- God didn't always discipline his people in exactly the same way every time.
- If you allow the child to be the authority, they will not learn to respect authority in their lives.

4 Remind Them of the Why of Their Discipline

- It's discipline, it's instruction, it's training.
- If the child isn't learning the why of the discipline, then it's not going to be a faith. It is going to be just hitting.
- All of God's discipline is accompanied by communication. In regard to the severest of discipline, plenty of communication preceded it.

5 If You Choose Not to Employ God's Discipline

- If you choose not to employ God's discipline, best wishes. But do not expect great results.
- Is our society better off? Are kids more well behaved than ever? How have the last 50 years worked out for us?
- Don't expect your kids to respect authority. Instead, expect them to be rebels, not understanding the rights of others to impose limitations.

THE CHALLENGE

We need the Lord's ways. We need to listen to the Lord's ways. We need to respect his ways and do our best to comply with them.

MY NOTES