



Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately four pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.com.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



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. 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: Strong's #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 context of the phrase helps us to see the meaning behind the phrase. Proverbs 23:12-16 in sections: ¹²*Apply thy heart unto **instruction <4148>** - whose heart? The parent's heart.*

Instruction: Strong's #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.

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!

Parental discipline conclusion: We should seek to reflect the whole character of God in our efforts to discipline our children.

This text indicates the need for authority - without it a child is considered neglected!
Proverbs 29:15-18: We want to build up our children, not beat them down.

Authority + correction with love = a child who learns AND understands.
Giving in = a child who never understands good and evil and who therefore brings angst.

Parental discipline conclusion: Standing in humble, godly authority with your children guides them towards a true opportunity for a full and righteous life.

The Fifth Commandment from the Law given to Moses: Exodus 20:12: 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: We honor God and our parents who are honoring God. Honor *continues* with your parents (who earnestly honor God). Honor God. Honor your parents. 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.

Parental discipline conclusion: Our gaining the respect of our children will often follow the pattern of our giving respect to God.

Our children will honor us when we live the example of maturity and integrity we want for them: Proverbs 4:1-6: 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 Proverbs 15:5

Parental discipline conclusion: If we are living in a godly and reverent way then we should teach our children to respect and honor us, for that is how we pass wisdom on to the next generation.

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: 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.

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

Parental discipline conclusion: The identity of an effective Christian parent should be easily observed, for they follow Christ with the same fervency that they lead their children.

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

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: 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!

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: *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.*



Parental discipline conclusion: The identity of an effective Christian parent should be easily observed, for they follow Christ with the same fervency that they lead their children.

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

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

1 Corinthians 3:1-4: 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. Children need an example of how to take experiences and make them stepping stones. 1 Corinthians 14:20

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: 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.

Parental discipline conclusion: To know your children is to know how to discipline lead and love them towards maturity. That is how God disciplines, leads and loves us!

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