

**Principle #1:** Children are a blessing.

**Principle #2:** Children are a stewardship from God.

**Principle #3:** Children are to be brought up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**Principle #4:** Children are to be brought up in an atmosphere of love.

**Principle #5:** A major part of child training is the reality of consequences.

- Definition: "something that follows from an action or condition." Ordinarily, that when good things are done, there is reward and bad things bring about punishment.
- Our goal is not merely obedient children, but children who understand God's world and are taught the Gospel even through our child rearing. It is to teach them that there are consequences, good and bad.
- Consequences to be considered in stages: home/world/final judgment (2Corinthians 5:10). A huge part of the breakdown of our society is because of this failure in the home.
- While fallen and sinful, there is also the truth of Deuteronomy 1:39 (not knowing good and evil). They have to be taught this. While they do not come into the world as blank slates regarding their moral nature, they do need to be instructed.
- The rod is one of the ordained means of God to help restore that image in wisdom and righteousness.

## I. COMMON REASONS THE ROD IS NEGLECTED

### A. Laziness

- As I will describe it, it is a lot of work. It is easier to yell, feel pity on oneself, complain, or even become abusive than to do it biblically.
- Neglect of what God has commanded is itself a form of abuse (just like neglect of care in food, cleanliness, etc.)

### B. False Sentimentality

- Many well intending parents say "I love them too much to spank them. God says the opposite - Prov13:24 Prov19:18
- God is our ultimate pattern and example, both in the Old and New Testaments - Ps89:32 Heb12:5 Rev3:19
- We are commanded to do so ourselves - Eph6:4 Prov19:18 Prov22:14 Prov23:13 Heb12:7ff

### C. Fear Of Abuse

- This is a real concern, but the response must not be to abandon what God has ordained.
- Many things are abused (sex, drugs, etc.), but the proper response is to use them as God has instructed.
- Used correctly, biblical discipline brings joy to the parents Prov29:17.

## II. PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF THE ROD

- Qualify: there is no "one size fits all", as our children are not machines. They are each unique.

### A. It is to be Used with the Authority of God

- Tell them we discipline b/c God has commanded us to, and to not do so is disobedience.

### B. It is to be Used in an Atmosphere Of Love

- Spanking outside of the context of love provokes to wrath

### C. It is to be Used with a View to the Heart

- Mark 7:21 Luke 6:45 Prov22:15 to seek to shepherd the heart, not just habituate behavior.

### D. It is to be Used with Instruction

- Prov29:15 Eph6:4 It is a great mistake to think that a spanking speaks for itself
- The major truth is that God is God and that the world He has created brings about consequences to sin and righteousness. To use to teach confession and repentance toward God and their neighbor.

### E. It is to be Used with a Desire to Restore Fellowship

- Sin separates and breaks fellowship both with God and those offended. 1Jn1:7

### F. It is to be Used Predominantly in the Formative Period

- Prov13:24 19:18 if the authority is not established early, then it is difficult to establish it later. Like bending a sapling tree rather than a mature one.
- Many a parent have lamented and wondered why it is their words have so little influence on teenage and older children, and for many it is this very reason

### G. It is to be used to Produce Pain, Not Injury

- Prov23:13 this means there must be a well thought out method, not an on the fly fit of anger
- An instrument must be chosen that stings without extreme effort for mom or dad.
- They child should be struck in an area where there is less of a chance for injury.
- I am personally against the regular use of the parents hand because the rod is in a sense disassociated with the parent; the hand itself is not a sufficient instrument, and each parent has different strength

### H. It is to be Used with Self-Control

- The rod should be administered with righteous anger not sinful (uncontrolled). Not "pressure cooker" use.
- If sinful anger is aroused, then either establish something in the procedure that calms you down or wait.

**I. It is to be Used with Consistency**

- No "countdown", but must take heed to the voice the first time. We will consider in our next study this possibility of gracious appeal.
- If we make a threat, we must think ahead and be willing to follow through; to not do so is to lie to our children
- It should be consistent in the agreement of the parents. If divided, there will be trouble.

**J. It is to be Used with Discernment**

- (1.) Make a distinction between forgetfulness, and high-handed sins.
- (2.) Beware of rebellion shown in adherence to the letter, but not the spirit of the law.
- (3.) There must be a wise discerning of the individuality of each child.
  - Age, gender, temperament, present understanding, etc.
- (4.) Beware of undue shame in disciplining in front of others.
- (5.) Realize that the majority of the formative work is done in the home, not in public.
  - There can be a frustration experienced when they act up when with others, and a tendency to overreact.
- (6.) Beware of avoiding those things which will cross the will of the child.
  - Sometimes the parents can live in a dread to offend the child, and end up catering to them.
  - While we are not to provoke them to wrath unduly.

**K. It Is To Be Used In Faith**

- Even when we don't see the immediate results we would desire (like evangelism, preaching, etc)
  - it is to be used with prayerfulness to God to bless the means, and an enduring consistency that doesn't give up
- The hope is that through this method, God would bless so that there might be development not only an obedient child, but one who has true wisdom in the fear of the Lord.
  - As they get older, there should be a decline in the use of this method (Tripp's chart). If there continue to be problems, then another method could be used. This we will consider in our next study.