



Do Children Really Need Discipline?

Proverbs 3:12: (NASB) *For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*



Raising children is different than it used to be. Somehow or other, the lines between parents and children have become blurred. Somehow or other, the very idea of firm discipline has become associated with beatings and abuse. Somehow or other, our children's feelings have become the foundation for our parental actions and responses. What happened to parents unequivocally "ruling the roost"? Is that now wrong? What happened to parents being authoritative and firm? Is that now

wrong? What happened to the clear lines of right and wrong being the solid foundation for parental decision making? Is that now wrong? Have we begun to approach the point where we assign so many rights to children that we as parents are inherently wrong? What do children need, and how are we supposed to know what they need and how to give it to them?

To begin, let's deal with the Bible verses that so many people seem to point to as an excuse to write the Bible off, or even worse, an excuse to beat their children.



 Introduction, *Christian Parents Beat Their Children to Death for God*, CNN

- (Reporter) *The small town of Paradise, California, where these children live with their parents in a fundamentalist Christian home. For the nine children, life in Paradise was anything but. We covered up eight of their faces because they are the survivors, survivors of a violent form of discipline practiced by their parents, Kevin and Elizabeth Schatz. The one face not covered is their seven-year-old adopted daughter, Lydia. She was killed by her parents. Mike Ramsey is the district attorney of Butte County in Northern California.*
- (Mike Ramsey) *We've heard of the phrase "death by a thousand lashes" - that's basically what this was.*
- (Reporter) *Authorities say Kevin and Elizabeth Schatz beat their children regularly. The district attorney said the Schatz's believed...*
- (Mike Ramsey) *"To spare the rod will spoil the child." And if you can train your horse and you can train your dog, you can train your children.*
- *Seven-year-old Lydia suffered terribly, supposedly in the name of God.*

Proverbs 23:12-16: (ASV) ¹²Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. ¹³Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou **beat <5221>** him with the **rod <7626>**, he will not die. ¹⁴Thou shalt **beat <5221>** him with the **rod <7626>**, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol. ¹⁵My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine: ¹⁶Yea, my heart will rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

So, what kind of **rod** is this?

Rod: Strong's #7626 from an unused root probably meaning to branch off; Hebrew/Greek Lexicon: rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, scepter, tribe



This word is translated into English as “tribe” more often (140 times) than it is translated “rod” (34 times), “scepter” (10 times) or “staff” (2 times).

The word mainly meant a way to separate the tribes of Israel as having individual authority.

(Source: McClintock and Strong’s Cyclopedia of the Bible) ...denotes a staff of wood (Ezekiel 19:11), about the height of a man, which the ancient kings and chiefs bore as insignia of honor. The use of the staff as a symbol of authority was not confined to kings; it might be used by any leader, as instanced in Judges 5:14, where for “pen of the writer,” as in the (King James) Authorized Version, we should read “scepter of the leader.” Indeed, no instance of the scepter being actually handled by a Jewish king occurs in the Bible; the allusions to it are all of a metaphorical character, and describe it simply as one of the insignia of supreme power (Psalms 45:6).

When translated as “scepter,” the word refers not to a literal stick, but the position of power of the one holding the scepter.

We want to understand the big picture of what Proverbs 23:13 teaches us to do. The word is most often used to show a symbol of authority and not a physical stick. The twelve tribes of Israel each had individual strengths and power. *Rod* describes strength and authority, not a weapon.

Beat: Strongs #5221 to strike (lightly or severely, literally or figuratively):
beat, cast forth, clap, give (wounds)

This word *can* mean to hurt someone, but it also is used figuratively.

Is it a stretch to look at these two words together as primarily figurative?

Some uses of BOTH words together that are obviously figurative:

Isaiah 11:4: (KJV) *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite <5221> the earth with the rod <7626> of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

This obviously figurative language conveys the overwhelming authority of God against those who stand against Him.

Micah 5:1: (KJV) *Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite <5221> the judge of Israel with a rod <7626> upon the cheek.*

We know this is not literal, because there were no judges in Israel at that time. This conveys the thought that the enemy will humiliate Israel.

Although these words can be used to describe a literal hitting, they are also figuratively used to show the firm and clear application of absolute authority. There is a difference between the two, so how do we know when to apply each meaning?



The phrase *beat with a rod* is also a literal phrase.
How do we really know which way to take it?

🔊) 1850's, *Disciplining Kids Across Time, The BreakWomb* (A humorous depiction of raising children throughout the decades)

- (Mother) *Adelaide was horsing around yesterday and nearly knocked over the pot of butter I was churning.*
- (Woman) *That child is cursed by the devil!*
- (Mother) *So, I locked her in the attic with no food or water for a week. Now she'll be careful.*
- (Woman) *You're soft. When my eleven lazy children woke up a full minute after daybreak, I sent those wicked beasts out into the cornfields, never to be heard from again.*



The context of the phrase helps us to see the meaning behind the phrase. Proverbs 23:12-16 in sections:

¹²Apply thy heart unto **instruction <4148>** - whose heart? The parent's heart.

