

DISCIPLINED INSTRUCTION



Who? Not my puppy! No, no! It couldn't be my baby!

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Our connection with Adam causes every person to be born with foolishness bound within. We must not be shocked that our children who are born dead in trespasses and sins act accordingly. (Romans 3:9-19) Sin is in the heart; there is an inward inclination to sin, to speak and act foolishly. It is in the heart of children; they bring it into the world with them.

Properly understanding the problem is imperative. We cannot afford to reflect the child's foolish behavior as some fault of our own. If we get lost in ourselves, the action needed to help the child will be confused. It is not about you. They are what they are because of Adam. Do not use your child to evaluate or to feel good about yourself.

Training involves constant repetition in real life situations. Bewilderment is not helpful to your responsibility to train. Training takes time, much time. You will have to teach the same thing over and over again. Savor the opportunity rather than resent it. Bound foolishness releases when your child matures into an adult disciple of Jesus Christ. Adults still battle foolishness in your own lives.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness [disciplined instruction].

Disciplined instruction is the crux of parenting. Get this right, and your child will have a real good opportunity to live a godly abundant life that ends in eternity. Fail to train your child properly ensures he or she will have at least a difficult life if not a miserable life that ends in the lake of fire.

If you are a parent of children (not adult children), your primary concern in life after your personal relationship with God is to raise your children.

Teaching - the same Greek word is translated “doctrine” in Ephesians 4:14, “instruction” in Romans 15:4, and “teaching” in Colossians 2:22.

Children need to learn everything, with the most important being about God and godliness.

Reproof - the same Greek word is also translated “reprimanded” in Luke 3:19, “convicts” in John 8:46, and “rebuke” in 1 Timothy 5:20.

Matthew 18:5 Reproving our children is the most difficult part of disciplined instruction. Your own lack of self-control manifested in anger and harsh words and actions can do much more damage than all the good in the reprimand. Your own need for acceptance may hinder you from confronting and dooms your child to be trained the wrong way.

The normal way all people respond to reproof is with denial, as our first parents, Adam and Eve, did. Parents need to understand the many kinds of denial and fight through each as it comes up. Lying, shifting the blame, accusing, anger, crying, defiance, minimizing, and generalizing are all forms of denial.

As a parent, you must be prepared for these battles and consistently engage in them, or your child will never learn the core principles for godliness and life.

Responsibility and accountability are paramount to accomplish the goals you have for your child to become a mature adult.

“Correction” means to restore to an upright or right state. The powerful impact you can have on your child is the faithful way you correct. After everything is settled and the child understands, the reassurance of your love and forgiveness are very important, or the devil will use your good and turn it into evil in the heart of your child. After confrontation, reconciliation and forgiveness must be equally understood and accepted.

Proverbs 13:24 Consistency is the only way to train and provides boundaries, predictability, safety, and order. Children need fences. Inconsistency gives the child hope that there is a possibility they will get their way. It reinforces disobedience. They learn that you do not mean what you say which undermines their relationship with God later in life. They will doubt God’s integrity because you trained them that you do not always mean what you say.

Proverbs 23:12-14 What is the biggest problem you have with your walk with God? Most of us were not trained to control your emotions and do the right thing. Obedience is always connected with faith, love, and hope. Obedience with the right motive is THE most important thing in our relationship with God.

Proverbs 23:14 Is the naughty chair doctrine from God or Super Nanny? God tells us repeatedly to use the rod. One of the great deceptions we face in our walk with God is that we can get away with sin. Since we do not always realize the consequences to sin, we are tempted to think we can get away with it. The rod teaches you that there is pain connected with sin or wrongdoing. If you discipline a child with the rod, he will not die; rather, he will live longer.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Parents must learn to use their authority.

Proverbs 29:15-18 Children are born stonewallers (to be uncooperative, obstructive, or evasive). They must be trained out of this rebellious behavior or become politicians as adults. Their obedience is much more than just having peace in your life, it is fundamental to their personal relationship with God and eternal life. This is a big subject.