

Child Training II *Part 12: What Discipline is Not*

Discipline is not verbal abuse, such as tongue-lashing, threats, or screaming fits of anger — in other words, parents' temper tantrums. These things do nothing but support the child's disrespect for his parents' authority and demonstrate the parents' inability to rule. The parent is actually out of control himself. If a child can get his parents out of control, that child proves to himself that his parents do not possess the right to rule. When a parent begs the child to obey — "Please do what I say!" — this only adds to his disrespect of authority. Words of instruction have already been rejected; additional words are not discipline. When parents plead and beg with a rebellious child, that child has his parents right where he wants them — under his will, negotiating for their rights.

No other discipline will conquer except the rod. Any other approach that avoids physical pain is useless. Reasoning, bribes, redirecting a child's attention, playing on his emotions, intimidation or deception will not conquer rebellion. Children only lose respect for sorry parents who use such manipulation. Verbal abuse, begging, and punishment are not fatherly discipline (Heb 12:6-11). It only makes the child hate authority and deepen his disrespect for authority. It only causes the child to grow up without self-control and then suffer alienation from his parents, practicing self-pity and self-justification. Parents who use such punishments and manipulation become estranged from the child and are unable to show any true affection. Their frustration of not being in control of the child makes them transfer their guilt to the child, become vindictive toward the child, constantly showing disapproval and striking out in anger — getting even.

We know by now why discipline and control are necessary with children. They are God's natural solution to rebellion. Control is the facet of child training by which parents obtain obedience and respect from their child. As long as the child accepts his parents right to direct and restrain him, he is under their control. In controlling a child, the parent can expect conflict to occur. When a child deliberately refuses to accept his parents' authority, he is in rebellion. Chastisement or discipline is God's way to end the rebellion and return the child under the parents' authority and control. Chastisement is the controlled administration of physical pain to cause the child to cease his rebellion and again accept his parents' authority.

Parents are to chastise by using a rod or balloon stick that can cause stripes. Parents are not to chastise in anger, or for the purpose of hurting or causing stripes, etc., venting their own frustration. Chastisement is the expression of true love and a demonstration of fatherhood and family membership. Chastisement is not verbal abuse, talking it over, punishment, or ignoring the conflict.

The result of chastisement is the restoration of the proper relationship between parent and child. Only if this proper relationship exists can a parent fulfill God's objective to train the child. The ultimate purpose to control is to prepare the child for instruction, to receive God's word, and for his development of self-discipline and to prepare the child to be *taught*. It is by teaching that a child develops his own standards and internal controls. After *Bar Mitzvah* the child continues to learn the reason behind his parents' directions and restraints. He is trained to become a mature adult who has a purpose for his life, knows who he is and where he is going. Teaching is only possible to a child who has come under his parents' control. A child who is not obedient must be brought under control before he can be taught, since only an obedient child can be taught. The rebellious child has only one lesson to learn, and that is who is in charge. A child is to be controlled as long as he acts like a child, and a child should be taught to the extent that he is obedient and has respect. When a child is young, maximum control is necessary. But when the child grows up, external control is minimum and withdrawn, that is, as he progresses in obedience and respect.

A well-trained child develops internal controls, which replace his parents' external controls. No parent should still be picking up after a youth. A youth needs no external controls to make him obedient to his conscience or the Word or instruction.

Four generations of prophetic vision are required to produce the Male Child.