Instruction: Strongs #4148 chastisement; figuratively, reproof, warning or instruction; also, restraint

In other words, parents, apply your hearts to chastisement, discipline. Parents should be willing to humbly receive instruction, correction and restraint from God. They should be willing to be disciplined by God.

And thine ears to the words of knowledge - whose ears? The parent's ears! LISTEN to the word of God! God's word does not come from your own unsettled heart; it is from above. This is very important. How often (especially with our children) do we get angry and "come to the end of our rope" with our patience? We lash out based on how we feel as our emotions sometimes get the best of us. When this happens, we are no longer relying on God's word; we are relying on our own unsettled heart. God's word includes love, mercy and forgiveness, so these must be in our hearts when we discipline.

¹³*Withhold not **correction <4148>** from the child;* - In the context of applying our heart (the parent) to instruction and our ears to the word of knowledge, this part warns, "Do not think about not correcting your child." **Correction** used here is the same word as *instruction* in verse 12. Whatever we are supposed to be getting from God, we are supposed to be giving to our children - nothing more, nothing less. That is the rule being put in place.

God does not physically beat us when we are disobedient. Mistakes are exposed and we feel shame, regret and ask for forgiveness. We learn and emerge humbled.

Withhold not - do not cheat your child out of necessary reproof, warning and instruction. Do not withhold from your children what you get from God. To them, you are the supreme authority. You are the representation of God to



them. So, when God gives you direction and humbles you, be willing to do the same for your children so they can grow the way we are supposed to grow.

For if thou beat him with the rod, he will not die - Disciplining him with forceful authority will not kill him, even though discipline is not comfortable. We tend to see the figurative meaning here, as it is repeating the experience that we as parents have with God in verse 12, teaching children to respect parental authority as the parents respect God's authority.

In summary, do for your children what God does for us. That does not mean literally beating them with a stick.

 **Authoritarian, Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender**

- *So, the first parenting style - and luckily these are also named after exactly what they are - is called authoritarian. Now someone who's an authoritarian is like a supreme ruler. They are a king or a queen and often times it has overtones of "tyrant" to it. Now, authoritarian parents have rules and these rules are rules, there is no breaking, no begging, no kidding, no nothing, okay? You stick to the rules or else. You don't stick to the rules; the odds are bad things are going to happen to you. Children are not to speak to parents except when told to jump, they may ask how high. I mean, it's like being raised in boot camp in that there is no questioning, there is no disobeying. If you disobey you're likely to be punished very swiftly and often very severely. Follow the rules or else, in other words.*

¹⁴*Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Sheol (the grave). ...On the contrary, when you firmly discipline and correct him, you are feeding the quality and habits of his life positively. In the Law, rebellious children eventually were to be killed by stoning. Apply firm, clear authority of parenthood.*

¹⁵*My son, if thy heart be wise, my heart will be glad, even mine - This is directed back to the parent who is being instructed and directed to use wisdom in their parental responsibilities. Our hearts must be in line with God!*

¹⁶*Yea, my heart will rejoice, when thy lips speak right things. ...We can actually bring rejoicing to God's heart when we act in accordance with His word and will. So also, our children can do the same for us IF we are godly in our disciplining them!*





Authoritarian results, Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender

- *The problem with this kind of parenting - that this is the style of parenting that children are exposed to by one or both or all parents - is that the kids don't tend to turn out very well. These children when they grow up tend to be very self-absorbed. They tend to only be worried about themselves. They can't necessarily worry about other people. Now, in boot camp what happens is military recruits are often kind of broken down so that they can be built up as a unit. They're broken down as individuals and built up to think of themselves as part of a unit. You don't get that in authoritarian parenting. You just get people getting broken down, and so they have a tendency to be very worried about themselves and what happens to them and probably not too much about what happens to other people. They also have higher rates of substance abuse which makes sense when you think about it, because if you're terrified if you do the slightest thing wrong that the wrath of God is going to fall upon your head, that could pretty much lead anybody to want to escape for a while. Now, the violence often comes from the fact that authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, such as spankings, which may escalate to beatings - there's a fine line often between the two.*

Raising children uses every bit of your being - your heart, your time, your patience, your foresight, your intuition to protect them, and you have to use all of this while trying to figure out how to discipline them. — Nicole Ari Parker

This text indicates the need for authority - without it a child is considered neglected!

