

Child Training II *Part 11: Chastisement(Proverbs 20:30)*

As a parent you occupy a position of human authority that is ordained by God. It is sometimes necessary for authorities to use force in the proper exercise of their responsibilities. Governments must use force to protect their citizens from both internal and external threats. The authorized use of punishment for internal crime and the legitimate function of defensive warfare are forces available to government. Parents must also use the forces given by God in the proper exercise of their authority. The forces available to parental authorities are *chastisement* and *discipline* for their child's rebellion and disobedience.

In today's world, as Rom 1:30 and 2 Tim 3:2 predicted, it is very hard to accept the need for the infliction of physical pain on one's children. For years before we came into the New Israel, we were bombarded with misinformation about the proper role of authority. Parents have come to feel guilty about even the legitimate use of force. Most in today's society, as well as the so-called church Paul prophesied about in 2 Tim 3, have accepted the anti-Biblical concepts that children have rights of their own and that chastisement is cruel and unusual treatment. Without the proper use of chastisement when they were children, it is easily recognized that in adulthood their life is a mess. In general, they lack self-discipline, are self-centered, and disrespect all forms of authority. They have a vacuum in the place of moral standards. You can see this in America in the choice of President Clinton.

Throughout recorded history, chastisement through physical pain has been the normal method for bringing rebellious children under control, where man rules over wife and family (Gen 3:16-19) and makes a living by his own hard work. But now it is considered barbaric, even as circumcision in godless nations. In nations of the world that are not Christianized, chastisement is the standard. This is natural law. Only when a civilization becomes proud in its own wisdom does it become too sophisticated to utilize the Everlasting Covenant in the proper administration of authority. Such a civilization elects officials who are unjust and filthy, since they have become like what has been put into them from birth — TV, Hollywood, and public schools. Such a society questions and then denies the existence of any absolute standards. This society becomes decadent and ultimately is destroyed by a stronger civilization that does follow absolute standards, and in the end, Isa 24:6 is fulfilled. Because of the corruption of Christianity, having been led astray (Rev 18:23), and because of Western civilization's worship of human reason and anti-authoritarian philosophy, parents are in need of a clear presentation of the moral absolutes of conscience. When the time of Rev 14:7 comes, it will be too late for the world, but those who have not rejected conscience will take heed (Mt 25:34).

No one knows what *normal* means. Man is disoriented and has difficulty recognizing truth. Chastisement is taught by nature, not just by the Scriptures written for Old Israel and New Israel. No wonder Rom 1:30 and 2 Tim 3:2 is mentioned along with the rest of the wrongs of civilization. Heb 12:7 — What father is there that does not chastise his own son? Or what son is there that is not disciplined by his father? Sons are *naturally* chastised out of love by their fathers, for it is the only way fallen man can ever learn.

Heb 12:5-6 and Pr 3:11-12 teach us that divine discipline demonstrated divine love. *Scourges* means "whips" and is used to indicate true sonship. *Sonship* indicates having a father who loves you enough to chastise you, and even scourge you if necessary, as Heb 12:7 says. There are no refractory sons, for verse 7 says that you *endure* chastening.

Scourge means to *whip*, as with a small, bendable rod (like a balloon stick).

When we reject God's word as the absolute standard, nothing is left but the Lake of Fire, because whoever rejects God's word considers his own thoughts, ways, or methods to be superior to those of God. "Higher Learning" means higher than conscience.

Rev 3:19; Heb 12:6 — God receives sons who are chastised by a Father's love — His love for *includes* the rod. Pr 13:24 — To *spare the rod* is to hold back physical pain from your child at the very dawn of his little life. A parent who loves his child will not hold back discipline.

Heb 12:7 is a timeless principle. It is normal for a true son to be chastised or even scourged if he is rebellious or disobedient. A son is a true member of the family, not an illegitimate child. Such a child is not cared for — he is just another unwanted product of his father's sin. It is no wonder that children who are not chastised by their parents feel rejected and unwanted. This sense of rejection is the root of rebellion and the "teenage wasteland"

today.

