

## SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES # 3

### "Discipline"

#### Int.

1. Aim: To show that parents must discipline their children properly.
2. Shall I spank my Child? Many authorities say NO!!!!
  - a. Parents say: "I love my child too much to ever spank him."
  - b. Experts in child rearing advise us to never spank -- warn that it will warp their personality.
  - c. New survey - Moderate spankings cause no lasting harm - August 25, 2001 Article
3. What does God say? He should know more about it than any expert! He is the creator of the family.
  - a. Pro. 19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
  - b. Prov 23:13-14 "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."
  - c. Prov. 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
  - d. Prov 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." NKJV b ....disgraces his mother.
  - e. Prov. 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." NKJV "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child
4. In consideration of these verses what should we as parents do in the discipline of our children. Here are some guidelines about discipline:

## Discussion

### I. THE PURPOSE OF THE HOME

A. One of the reasons is to reproduce

1. Gen. 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."
2. Ps. 127:3-5 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

B. With these blessings comes responsibilities

1. God commands us to train and care for these children
2. Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
3. This demands that parents discipline

C. What is DISCIPLINE?

1. "A method of instruction in education whereby we seek to make the doing of right a pleasant task and the doing of wrong an unpleasant task."
2. Discipline involves training, and this involves proper punishment for children.

3. Anyone who believes the Bible must believe in physical discipline of children.
  - a. Rod - switch, belt, paddle,
  - b. Rod of correction -- Beatest him with the rod
  - c. The rod and reproof
4. Spanking a child is a part of the instruction that God gives to parents.
5. The propaganda of the "no spanking" crowd seeks to convince us that all spanking involves child abuse.
  - a. That is not true!! Abuse of a thing is no excuse for the proper use.
  - b. God's instructions do not teach abuse of the child!!!!

## **II. PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR SPANKING**

- A. Remember the purpose of spanking
  1. The purpose is not to vent parental anger. Do not discipline when you are angry.  
Will not be effective and may be too severe.
  2. The purpose is to teach a better way of behaving.
  3. The word discipline means a learner or disciple
  4. Spanking is used by parents to instruct the child that certain forms of behavior are unacceptable.
  5. A child who lives without parental discipline is doubly cheated.
    - a. First, he is being taught to be self-centered.
    - b. Secondly, he is subconsciously learning that his parents are not genuinely concerned about him. Parents who really love their children provide the necessary discipline to cause them to grow into well-adjusted adult life.

6. It is essential for a child to know that his parents care about his behavior; that the way he thinks and acts really matters to them. God shows love for his children by disciplining them.
7. The Bible says, "Whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:12).
8. Our children will sense that discipline implies love.

B. What kind of behavior deserves a spanking?

1. A child needs a spanking when they have deliberately disobeyed their parents. They are in rebellion to instruction given earlier.
2. When a child is defying the authority of his parents he must be disciplined. When a child has the attitude: "I know what you want. I won't give it. Whatcha' going to do about it?" What is at stake is the right of the parent to lead -- the respect for leadership or authority of the parent.
3. When a child resists your leadership and assaults your position in a disrespectful manner by calling you a name or by saying, "shut up" or saying "No, I will not do it!", then spanking is an appropriate tool.
4. A strong-willed, defiant child must have a spanking in order to gain his attention and get control of him!!!
  - a. Willful defiance was the problem with Adam and Eve
  - b. God said: "You may eat of all the fruit except this one".
  - c. Eve reasoned: "I will have my way. I know what you said, God. I won't accept it."
  - d. Adam and Eve were disciplined because of their defiance.

5. When parents set up reasonable boundaries for their children and they explain what they expect, and then that child walks out there and deliberately crosses that line, that is willful defiance and the parents must be willing to discipline in such a way that they can stop this action of the child. Spanking is one good way to do this!!

a. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Prov. 22:15

(1) Foolishness - Silliness, folly - Rod - a stick for punishing

(2) Rod of correction = spanking, correction = discipline

(3) Drive it far from him - drive the silliness out of him

b. Defiance is a normal way of children -- We have all seen it in children.

c. But Solomon says that the rod of correction will help get it out of him!!!