Proverbs 29:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵The rod (authority) and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. ¹⁶When the wicked increase, transgression increases; but the righteous will see their fall. ¹⁷Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul. ¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law.

We want to build up our children, not beat them down.



AUTHORITY + CORRECTION WITH LOVE =

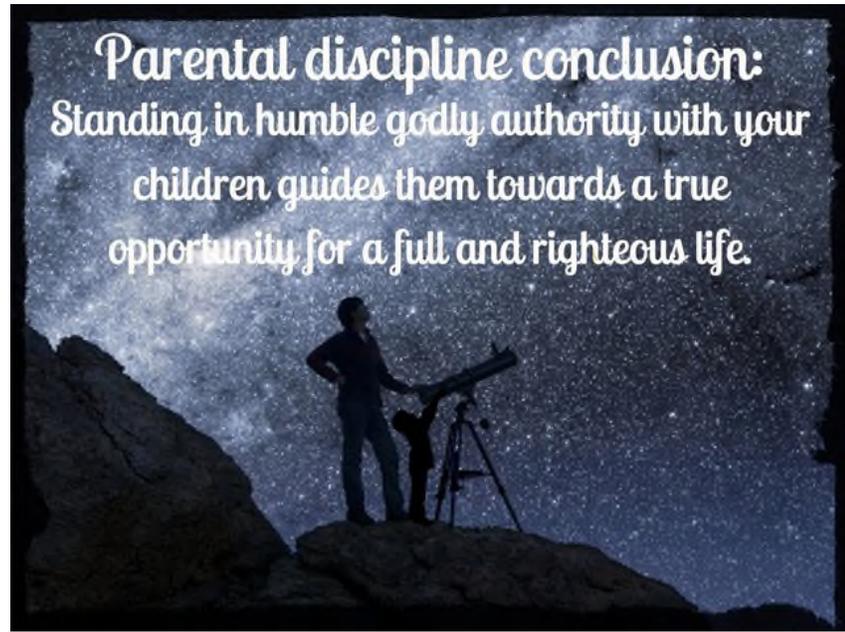
A CHILD WHO LEARNS AND UNDERSTANDS

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AND WHO THEREFORE BRINGS ANGST





So, we do not beat our kids up!
How do we get them to honor what we say and decide for them?

 1950's, *Disciplining Kids Across Time, The BreakWomb*

- (Mother) *Betty Sue and Sally Jo sassed back yesterday.*
- (Woman) *What birdbrains!*
- (Mother) *I thought about locking them in the attic without food or water.*
- (Woman) *What?!*
- (Mother) *But I'm no barbarian. Instead I put soap in their mouths, hit them with my wooden spoon and sent them to bed without supper.*



To make mistakes is human; to stumble is commonplace; to be able to laugh at yourself is maturity.
— *William Arthur Ward*

The Fifth Commandment from the Law given to Moses:

Exodus 20:12: (KJV) ¹²*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

This commandment has an attachment that refers to your own life being blessed if you truly "honor" your parents. How do we understand what honor is made of?

Honor begins with putting God above all else:

Leviticus 19:2-4: (NASB) ²*Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, you shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.*

We honor God and our parents who are honoring God.



Honor *continues* with your parents (who earnestly honor God). Honor God. Honor your parents:

³Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God. ⁴Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the LORD your God.

Honor is proven by your complete disconnection from idolatry. If you as parents honor God, you are putting yourself in a position for your children to honor you.



Permissive, Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender

- *Now the opposite, the polar opposite of authoritarian parenting, is permissive parenting. And with permissive parenting it is pretty much the opposite; there are no rules, there are no guidelines. Children can do whatever they want. Children are not punished for what they do wrong, there are no consequences for their behaviors and they often can do whatever they want. They do something bad, very often the parent will wind up cleaning it up. Unfortunately, we see a lot of this type of parenting these days. There's a pendulum swing and it goes from the authoritarian parenting, now it's swung over to the permissive because a lot of parents don't want to punish their children, don't want to give them rules because it might squelch their growth and their creativity and whatnot. Although, I've got to tell you, teachers hate these kids. Hate them, because the teacher does not like to be the first person to tell this child, "No," or to tell this child that there are rules that need to be followed. Because I can tell you right now that when that child goes home and talks to the parent, the parent is going to come down on both feet on the teacher.*

(Source: Living With Children, May 08, 2013, by John Rosemond, Hartford Courant) When I was a child, back in the Parenting Stone Age (a.k.a. the Parentocentric Era), your parents were the most important people in the family. They paid the bills, bought your clothes, prepared the food you ate, took care of you when you were sick, drove you to where you needed to be, tucked you in, and kissed you good night. They were essential. Your parents acted like they were bigger than you were too, like they knew what they were doing and didn't need your help making decisions. In fact, your opinion really didn't matter much. When they spoke to you, they didn't bend down, grab their knees and ask for your cooperation in a wheedling tone. They spoke in no uncertain terms, and they thought you were smart, so they only said anything



once. The rule was very simple: They told you what to do, and you did it, because they said so...!