No child is happy while he is in rebellion. Even though he is guilty of the rebellion, he needs help to conquer it. When parents refuse to give a child the chastisement he needs to bring him back under control, he senses alienation from the family and the Edah. He is miserable within himself, and his parents are angry with him. He is unacceptable to the clan's fellowship and is separated from his parents' love. So he must be chastised to show him their love for him to be once again acceptable to the clan (Jer 31:1). They must chastise him as one of their *own*, not ignore him as if he was an illegitimate child.

When a child is in rebellion, chastisement is the only method or pressure that will cause him to choose to accept parental direction and controls. A rebellious child has already rejected his parents' authority. He has already chosen to rule himself in accordance with his wants, or his own will, and his strong desires have become his master. The only way a parent can re-establish his authority is to use the force of the rod. When rebellion is allowed to exist, Satan becomes incarnate in the group or clan, and destroys the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16-17). A child cannot be taught as long as he is in rebellion. A child will not listen to or obey his rejected authority, since he has no respect for either their position or their person. The proper use of chastisement is the only way a child can be restored to fellowship once it has been broken by his own rebellion.

Like any force, chastisement can be misused. Social Services' authority and their chastisement is most often misused and abused today — those who hear as Pr 17:4 says and respond to it as “The Truth” and get on with “Business as Usual.”

The word *chastise* means to inflict suffering upon, with a view to amendment; corporal or bodily pain to bring to right standing; to use the rod to inflict pain sufficient to cause a child to correct his rebellion, or to restrain a child from willful harm due to disobedience (Pr 15:10; 20:30; 22:15; 23:13-14).

When a child willfully disobeys an order, command, instruction, or the standards you have set for him, he must be corrected so that he grows up straight and not crooked or perverted (hating God, Ex 20:5-6). This correction is by *chastisement*. For example, you tell your little girl or little boy not to cross or go out in the road or street without your permission. He understands the standard and has been warned on several occasions as a reminder and he knows that to disobey you is rebellion. A car could come along and run over him, which happens a lot with unloved children. If he disobeys you, he will deserve a “whipping” — to be corrected by chastisement. The memory of the pain will help him in the future to obey, to remember his parents' words, as in all cases of rebellion and disobedience.

Importance of the Rod

The only reason we use the rod for chastisement of our children, and the only reason it is necessary for correction of disobedience and rebellion, is because Israel is commanded by the Word of God to use the *rod of correction*. The Word says to use a rod. The rod is the symbol of human authority, even in the nations.

The Hebrew word translated *rod* (*shebet*, #7626) in the Old Testament, concerning chastisement of children, is a symbol of God's delegated authority, delegated to His people to use for the purpose of training His children. The rod represents the right of rulership for parents and nations. When the authority of a legitimate ruler is challenged, the rod and reproof are to be used to inflict pain sufficient to end the rebellion. The rod is a thin stick (like a balloon stick) used on a rebellious child by his parents (2 Sam 7:14; Pr 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15).

When parents use the instrument specifically designed by God as the symbol of His delegated authority, it triggers a response within the soul of the child. This natural response makes the minor pain experienced in chastisement take on special meaning. No amount of hitting or spanking with the hand or any form of physical abuse will have the same effect. Just as it is natural for man to fear proper things, it is ingrained in the child to identify the rod with an authority he should obey. The use of the rod is best because it is a natural object separate from the hand. Human society even regards it as “dog abuse” to use the hand for training dogs, for they can see that it is counter-productive. This is true also for children. Only very stupid and dull people use the hand to discipline dogs or their children, because everyone knows (except them) that it causes the improper fear and response, making the relationship between animal and master impossible, as well as parent and child.

