"WISDOM ABOUT CHILD DISCIPLINE"

From Proverbs

INTRODUCTION:

I. The <u>PATTERN</u> of Discipline is our _____ _____ (Prov. 3:11, 12)

A. Job 5:17, 18

B. Heb. 12:5-11

C. Psalm 119:65-72

II. The <u>MOTIVE</u> of Discipline is _____ for the Child (Prov. 3:12)

A. Prov. 3:12 - "delight"

B. Prov. 13:24 - "love"

III. The <u>TIMING</u> of Discipline is _____ (Prov. 13:24)

A. Prov. 13:24 - "betimes"

B. Prov. 19:18 - "while there is hope"

IV. The REASON for Discipline is _____ to _____ (Prov. 22:15)

A. "Foolishness" -

B. "Heart" - rebellious attitudes must be disciplined as well as actions

V. The BALANCED METHOD of Discipline is _ Correction and _____ Training (Prov. 19:15)

A. "The Rod"

1. The spanking should _____ not damage - "The Rod" -

2. The spankings should be _____ not haphazard -

a. Prov. 19:18 - "Let not thy soul spare for his crying"
b. Prov. 23:13 - "Withhold not correction"

3. The spankings should be _____ not public

B. "And Reproof"

VI. The NEGLECT of Discipline is _____!

A. Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness" -

B. Prov. 23:14 - "Hell" -

C. Prov. 29:15 - "Shame" -

VII. The GOAL of Discipline is the Child's WELL-BEING

A. _____ - the child and parent will be close

B. _____ - the child will learn the wages of sin

C. _____ - the child will have sterling character and an ability to say no to selfish impulses

VIII. The BENEFIT of Discipline is _____ (Prov. 29:15, 17)

A. "Wisdom" -

B. "Rest" -

C. "Delight" -

"WISDOM ABOUT CHILD DISCIPLINE"
From Proverbs

INTRODUCTION:

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal" (Eadie, p. 262).

> Years ago, the then Duke of Windsor (who referred to the rod as a switch) said, "Everything in the American home is controlled by switches -- except the children!"

I. The PATTERN of Discipline is our HEAVENLY FATHER (Prov. 3:11, 12)

A. Job 5:17, 18

B. Heb. 12:5-11

C. Psalm 119:65-72

II. The MOTIVE of Discipline is LOVE for the Child (Prov. 3:12)

A. Prov. 3:12 - "delight"

B. Prov. 13:24 - "love"

III. The TIMING of Discipline is EARLY (Prov. 13:24)

A. Prov. 13:24 - "betimes"

"Betimes" = at dawn; at first light" (the word means disciplining early)

"betimes" = early = 1) young in life (diligence from day 1); 2) early in the offense (right away in the offense).

"Correction begins when the child begins to resist thewill of the parent. Generally, this is when the child begins to crawl around or reach for things that would be harmful to him or are valuable (such as lamps, cords, TV

tuning knobs, china, etc.)" (Victorious Ventures, p. 13)

B. Prov. 19:18 - "while there is hope"

How long to spank?

By 5 years - 85% spanking should be completed 5-10 years - 95%
10-13 years- 99%
13-15 years-100%

(Normally, parents should not spank a teenager - this form of correction is too late then) (Ezzo, p. 55)
Four Stages of Maturity:

1. 0-5 years - Disciplinary Stage - must establish parental authority

2. 6-13 years - Training Stage - must give what & why info.

3. 14-19 years - Coaching Stage - give more responsibility (train toward independence)

4. 19 & up - Friend Stage - Adult to adult. Give advice when it is requested.

If your child were headed toward the road after a ball, and a car was coming, do you have the confidence that your "Stop!" could save his life?

We must train them so that if they are headed for physical or spiritual danger, my "Stop!" will protect them.

IV. The REASON for Discipline is REBELLION to AUTHORITY (Prov. 22:15)

A. "Foolishness" -

B. "Heart" - rebellious attitudes must be disciplined as well as actions

When do I discipline?

Answer: For every act of rebellion against authority.

Examples of Rebellion:

1) Rebellious Attitude

When the child pouts or whines (throws fit).

Never call sin "cute" or view it as "funny". Disobedience is nothing to laugh at. It seems small now, but this attitude will manifest itself on a greater scale later.

2) Rebellious Action

a. When the child disobeys by omitting right action

When a child consistently says, "I forgot" - this shows he rebelled against putting an effort into learning the lesson.

When you give instruction - say what you mean, and mean what you say (Ezzo,p.43). (Don't speak rashly, because you must hold them accountable for whatever you said)

If I ask my child to do something, and he does not respond (assuming he heard me), he/she is in sin. But if I call him twice, **I** am the one in sin!