Parents used to be the most important people in the family.



Jonathan: Years ago, we were at a wedding and were standing in the parking lot. All of a sudden a car went flying by, right up to where everyone was standing. My wife yelled out to our then three-year-old son, "Paul, stop!" And the car barely missed him. If he hadn't stopped, it could have been tragic. When we told our son to do something, he knew we meant it and he obeyed. Because he was trained to listen and obey, he immediately froze and it saved his life.

 **Permissive indulgent, *Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender***

- *There's two ways to be permissive, neither of them are very good but one is a little better than the others. Permissive indulgent. With permissive indulgent children have no rules, they have no guidelines but their parents do indeed love them (parent or parents). They know that they are loved by their parent or parents, even though they are not given any rules or whatnot. This one is okay. The kids are still holy terrors when they get to school, but at least the children grow up knowing that someone loves them.*

Our children will honor us when we live the example of maturity and integrity we want for them:

Proverbs 4:1-6: (NASB) ¹Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding, ²For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. ³When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, ⁴Then he taught me and said to me, Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; ⁵Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you.

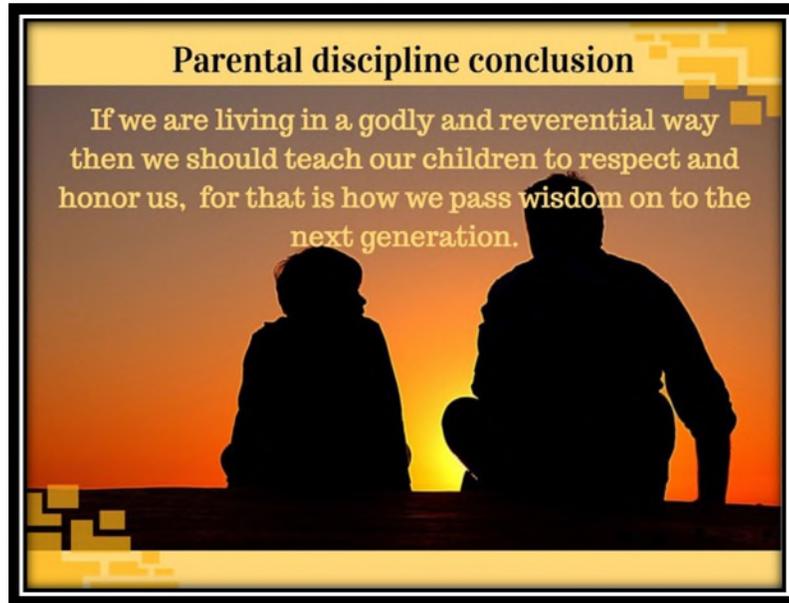
There is something to be said about passing wisdom down from generation to generation. One of our most troubling problems today is we think we are so enlightened that we simply toss the wisdom of generations past, labeling it as outdated and even damaging.

Honor is given in the exercise of truly listening:

Proverbs 13:1: (KJV) *A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.*

Proverbs 15:5: (KJV) *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*





 1990's, *Disciplining Kids Across Time, The BreakWomb*

- (Mother) I found Michael using our Netscape to find book reports he could copy for English class.
- (Woman) Not!
- (Mother) I was going to spank him.
- (Women) What?!
- (Mother) But I'm not psychotic, so instead I took away his Nintendo Gameboy for 24 hours.
- (Woman) If you really want to punish him tell him he can't go to the Vanilla Ice concert.



To best influence our children, we need to approach them with the highest regard for who they are and what they represent - one of the greatest gifts with which we could ever be blessed! To have that great gift grow up, they need us to show them the way.

Micah 6:8: (NRSV) ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Our parental discipline should be built on these three simple and elegant principles.

Now we turn to the New Testament to round out our learning on raising children as Christians:

1 Corinthians 11:1: (NRSV) *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Here we see the Old Testament principles of parenthood mirrored.

 Permissive indifferent and results, *Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender*

- *Permissive indifferent parenting on the other hand, children may have everything that they want or everything they need, but what they don't get is their parents. They don't get attention, they don't get love and affection and*



communication and such from the parents. Sometimes the parents literally are not around. Now, neither of these tend to turn out well, although permissive indulgent turns out a little bit better than permissive indifferent, because permissive indulgent children at least know that their parents do love them. These children tend to be very dependent, because they tend to be given everything that they want. All they have to do is ask for it or scream for it, or throw a tantrum for it, and they get whatever they want. So, they don't learn that in the real world you usually have to work for things that you want. So, they're dependent, they're immature, they don't understand the word "no," they often don't understand the words "not now, you have to wait," they don't want to wait, they've never had to wait, and so they misbehave because they have simply never run into rules and regulations before.

