

**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."
- Consequences to be considered in stages: home/world/final judgment (2Corinthians 5:10).
- The rod is one of the ordained means of God to help restore that image in wisdom and righteousness.

## I. COMMON REASONS THE USE OF THE ROD IS NEGLECTED.

- A. Laziness
- B. False Sentimentality
- C. Fear Of Abuse

## II. SEVERAL PRINCIPLES IN 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**
  - B. **It is to be Used in an Atmosphere Of Love**
  - C. **It is to be Used with a View to the Heart**
  - D. **It is to be Used with Instruction**
  - E. **It is to be Used with a Desire to Restore Fellowship**
  - F. **It is to be Used Predominantly in the Formative Period**
  - G. **It is to be used to Produce Pain, Not Injury**
  - 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.