Why? By repeating my request, I am reinforcing and encouraging my child's disobedience. This is, in fact, training them in unrighteousness. (Ezzo, p. 43)

For obedience to be real obedience, it must be:

1. Immediate - Delay is disobedience. Children are to obey the first time you ask (immediately). The reason they don't respond until the fourth time is because you have trained (conditioned) them that they don't have to until then (that you aren't going to do anything about their disobedience until then).

After God teaches us something from His Word, what percent (%) of the time does God want immediate and complete obedience? 100%

As parents, if we expect less than 100%, we are teaching our children disobedience.

When we tell our children to be quiet, and they are quiet 80% of the time, we put up with it. What will you do when you tell your children, "Don't sleep with your girlfriend" and they only obey 80% of the time??

2. Without Question (can ask "What" to clarify command, but never "Why") We are to ask God "Why" about trials, but never about obedience. Sometimes God provides a reason, but we have no right to ask Why.

3. Without Complaint. Attitude is just as important as action. Grudging compliance reveals a heart that is not willing to obey.

4. Complete - Partial obedience is not obedience.

b. When the child disobeys by committing wrong action

When a child talks back, he has rebelled.

If a dad gives a command, and the child appeals to mom. That child has just undermined Dad's authority.

Another example of challenging authority: The reply, "Why can't I" or "Do I have to?"

V. The BALANCED METHOD of Discipline is PHYSICAL Correction and VERBAL Training (Prov. 19:15)

1. Before spanking, make sure that the child knows what he did wrong.

2. Spank with a thin, flexible rod (or wooden or plastic spoon) that will sting not damage. (5-7 spanks usually enough) (make sure you are not spanking out of anger; or in a violent manner)

3. After spanking, a) talk to him about what he did wrong (explain it as sin against God; warn him not to repeat the offense) b) Pray with him; c) affirm your love for him; then d) consider the issue solved and over (providing the child's attitude and action conform to what you desired)

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

A. "The Rod"

1. The spanking should sting not damage -
"The Rod" -

Is spanking child abuse? No - not if it is done in the Bible way.

(Actually, a lack of spanking is permanent injury to their character and thus true abuse)

A spanking should sting, not damage. It is pain for the purpose of healing. (EX. a doctor cuts a person with a knife; an attacker does the same thing -- but the motive (purpose) and method is different.

Never slap a child's face or strike other parts of the body, pull hair, or drag by an arm.

Abuse of physical discipline: In superstitious Dark Ages (8th - 12th cent.), it was believed that crying children were possessed by demons and that beating them was the only way to exorcise those demons. Hence the phrase: "Beat the devil out of them" was born (Ezzo, p. 52).

"Nurture . . . of the Lord" - we are to discipline our children the same way the Lord disciplines his children.

Their body is a temple and we don't want to damage their temple, but we do want to send it a message.

2. The spankings should be consistent not haphazard -

   a. Prov. 19:18 - "Let not thy soul spare for his crying"

   b. Prov. 23:13 - "Withhold not correction"

      This means: Don't look for reasons or excuses not to spank (EX: "They're tired;" "He's just being a child," etc.)

Be consistent. A very important part of parenting is not to just do it when you feel like it.

ILLUS: If the traffic laws or laws of nature changed every day, you'd be very frustrated and confused. So are our kids when we are inconsistent!!

If both parents are not in agreement with how a child is to be brought up, this will frustrate your children.

*Never have a disagreement in front of your child.

*Never waver in the moment of confrontation on a rule or standard you have set. If it is right - then over your dead body do you let your child win. When a child pushes against the rules, it doesn't mean you should move them! They push to have security. They push so that: 1) they can be assured that this rule is legitimate; and 2) they can be assured that you never will bend on what is right.

*Never let someone else (with differing standards) raise your kids. Beware of permissive grandparents!

> --Discipline must be fair and consistent. Someone once said: My father would use a cannon to kill a mosquito! I either get away with murder, or get blamed for everything" (Wiersbe, p. 155).

3. The spankings should be <u>private</u> not public

B. "And Reproof"

Discipline is more than spanking.

Two parts to discipline (Prov. 29:15): "The Rod and Reproof" --
physical chastisement (negative)
verbal instruction (positive)

Eph. 6:4 - "Admonition" = lit. "to put into the mind" (not merely factual information, but right attitudes and principles of behavior)

Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is an axiomatic, eternal principle from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to begin, or initiate a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

Same word as when Solomon initiated/dedicated the newly-constructed Temple (I Ki. 8:63; II Chron. 7:5)

The word originally meant to "rub the palate" of a child with chewed dates to get it to acquire a taste for food; EX: midwives would rub palate with oil before child began to suck. The word means to make experienced or accustomed to what you want (as a horse gets accustomed to being directed by a rope in its mouth) (BDB, p. 335)

If we get our children accustomed to what is right, they won't depart!