Permissiveness brings angst to the child because eventually the world will not put their permissiveness first.



When our two daughters were young (about 5 and 7 years old), they came downstairs with a chalkboard and a scepter-type thing. They informed their mother they did not believe they should have to clean their room and would be taking her to court. They sat down in a "witness stand" chair and went through the reasons on the chalkboard why they would not be cleaning their room. They presented their case. Trish, my wife, listened to this and finally said, "You know, you guys have done a really good job telling me how you feel about this. I respect all of that. But you still have to clean your room, because I am the judge and that is my ruling." They stomped upstairs and cleaned their room. The point of the story is it is good to listen, acknowledge and build up, but when something has to be done, it has to be done. If you are the parent, you can't say, "Oh, you were so cute! I am going to let you slide this time."

The New Testament obviously adds the dimension of Christ, but it is still learning how to lead with honesty and integrity from the top down:

1 Corinthians 4:14-19: (NRSV) ¹⁴I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

The Apostle Paul showed his incredible attachment to the Corinthian church. He writes as a father to his children.

¹⁶I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷For this reason I sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

He sent his "other son," Timothy, who would be like their big brother. This is "top down" leadership - from God, through Christ, through the Apostle Paul and down to the church. This is the way parenting is supposed to be.

¹⁸But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power.

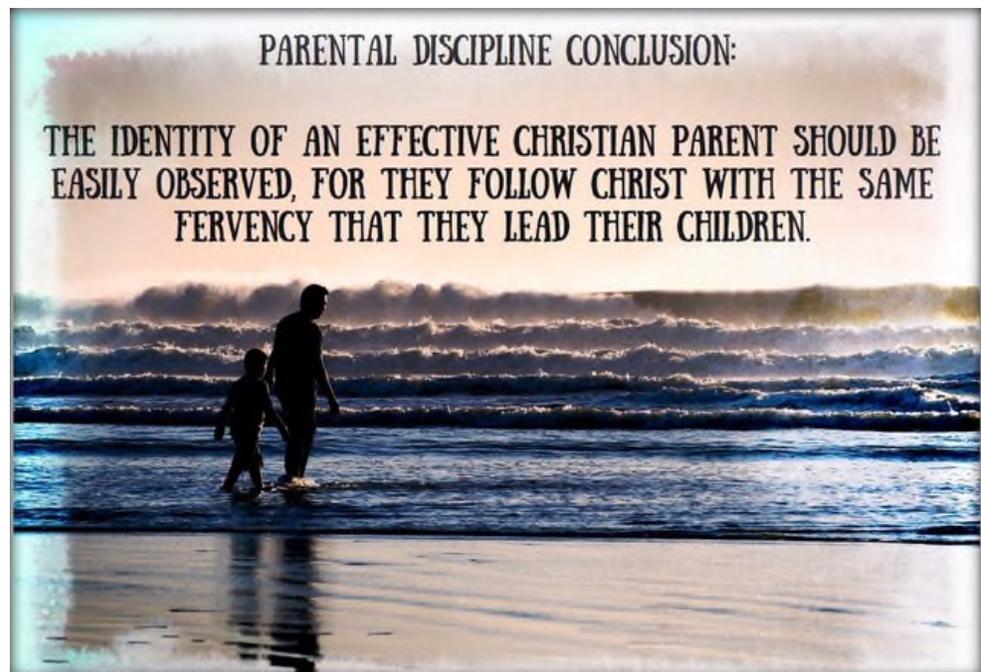
There were some troublemakers in the church. Paul not only speaks as a spiritual father, he points out the difference between fatherhood and guardian and that is authority. Parental authority must be present, visible and clear.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: The breakdown of discipline in our society today is a sad commentary. It is challenging for the school teachers. My mother-in-law had four children and was a disciplinarian because she loved God. One of the reasons she would emphasize discipline was the first five chapters of 1 Samuel. Hannah gave over her son Samuel to serve the high priest, Eli. The tragedy was when Eli disobeyed God in failing to discipline his two sons. Consequently, the sons were killed and Eli also died. I always admired my mother-in-law who knew it was a serious thing to discipline children.