Child training is the process used by parents (fathers and mothers, Heb 12:7) that will cause a child to reach the proper objective for which he is being trained — the way he should go (Pr 22:6) — continuing the process until the generation who loves Him is produced (Rev 14:1-5; Ex 20:5-6). By living in clans and tribes as Jer 31:1, it is possible for four generations to live around the aged head of the family. Because of the close ties of a patriarchal family, the influence of the patriarch, whether good or evil, affected all generations, so that his sin or the judgment upon his sins influenced the fourth generation (Pr 13:24).

The word *rod* in Hebrew is a symbol of God's delegated authority to train children of the nation He sets apart as His very own — not part of the evil world order. The rod represents the right of rulership over His children who have been dedicated to Him. There can be no rebellion in His Kingdom, so authority is delegated to parents to end all rebellion by the use of the rod, as in military conquest to end rebellion against God's people in the Old Testament times (Ps 89:32; Isa 10:5,24). Literally, the rod is a narrow, flexible stick used on a rebellious child by his parents (2 Sam 7:14; Pr 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15). To not use this means of discipline is to disregard God's word and His commandments (Jn 14:21-24; 1 Jn 2:4).

A rod can be used equally effectively by the mother — much better and safer than a board as the public schools used when I grew up. A rod produces the proper pain without applying the strength required by the board, which could harm the child. The objective of discipline with the rod is not to beat the child into submission by the use of brute force. The use of an instrument that can cause more than surface pain can actually hurt the child.

This causes the parent to react, overcompensating for his lack of self-control and ceasing to chastise the child altogether because of feelings of guilt. There is no pride in the child from bearing up against the little flexible rod (when I was young, I proved my strength by enduring the maximum force of the "Board of Education," as it was called).

The pain received from the balloon stick is more humbling than harmful. There is no defense against it. The more he tightens up, the more it stings. The most sensitive layer of skin is close to the surface where the nerve endings are located. The only way to stop the sting of the rod is to submit. That is exactly what the child will do — submit to his parents' will and end his rebellion. Parents should teach their child about God's design of the rod as the symbol of their right to rule. The child should learn that his parents are as willing to obey God's word as they expect him to obey their word (Heb 12:6-7).

Parents are commanded to discipline their child before it is too late, while there is still hope for his ability to receive it as instruction (Pr 13:24; 19:18). The earlier the child is brought under control, the more likely it is that he can be trained and taught. For the possibility exists, as we have seen already, that there is a time when it is too late for the parents to bring about obedience in their lives. They are disqualified from *Bar Mitzvah* as the parents and the Body do not have the confidence or faith.

Pr 22:15; 29:15 — These verses indicate that the foolish, self-confident (cocky) know-it-all attitude of a child must be driven out before he can be taught anything.

The rod that is to be used for discipline (chastisement) has specific characteristics. It can cause stripes — marks like those left by a whip, but small enough not to cause permanent damage, if the rod is used right (2 Sam 7:14; Pr 23:13; Heb 12:6). The rod is a thin, wooden stick like a switch. We use a small balloon stick. Of course, the size of the rod must vary according to the size or age of the child.

If the child repeatedly disobeys, the rod has not been applied sufficiently, which only strengthened his rebellion (Pr 20:30). The parent can stop after a sufficient number of strokes and ask the child whether he will obey future instructions. Whenever he is willing to submit and obey, the child should be given the opportunity for an honorable but unconditional surrender. The child should be required to state his willingness to comply to his parents' will — to the greater king (Lk 14:31-32) — acknowledging his disobedience or wrongdoing.

The only issue in rebellion is the *will* — in other words, who is going to rule, the parent or the child. The objective is forcing obedience to the parents' will.

The rod is used on the buttocks (Pr 10:13; 19:29; 26:3). The objective of discipline is not to cause pain, stripes, tears, or sorrow, but to bring the rebellious child's will under control. It does not break a child's spirit to force him to obey. It causes him to choose obedience over rebellion. God's word commands that children are to obey

their parents. It is the child who chooses to break God's law (Eph 6:1-2). The parents are merely enforcing God's law when they must discipline a rebellious child.