

## **Guilt is the Root of Most Psychological Problems**

Most psychological problems are rooted in guilt. Pr 20:30 — Discipline removes guilt, but only after the child or person honestly judges himself to be worthy of blame. Parents who try to shame or humiliate their children into right behavior will see the power of a guilty conscience to curb some actions, but will only deepen their sense of worthlessness and put them further out of touch with repentance and healing. The guilty soul becomes a slave to every temptation (Jms 5:19-20), putting him out of touch with true restraint. This additional imparted guilt by parents takes away true motivation to do right. The anguish of failure lowers expectations. You can't expect much from a fool. Guilt is essential and necessary to bring one to true repentance after discipline, but this additional imparted guilt that parents impose upon their children lowers their self-esteem to the point of exasperation.

The parents make the child into a fool. Pr 20:30 — Stern discipline is necessary to restrain evil, but fools never learn. Pr 10:13; 14:3; 19:29 — A fool won't change his ways (Pr 17:10; 27:22); his soul is beyond redemption.

Guilt is like the pain of a toothache. The pain is not the problem, but alerts one to the problem of the tooth. The guilt is not the culprit any more than the pain of the tooth is. To address the pain and not the tooth is modern psychology (*Prozac*). Fix the tooth and the pain goes away. The guilt-burdened soul cries out for the lashes of judgment, which bring justice and peace. This is why the soul of a man cannot rest until the conscience has been satisfied by a payment commensurate to his sin (Rom 6:23).

Like a prosecuting attorney, the conscience will not drop its case until it is sure that justice has been done. Pr 20:30 means that the guilt is actually removed by a discipline commensurate with the deed, that is, equal in measure or extent, a degree proportionate.

Guilt is an essential part of our natural moral self. Without it we would be like a smoke detector with no alarm. But guilt is only a means to an end, a temporary condition. It is the soul's pain as when touching something hot, designed to give us warning to change our actions. It is a great blessing to feel guilt — a sign of life, a healthy response. We cannot try to eliminate guilt by fudging on the standards as modern psychology tries to do, attempting to erase guilt by soothing the mind, without discipline commensurate to the deed. The standard must be raised so guilt can come and then, when they are too young to really understand, it can be absolved with the rod. Believers' standards are high, since 1 Pet 3:21, and they become the standard or light to the nations (unless they were put through a ritual of Bar Mitzvah, perhaps to give false relief from the reproach of not being baptized yet, which was not an appeal at all).

The parent holds in his hand the power to absolve the child of guilt — a little balloon stick. To absolve the child of guilt is the highest form of love (Pr 13:24), which cleanses his soul, instructs his spirit, and strengthens his resolve. It gives him a fresh new start through a confidence that all guilt (or the debt) is paid. This is in the child who is not of the age of accountability for his own sins (Pr 20:30).

“The inward parts of the belly” is the physical sensations associated with guilt. Heb 12:6 — The child or son, properly and timely spanked with the rod, is healed in the soul and restored to wholeness of spirit (Pr 23:13-14). The true father, as the high priest of the family, can reconcile his child to newness of life. Unremoved guilt gives the evil one a calling card and a door of access to the child. The rod, properly used, is the comforter of the soul of your child. If not, you have used the rod to strengthen his guilt and turn him over to Satan.

Ps 23; 2 Sam 7:14; Ps 89:32 — To David the rod was the means by which he knew that God loved him. He was comforted by the rod, and was assured of His love, control, and concern. Children must know who is in control. Pr 19:18 — Proper use of the rod gives new hope to a child. Pr 19:18 is our Father, exhorting fathers not to let

their crying cause them to lighten up on the intensity or duration of the spanking, commensurate with the deed. A parent's emotions can be pro or con in regard to the thorough cleansing of their sons. But the parents must be led by the Spirit, if they are true sons themselves (Rom 8:14).

The undisciplined child is not only restless and irritable in his own spirit, but causes the whole household to be in turmoil (Pr 29:17). True discipline in the Edah can only be directed by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The rod is the only means by which guilt is removed from the developing child before the age of accountability. After this, only the Messiah can resolve guilt by His death on our behalf (2 Cor 5:14-21). Mal 4:6 cannot be fulfilled any other way except by the proper use of the rod (Pr 19:18; 13:24; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17).