(Source: Living With Children, May 08, 2013, by John Rosemond, Hartford Courant, continued...) Your mom and dad paid more attention to one another than they paid to you. You didn't think about that at all. It was just the way it was. But looking back, you sure are glad you weren't the center of the family universe. You were a satellite, orbiting around their solid presence. They even told you, on occasion, that you were just a little fish in a big pond. You didn't understand what that meant, of course, until you got out in the big pond and began to realize that putting oneself into proper perspective greatly improves one's life and the lives of those around him. They bought you very little, so you appreciated everything you had. And you took care of it. When your bike broke, you figured out how to fix it. Or your dad fixed it. In either case, you understood you weren't getting a new one, not any time soon. You loved your mom and dad, but you left home as early as possible because you were absolutely certain you could make a better life for yourself than they were willing to make for you. And you were right!

That is the goal of parenting - to raise up a child so they can go out and make their own life!



Parenthood is not about beating your children; it is about giving them the tools they need so they can grow into wonderful, productive adults.



Does the New Testament actually teach us methods of discipline for our children?

Present day, *Disciplining Kids Across Time, The BreakWomb*

- (Mother) Anthony threw my iPhone in the toilet this morning.
- (Woman) Uh oh.
- (Mother) Yeah, I didn't want to tell him that was bad or wrong. So instead, I used positive redirection and reminded him that he's a smart, good boy.
- (Woman) Super cool.
- (Mother) I never say no to Valerie. It's really harmful.
- (Woman) Saying no is an obsolete psychological construct.
- (Women) Totes magotes! (An awkward way to say "totally" when trying to act cool.)



Children need to learn to manage hearing “no.” The whole idea of disciplining a child is to bring them to maturity so they can grow up, move out and become an independent, contributing adult.

Maturity goes hand-in-hand with freedom and privilege. Too often we offer freedom and privilege without maturity. This creates kids who feel entitled.

This was a problem in the early church:

Hebrews 5:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; ¹³for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

If we do not give our children guidance, they will not be able to grow up. Exercises in life will just be a cause for a tantrum, or “I want!” or cause for withdrawal - anything other than maturity. Maturity is measurable in our spiritual lives as well as our family lives. Be mature and you will find freedom - be a child and you will not!

Traditional, *Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender*

Now the third parenting style, or the fourth, depending on how you're counting, is a combination actually of those first major two. I call it the traditional parenting style, because when you think back of how at least we think that children are raised in the 50's, 60's and whatnot, the “good old days,” as you or your parents may call them. (Although things were not necessarily that good then there either, it's just that we don't remember them.) There was still drug use, there was still divorce, there was still adultery, all the things that we're doing now we were doing then, we



just simply didn't publicize them nearly as much as we do now, but I digress. If you go back and look at TV shows and movies and stuff from that time, generally what you see is that the mother is very nurturing and the father is the disciplinarian. So, what we are looking at there is a combination of one authoritarian parent and one permissive indulgent parent. It's the "Wait 'til your father gets home," or "When your dad gets home, you're going to be in trouble," or "You want to do something? Ask mom; she'll give into anything" sort of thing.

Maturity is the ability to think, speak and act your feelings within the bounds of dignity. The measure of your maturity is how spiritual you become during the midst of your frustrations.

— Samuel Ullman

(Source: Living With Children, May 08, 2013, by John Rosemond, Hartford Courant, continued...) Back then, elementary school classes often held more than 40 children, most of whom came to first grade not knowing their ABCs. Back then, your mother didn't give you much, if any, help with your homework. Yet at the end of first grade, and every subsequent grade in fact, those kids were outperforming today's kids in every subject, and today's moms think good moms help with homework. Today's parents still pay the bills, buy the clothes, prepare the food, and so on, but by some strange twist, they treat their children as if they are the most important people in the family. Parents don't act bigger any more either. When they talk to their children, they get down to their level, like they're petitioning the king, and they whine, as in, "Do you think you can stop what you're doing for a minute and help Mommy carry in the groceries?" The rule seems very simple: Parents ask children to do things, and children take their requests under consideration.

 **Traditional results, Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender**

- *Now, kids who are raised by this sort of traditional parenting turn out pretty good because, as it turns out, children, as much as they may protest otherwise, like rules. They like to know what to expect. They like to know what is expected of them. They like to know that when they do this, this is going to happen. Kids actually kind of like that, as do adults. It's kind of weird to be someplace where there are no rules. At first, it's fun but eventually it gets a little weird. These kids turn out pretty well because they are getting guidance, which is good, and they're getting love which is also good. The first two you either get guidance or love, and sometimes you don't even get that. You don't get all those together at the same time. So, these kids turn out pretty good. The thing is though, a lot of times they wind up, for instance, being afraid of their father or respecting the father but not loving him, because they're afraid of him, and mother often is thought of as being kind of a doormat.*



"JoyfullandTriumphant" writes: Discipline done in an effective yet reasonable way is suggested in Galatians 6:4: (NRSV) *And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Necessary discipline comes in degrees, as some children catch on faster than others. This is a spiritual principle and should be mirrored in our family discipline as well:

