What the Bible Says about…
CHILD <u>DISCIPLINE</u>

A. The <u>PATTERN</u> of Discipline is our <u>HEAVENLY FATHER</u>
***"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."*(Proverbs 3:11,12)**
1. **Job 5:17, 18 -**
2. **Psalm 119:65-72**
3. **Heb. 12:5-11**

B. The <u>MOTIVE</u> of Discipline is <u>LOVE</u> for the Child
***"For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."* (Proverbs 3:12)**

C. The <u>TIMING</u> of Discipline is <u>EARLY</u>
***"He that spareth (withholds) his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chastenth him <u>betimes</u>."* (Proverbs 13:24)**

"Chasten thy son <u>while there is hope</u>, and let not thy soul spare (hold back) for his crying" **(Proverbs 19:18)**

D. The <u>REASON</u> for Discipline is <u>REBELLION</u> to <u>AUTHORITY</u>

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" **(Proverbs 22:15)**

When do I discipline?

Answer: ***For every act of rebellion against authority.***

Definition of Rebellion: Rebellion is the act of determined (willful) defiance of, or resistance to any authority or controlling power. (Fugate)

Examples of Rebellion:

1) **<u>Rebellious Attitude</u>**
2) **<u>Rebellious Action</u>**
   a. **When the child disobeys by <u>omitting</u> <u>right</u> action [<u>Passive</u> Rebellion]**

For obedience to be real obedience, it must be:

1. **<u>Immediate</u>**

2. **Without Question**
3. **Without Complaint**
4. **Complete**
5. **Exact**

Rebellious Action (Continued)

When has my child rebelled?

When the child disobeys by committing wrong action

[Active Rebellion]

E. The BALANCED METHOD of Discipline is PHYSICAL Correction and VERBAL Training

***"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."* (Proverbs 29:15)**

The STEPS of the discipline process

1) **Before spanking, make sure that the child knows what he is doing wrong.**
   (Explain how it is disobedience & rebellion)
2) **Spank with a thin, flexible rod that will sting not damage.**
   Make sure you are <u>not</u> spanking out of anger; or in a violent manner.
   Spank firm enough to outweigh the pleasure of sin.
3) **After spanking,**
   a) **<u>Talk</u> to him about what he did wrong**
   b) **<u>Pray</u> with him;**
   c) **<u>Reaffirm</u> your love for him;**
   d) **Have the child remain alone for a few minutes to <u>ponder</u> (think about) the lesson learned, and to talk to God about it.**
   e) **Have the child review the lesson he/she learned with the parent who did the disciplining.**
   f) **Then consider the issue <u>resolved</u> and <u>over</u> (providing the child's attitude and action conform to what you desired)**

Discipline is over when the child:

(1) admits guilt
(2) Shows a change of attitude & action

4) The child should then willingly do what you asked; or not do what you prohibited (a repentant attitude is your goal)

Practical teaching about the use of "The Rod"

a. The spanking should sting not damage -
b. The spankings should be private not public
c. The spankings should be consistent not haphazard -

Do's & Don'ts:

1) Be consistent
2) Be agreed
3) Be fair

F. The NEGLECT of Discipline is CATASTROPHE!

Example: Eli's two sons
(I Sam.3:13; 4:14-17)

"Spare the rod, spoil the child"
(Ben Franklin)

***"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child..."* (Proverbs 22:15)**
***"Thou...shalt deliver his soul from hell"* (Proverbs 23:14)**
***"...a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame"* (Proverbs 29:15)**

G. The GOAL of Discipline is the Child's WELL-BEING
***"Withhold not correction from the child: for is thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."* (Proverbs 23:14)**

***"The rod and reproof give wisdom"* (Proverbs 29:15)**

1. Restoration -
The child and parent will be close

2. **Instruction -**
   The child will learn "the wages of sin"
   a. ***Your child needs to learn the difference between <u>right & wrong</u>***
   b. ***Your child needs to learn the <u>price for sin</u>***
3. **Discipline -**
   The child will have sterling character and an ability to say no to selfish impulses