"The way" = the proper road

"Old" = mature

"It" = the way (road) we trained them on

Teach your children God's standards for purity, money management, ethics, etc. (The best way to teach = by precept and example!)

VI. The NEGLECT of Discipline is CATASTROPHE!

A. Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness" -

B. Prov. 23:14 - "Hell" -

C. Prov. 29:15 - "Shame" -

VII. The GOAL of Discipline is the Child's WELL-BEING

A. Restoration - the child and parent will be close

The result of discipline is that the child will be brought back into line with what he should be.

Spanking is not punishment (to pay back), but discipline (to teach) right from wrong and to change attitude and action (Heb. 12)

B. Instruction - the child will learn the wages of sin

1) Your child needs to learn the difference between right & wrong

Many are living in the depths of sin today because of parents that didn't care enough to say: "No!" and restrain their children by discipline. One girl gave this testimony: "I never knew how far I could go . . . because my parents never cared enough to discipline me. I figured that if it wasn't important to them, why should it be to important to me?" (Wiersbe, p. 155).

2) Your child needs to learn the price for sin

Physical discipline teaches that sin always has consequences. Sin will always sting! There is a price for sin. The child sees himself as a law-breaking sinner in need of God's grace.

C. Discipline - the child will have sterling character and an ability to say no to selfish impulses

> "Discipline in a Biblical sense is training your children in the art of self-control. As parents, you need to help your children acquire the skills necessary for controlling their emotions." (Gary Ezzo, "Whatever Happened to Discipline?" [Masterpiece, Summer, 1992], p. 15).

"How to Raise a Selfish Brat" -

--When an infant, always feed on demand.
--When crying, always pick up.
--When having trouble sleeping, always rock to sleep.
--When throwing a fit, say, "Isn't that cute?"
--When the child disobeys, overlook it.
--When he/she has a conflict with a little friend, always defend your child.
--When the child wants something, always give it right away.
NOTE: A good parent always gives the child what he/she needs!--But what he/she sometimes needs is a NO!
--When the child sins, never spank or teach.
--If you do spank, do it inconsistently.
--When you want obedience, barter for it (EX: "If you're good, I'll give you this") The child learns to be a manipulator.

VIII. The BENEFIT of Discipline is BLESSING (Prov. 29:15, 17)

A. "Wisdom" -

B. "Rest" -

C. "Delight" -

CONCLUSION: Is there hope for parents who have been delinquent in training their children? Yes. it's never too late to make corrections. This is a giant step toward successful re-parenting.

First - call a Family Conference; explain you have made errors in their lives; apologize for them.

Second - explain what God requires in the areas of obedience and respect.

Third - explain new course of action from this time forward. Join in prayer for wisdom to do what is right (Ezzo, p. 81)

The best way to insure that your kids turn out right is for <u>you</u> (as parents) to be right.

If you are tolerant of sin in your life, you will tend to be tolerant with your children.

If you are overindulgent - your kids will generally get whatever they want.

If you are selfish - so will your kids be.

You will feel like a hypocrite trying to correct something in your kids that you are.

God Commands You to Discipline Your Child

Prov. 3:11-12 - "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.

Prov. 13:24 - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Prov. 23:13-14 - "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Prov. 29:15, 17 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

How long to spank?

By 5 years - 85% spanking should be completed

5-10 years - 95%

10-13 years - 99%

13-15 years -100%

Four Stages of Maturity:

1. **0-5 years - <u>Disciplinary</u> Stage**
   - must establish parental <u>authority</u>

2. **6-13 years - <u>Training</u> Stage**
   - must give <u>what</u> & <u>why</u> info.

3. **14-19 years - <u>Coaching</u> Stage**
   - give more <u>responsibility</u> (train toward independence)

4. **19 & up - <u>Friend</u> Stage**
   - Adult to adult. Give <u>advice</u> when it is requested.

For obedience to be real obedience, it must be:

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

2. **<u>Without Question</u>**

3. **Without Complaint**

4. **Complete**

Instruction - the child will learn "the wages of sin"

1) Your child needs to learn the difference between right & wrong

2) Your child needs to learn the price for sin

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II. The MOTIVE of Discipline is LOVE for the Child (Prov. 3:12)

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