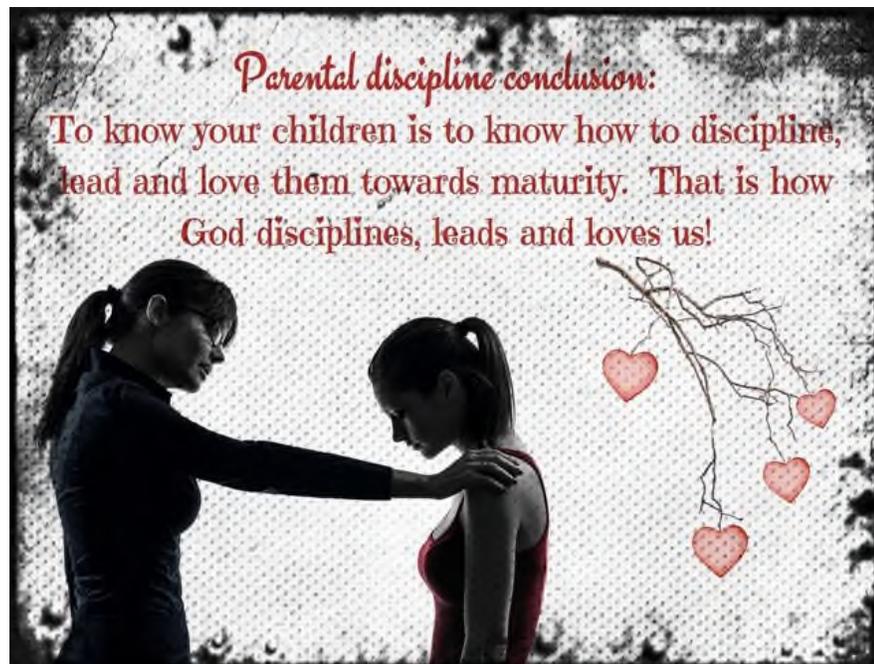
Hebrews 12:5-11: (NRSV) ⁵*And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children - My child, do not regard lightly the **discipline** of the Lord, or lose heart when you are **punished** (rebuked) by Him; ⁶for the Lord **disciplines** those whom He loves, and **chastises** every child whom He accepts. ⁷Endure trials for the sake of **discipline**. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that **discipline** in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children.*



- do not lose heart when you are **punished** (rebuked) by Him - scolding with words or a disheartening look.
- for the Lord **disciplines** those whom He loves - discipline/action does not feel like love.
- **chastises** every child whom He accepts - scourging (hitting, spanking) seems to be the opposite of acceptance.

⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

As a parent, we need to know what our children *need*.



How do we avoid the everyday mistakes that people make, which produce glaringly immature kids?

 2050's, *Disciplining Kids Across Time, The BreakWomb*

- *Glorg crashed the mainframe of our global VR system, completely wiping out our family's finances. Clearly, I caused him to behave this way, so as punishment I locked myself in our space attic for a week with no space food and no space water.*



We have forgotten what is necessary for good parenting, exchanging it instead for what "feels good."



In raising children, we need to continuously keep in mind how we can best create the most favorable environment for their imitative behavior. Everything done in the past regarding imitation must become more and more conscious and more and more consciously connected with the future.
— Rudolf Steiner

Children imitate what they see. As a parent, you have the greatest opportunity to create what they imitate so they can bring it into their adult lives. What are you bringing them to imitate? Are you mature as a parent and doing what you have to do? Are you drawing them to your personal example?

 **Authoritative, Psychology 101: Parenting Styles, Lisa Fosbender**

- *Now studies have found the best style of parenting is also not surprisingly the hardest, at least in part because I suspect an awful lot of us were not raised this way. It's called authoritative. Authoritative parenting combines both guidance and rules along with love and affection in the same package. There are indeed rules the children are expected to follow but for instance, if the child thinks there is a good reason for something, the child can talk to the parent. Parents listen to children, parents talk with children not just to them or at them like you see with authoritarian or permissive where the talk basically means nothing. Now they do punish, this is not to say that authoritative parents don't punish, they do. It's just that often times they're not perhaps as quick to punish as the authoritarians are. But one thing that the authoritative has that the authoritarian doesn't is love and affection.*



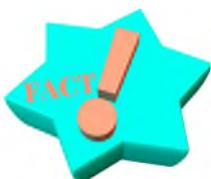
Know the facts!

FACT! A child is childish and is NOT equipped to function as an adult!

1 Corinthians 3:1-4: (NRSV) ¹And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, I belong to Paul, and another, I belong to Apollos, are you not merely human?

He used their sectarian behavior as an example of childishness. He saw he needed to teach them more, just like a good father would do.