H. The <u>BENEFIT</u> of Discipline is <u>BLESSING</u>
***"The rod and reproof give <u>wisdom...</u>"* (Proverbs 29:15)**
***"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee <u>rest</u>; yea, he shall give <u>delight</u> unto thy soul."* (Proverbs 29:17)**

What the Bible says about…
Courtship & Marriage

1. **Teach your children the basic virtuous characteristics that will <u>prepare</u> them for courtship and marriage.**

Teach your teenagers about:

a. **Genuine <u>love</u> (I Cor. 13)**
b. **Accepting God's <u>timing</u> and <u>will</u> (Gen. 29:20; Prov. 3:5-6; Ja. 4:15)**
c. **The importance of <u>good friendships</u> (I Cor. 15:33)**
d. **<u>Priorities</u> (Mt. 6:33)**

   Parents must explain to their teen what to look for in a mate.

   --Godliness over glamour

   --Personal character is priority over personal appearance (Prov. 31:30)
e. **Design for <u>sex</u> in <u>marriage</u> and standards of <u>moral purity</u> (I Thess. 4:1--8; Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 7:1-5; Prov. 5:18-21; Ps. 101:3)**

2. **Teach your children about <u>proper courtship</u>:**

   What procedure should Christian girls follow in a courtship relationship?

1) **Remember you are under the authority of your father until you marry (I Cor. 7:36-38).**

2) **Before starting to date, meet with your father (whether or not he is a Christian) and share with him your goals for marriage: that yours will be the kind of marriage God wants, and thus be the happiest possible.**

3) **Agree that any boy who wants to date you must first ask your father for permission.**
    a) **It makes the boy appreciate you more because what is easily gotten is not usually appreciated.**
    b) **It decreases the temptation of the boy to mistreat you. If he thinks you are completely on your own, it increases the risk that he will try something.**
    c) **It proves to the boy that your father loves you.**

d) **It gives your father a chance to discern the boy's intentions. A woman is more affected by actions than by motives, but a man discerns first the motive.**

e) **It places the boy under your father's counsel, which is exactly where he should be if the relationship grows into marriage.**

4) **Agree that anytime a fellow starts talking to you about marriage you will say, *"If you are thinking about marriage, you had better talk to my father."* This is tremendously important because so often talk about marriage is just camouflaged lust.**

3. **Teach your children about discerning <u>God's will</u>.**

How can your children know who is the right one for marriage?

Follow God's principles for courtship:

a. **Be submitted and obedient to the advice and discretion of your parents (Eph. 6:1-2).**

b. **Determine that you will "date" only Christians (I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14-18).**
God forbids the intermarriage of a believer with a non-believer (SEE: Gen. 24:3-4, 28:1-2; Ex. 34:12-16; Deut. 7:3-4; Ezra 9:10-12; Neb. 10:30).

c. **Determine that you will strive to be the right one, rather than focusing on meeting the "right one" (Rom. 12:1-2).**

d. **Be busy doing the general will of God, and He will guide you in the specifics of His will (Phil. 2:12-13; Prov. 3:5-6).**

e. **Purpose in your heart that you will not defile yourself or defraud the one you date (I Cor. 7:1-2; I Th. 4:6).**

f. Decide that the one you marry must enhance your ministry, not diminish or destroy it (Is she a "helpmeet" [Gen. 2:18] or a hindrance?).

g. Yield your plans to God's will in the vital area of courtship and marriage (desire His will above all else) (Mt. 6:33).

h. Wait for God's timing (Eccl. 3:1). Patience is a key virtue. It requires absolute trust in God and His timing.

4. Teach your children what to avoid in a dating relationship.

a. Avoid the "steady" relationship until the time is right.
(Have several friends and let God bring the right one alone in His time)

b. Avoid situations and circumstances that might involve temptations and

trouble (don't be alone in secluded places).

c. Avoid physical involvement (lust can't wait until marriage; but true love can).