

Week 4- The Rod

SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART

DOUBTS ABOUT SPANKING

- ✘ Is it not archaic and cruel?
- ✘ What will it accomplish?
- ✘ Is it really necessary?
- ✘ Are there not better methods?
- ✘ Won't it make your child resent you?

BIBLICAL SUPPORT FOR SPANKING

Proverbs 13:24- He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

Proverbs 22:15- Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14- Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 29:15, 17-The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.

NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

- ✘ Not morally and ethically neutral
 - + Don't need direction, they need correction!
 - + Don't need instruction, they need discipline!
- ✘ Jeremiah 17:9- “The heart is deceitful above all else and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”
- ✘ Such a problem cannot be met by mere talk.
- ✘ Proverbs 22:15- “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”

QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

- ✘ Typical 3-year old vocabulary: “I want...” or “I don’t want...”
 - + Sinfulness causes child to think he/she is king.
- ✘ Question: Will child live under the authority of God (parents) or his own authority?

THE FUNCTION OF THE ROD

- ✘ “Not what you do to your child, but what you do for your child”
 - + Restorative
 - + God’s example
- ✘ Properly administered, the rod humbles the heart of a child.
- ✘ Hebrews 12:11: “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

WHAT IS THE ROD?

Definition: “The rod is a parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness toward his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured and controlled use of physical punishment to underscore the importance of obeying God, thus rescuing the child from continuing in his foolishness until death.”

A PARENTAL EXERCISE

- ✘ Rod passages are within the context of the parent-child relationship
 - + Not appropriate for a teacher or anybody else
 - + One element of a broader range of parenting activities

AN ACT OF FAITH

- ✘ The rod is an act of faith
- ✘ God commands its use.
- ✘ We discipline and give it to the Lord.

AN ACT OF FAITHFULNESS

- ✘ Act of faithfulness towards a child
 - + Expression of love as we desire to save the child from destruction.
 - + Failure to discipline is being unfaithful to them.

A PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT

- ✘ Careful, timely, measured and controlled use of physical punishment
 - + Never a venting of parental anger
 - + Not what the parent does when frustrated
 - + Not a response to a feeling when a child has made things hard for him.
- ✘ It is measured and controlled
 - + Number of swats should be previously expressed.

DISTORTIONS OF THE ROD

- ✘ Not the right to unbridled temper
- ✘ Not venting of frustration
- ✘ Not retribution
- ✘ Not associated with anger

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO THE ROD

- ✘ I love my children too much to spank them.
 - + Who benefits if you do not spank your child?
 - + Proverbs 13:24- “He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”
- ✘ I’m afraid I will hurt him
- ✘ I’m afraid it will make him rebellious and angry
 - + “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.”

“IT DOESN'T WORK.”

× Possible Reasons

- + Inconsistent use of the rod
- + Failure to persist
- + Failure to be effective
- + Doing it in anger

THE “WHEN” OF SPANKING

- ✘ Whenever a child disobeys a directive that he has heard and is within his capacity to understand.
- ✘ If you accept challenge, delay or excuses, you are not training in submission.
- ✘ You must not warn. Your children should obey the first time.

THE “HOW” OF SPANKING

- ✘ Take your child to a private place where he can be spoken with in privacy.
 - + Never discipline in front of other children in the family.
 - ✘ The object is not to humiliate
- ✘ Tell him specifically what he has done or failed to do. Physical discipline must be attached to specific, easily demonstrated issues.
- ✘ Secure an acknowledgment from the child of what he has done
- ✘ Remind him that the function of the spanking is not venting your frustration or because you are angry, but to restore him to God.

THE “HOW OF SPANKING”

- ✘ Tell the child how many swats he will receive
- ✘ Remove his pants so that the spanking is not lost in the padding.
- ✘ Take the child up on your lap and hug him, telling him how much you love him, how much it grieves you to spank him and how you hope that it will not be necessary again. (restoration, not retribution)
- ✘ Pray with him- Encourage him with the fact that Christ is given because we are people who sin. There is forgiveness in Christ. There is hope in Christ.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN IS MY CHILD OLD ENOUGH?

- ✘ When he is old enough to resist you
 - + Ability to understand comes long before ability to articulate

IF I FOLLOW YOUR COUNSEL, ALL I'LL DO IS SPANK

- ✘ If parents are consistent with discipline, they will find quickly that the child responds and the necessity for discipline decreases
- ✘ Consistency is the key

WHAT IF I'M TOO MAD?

- ✘ Unholy Anger can pollute the process of discipline
- ✘ Spend time with God and repent of anger
- ✘ Seek forgiveness from child

WHAT IF WE'RE NOT HOME?

- ✗ If possible, seek a private place
- ✗ May be wise to let things pass
 - + Most of training time is at home anyways
 - + Do not want to stumble others

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED?

- ✘ There is nothing to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ✘ How does the Biblical use of the rod differ from your use of the rod? How do you need to change?