C. Explain the purpose of the spanking to your child

1. Help the child to associate the pain they feel with a certain kind of behavior.

2. They will soon avoid the behavior to avoid the pain.

3. Some modern day experts say that this is barbaric -- but it is not because this is what God says:

a. Heb. 12:6

b. Heb. 12:9

c. Heb. 12:11

4. Explain to your child that the purpose of the spanking was not because you don't love them, but rather because you do love them. Reassure them of your love for them.

5. We will make mistakes.
  - a. Not being infallible, we have to rear our children according to the light we have.
  - b. Hindsight often reveals that a certain discipline was not best.
  - c. But that does not nullify the judgement that some sort of discipline was necessary.
6. Parents who ignore their child's misbehavior will receive disrespect in return, resulting in further patterns of misbehavior.
  - a. Repeated neglect of disciplinary action will have tragic lifetime consequences
  - b. Proverbs 29:17 "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

### III. OBJECTIONS SOME MAKE ABOUT SPANKING

- A. Spanking leads to violence
  1. Spanking a child will teach the child that it is acceptable to hit other human beings.
 

-- "The way to stop violence in America is to stop spanking children. Parental spanking promotes the thesis that violence against others is acceptable. Spanking is the first half-inch on the yardstick of violence. It's followed by hitting and ultimately by rape, murder and assassination. The modeling behavior that occurs at home sets the stage. 'I will resort to violence when I don't know what else to do.'"

statement by Dr. John Valusek.
  2. This objection ignores the truth that God gave parents the authority to spank [use the rod] their children to teach them a better way.

3. God has not given children the authority to hit other children! There is a big difference between a parent giving a spanking to a child who is defiant of authority, and a child hitting another child in anger.
4. How does spanking help? III. A small child walks up to a hot stove and he reaches out and touches it. His hand is burned. That little child will never again deliberately reach out and touch a hot stove. Did the stove make him a more violent person? No!! The hot stove taught him something. He learned from that pain that he should not do that again.
5. Spanking extends that same principle into the social area. He learns that some behavior is not acceptable and will cause him pain. It doesn't make him more violent. But when his parents administer a spanking with love then he learns that he should not do that.
6. The rod of correction certainly DOES NOT warp a child's personality. On the contrary, a child's personality is warped when the rod of correction is withheld!

B. Spanking is not effective

1. Some argue that they've tried spanking and that it does not work.
2. When this is the case it is usually a problem with the manner in which the spanking has been done.
  - a. Perhaps it was not done with the right motive - maybe to vent anger
  - b. Maybe it was not strong enough - feather whipping will provoke a child to anger

3. The first dose of an antibiotic will not eliminate an infection. The spankings must be consistent and the child must learn that you are not kidding about discipline. The child will sometimes whine and cry to try to get you to not give any more discipline.
4. It is often a contest between the parent and the child. Do not let the child win or else you will regret it. Prov. 19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."
5. Punishment does influence human behavior:
  - a. Traffic tickets do help the speed of drivers.
  - b. Homeowners pay their taxes before a certain date in order to avoid a % penalty.
  - c. We pay income taxes before April 15th. Why? There is a penalty if we do not.
  - d. Spanking is effective as a form of discipline....

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Spanking is not the only way of discipline:
  - a. Can take away privileges
  - b. Assign extra chores
  - c. Time Out
2. But spanking is also an effective way to discipline.
3. Spanking a child may save the life of the child:
  - a. Running out in the street can kill a child. If we do not have enough control or discipline of a child to get it to stop it can be fatal.

- b. Children like to play with matches. If we can teach them by spanking them about the dangers of fire then it can save lives and property.
4. The families in which the parents have the greatest will to discipline, actually end up doing less disciplining. It works this way because the children know that the parents will discipline if necessary, and that there will be no two ways about it. Ray Guarendi put it this way, "The stronger a parent's will to discipline is, the weaker a child's desire to test that will." He's exactly right. Because the will to discipline makes the act of discipline less necessary.
5. Discipline will save his soul
  - a. Prov 23:13-14 "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."
  - b. Respect for authority will lead a child to be obedient to God.
6. We all want our families to succeed and eventually all be together in heaven.
7. A successful family is one that is teaching and living by the word of God.