



The Heart of Discipline

Brent Moody · Proverbs 29:15–19 · Series: **The Heart of Parenting**

INTRODUCTION

- Some of them need to be said every once in a while in terms of what discipline is and how important it is, and that we focus on doing things God's way.
- And remember, what we're getting at in all of this is trying to shape a child's heart.

1 What Do We Trust?

Proverbs 3:5–7

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, be not wise in your own eyes.
- Are we putting our faith in the things of men and the philosophies of men? Or are we going to put our faith in what scripture says?
- From a general standpoint, and we do things God's way, our children are going to bring delight to our hearts.

2 Discipline in Its Pure Essence Is Training

Hebrews 12

- The idea of discipline in its pure essence is training.
- The goal is to teach them something and for them to learn and to gain something from this process, which is pointing them toward the heart of God.
- Godly discipline, though, requires sacrifice, and it requires it on every front.
- It's not enjoyable in the moment, but it brings this fruit of righteousness and peace.

3 The Rod Is a God-Given Tool for Instruction

Proverbs 29:15–19; Proverbs 23:13–14

- No, a child left to himself brings shame. It brings problems. And it's not the child's fault.
- God says, You did not restrain them. Sometimes it takes more than words.
- The rod is a God-given tool for instruction. And to ignore that and to neglect that is foolish.
- Whoever spares the rod hates his son. But he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.
- It is restorative in nature. It is not retributive.

4 Objection One: Studies Show Spanking Is Harmful

- What they found is when you separate actual abuse from spanking, you see huge differences in the results.
- Spanking has only been linked with negative child outcomes and cross-sectional or methodologically weak studies. This is the researcher saying this, not me.

- They don't know. This is in the words of the researchers themselves. But I'll tell you who does know, and that is God.
- But the real question is: am I actually going to trust what God has told me?

5 Objection Two: The Rod Isn't Really About Spanking

Psalm 89:32; Proverbs 14:26

- The rod and striking in the Bible aren't really about spanking, it's a gentle form of accountability.
- The problem with everything he says is it has absolutely no lexical support whatsoever.
- I will punish their transgression with a rod, Psalm 89 32, and their iniquity with stripes. That doesn't sound like gentle guiding to me.
- A home in which there is discipline provides stability. It gives them confidence.

6 Why Use the Rod?

- The rod, the point of this is that it is an immediate, safe reminder that I can't do and I shouldn't do whatever I want to do in the moment.
- What we're doing even from the youngest age is we're helping them understand that self-rule is folly.
- Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.
- The scriptural perspective on this is that the rod gives wisdom. It is meant to redirect and to reorient toward the things of God.

THE CHALLENGE

What lesson is my child learning from this discipline? Discipline that teaches nothing is worthless.

MY NOTES