When we act childish, we, by definition, must have the reigns of freedom pulled from us. If the parents do not act, the child is left to suffer and will find another example to imitate! Peer pressure will catch up with them.



FACT! Children are not meant to remain children - their function is to grow up! True growing up takes time, nourishment and experience.



“JoyfullandTriumphant” writes: I like the illustration of three ways of being a parent, similar to those you bring up: Being a brick wall (authoritarian), being a jellyfish (permissive) or being a back bone (authoritative). God and Christ display the back bone approach of flexibility, yet strength: accountability, consequences for learning and love, mercy and forgiveness.

Children need an example of how to take experiences and make them stepping stones.



1 Corinthians 14:20: (NRSV) *Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults.*

 **Authoritative results, *Psychology 101: Parenting Styles*, Lisa Fosbender**

- *Kids raised with authoritative parenting tend to turn out really quite good because they've learned to communicate, they've learned to feel good about themselves, they've learned to not be doormats, they've learned not just to demand but to have reasons, they've learned that they can't always get what they want. Just because a child comes up with what seems like a good argument doesn't mean the parents will automatically give in, in authoritative. This is where you tend to get the best outcomes, but this is extremely difficult and there are times probably that it can't be done. If your child is running out into traffic, if your four-year-old is playing in the street and it's a busy street, you're not going to necessarily want to go out and try and reason with them. You're going to go out and get them out of the street and then maybe talk to them. It does have to be geared toward the age of the child but generally authoritative parenting has been found in studies to give the best results in terms of well-adjusted kids and well-adjusted adults.*

This is scriptural! We should apply the scepter of authority firmly, as God has done with us. Take what we are learning as Christians and apply that to our parenting: patience, integrity, discipline and love.

(Source: Living With Children, May 08, 2013, by John Rosemond, Hartford Courant, continued...) Today's typical mom and dad pay a lot more attention to the children than they do to one another. They also talk more to them, do more for them, and take more interest in them. It would seem that today's parents are the satellites orbiting around the children, who are obviously big fish and getting bigger all the time. And so, today's kids leave home later, and many of them come back home (the so-called "boomerang child") because they never learned certain fundamentals, as in don't spend more than you earn. Sometimes people accuse me of what's called "Golden Age" thinking. I "idealize" the 1950's, they say. I disagree. I only say what is statistically verifiable: The 1950's was a better time for kids. According to mental health statistics, we were happier than today's kids, by far. In that regard, the latest research finds that obedient children are much happier than disobedient children. The latest research also finds that kids from homes where their parents' marriages are strong do better in school, regardless of IQ. There I go again - idealizing common sense.



Fact: Children have little strength and need the support of the mature. If we as parents do not provide our best example, attitude, humility, leadership and discipline then their struggle and failure in life is our failure as well!

Ephesians 4:11-15: (NRSV) ¹¹*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,* ¹²*to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,* ¹³*until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.* ¹⁴*We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.* ¹⁵*But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

We live in a time of absolute permissiveness with out-of-control parenting based on feelings. It is damaging to our children, our society and us. We must learn to apply the principles of godliness in such a way as to avoid these things from continuing to happen.



*So, do children really need discipline?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



A couple more instances of “rod” and “beat” together in a figurative sense:
Zechariah 10:11: (KJV) *And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall **smite** <5221> the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the **scepter** <7626> of Egypt shall depart away.*

Joshua 12:7: (KJV) *And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel **smote** <5221> on this side Jordan on the west, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon even unto the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir; which Joshua gave unto the **tribes** <7626> of Israel for a possession according to their divisions...*

Other things to focus on when we are raising children...

This next text brings in the thought of reigning in one’s emotions in the disciplining process:

Proverbs 19:16-20: (NRSV) *¹⁶Those who keep the commandment will live; those who are heedless of their ways will die. ¹⁷Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and will be repaid in full. ¹⁸Discipline your children while there is hope; do not set your heart on their destruction. ¹⁹A violent tempered person will pay the penalty; if you effect a rescue, you will only have to do it again. ²⁰Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.*

Teach:

Proverbs 22:6: (KJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*



Be wise in your approach:

Ephesians 6:4: (NASB) *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Nurture:

Hebrews 5:12-14: (NRSV) ¹²*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; ¹³for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.*

Righteousness is our basis for responding, not emotional reaction:

James 1:19-22: (NASB) ¹⁹*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

It takes time to have the word of righteousness implanted - this only can happen if we continually feed it to our children.

Finally, the responsibility of children and parents simply summed up:

Colossians 3:20-21: (NRSV) ²⁰*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.*

1 Peter 2:1-5: (NRSV) ¹*Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation... ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Allow the growth process through parenting to have its results shine through!