



# Godly Children

2Tim. 3:15 "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"



# Conventional Wisdom States:

- “If (spanking) it's working so well, why does your child continue to push you to the edge? Spanking your kids may work to suppress his or her bad behavior temporarily, but it isn't a learning type of discipline. The message they get from being spanked is ‘I'm a bad kid,’ which doesn't help your child figure out what he or she did wrong — or how to keep from doing it again!”

# Conventional Cons to Spanking:

- Include increased aggressiveness, antisocial behavior, and delinquency
- Failure to learn right from wrong, subsequent criminal behavior, mental illness, child or spouse abuse as adults
- Reinforcing the idea that physical aggression is the way to get what one wants
- The more a child is spanked, the less close the parent/child relationship
- Dr. Phil... Phillip McGraw

# Conventional Wisdom States:

- Conventional wisdom from the father of the anti spanking movement, Dr. Benjamin Spock...
- “If we are ever to turn toward a kindlier society and a safer world, a revulsion against the physical punishment of children would be a good place to start.”

# Conventional Wisdom Comes And Goes With Fashions And Cultures

- Spartans
- Greeks
- Cybeleans
- They are gone, but the Bible is still here.
- Sweden and the 1979 Ban on Spanking
- USA slouching toward Gomorrah
- One day we will be gone, but the Bible will still be here.

# Conventional Wisdom Comes And Goes With Fashions And Cultures

- Do you believe in God?
- Do you believe He made you?
- If you believe He is wise enough to create and sustain all things, then you must believe He knows what is best for you and your children.

# Get The Facts Straight!

- “Not one of the 17 causally relevant studies found predominantly detrimental outcomes if they did anything to rule out parents who used physical punishment too severely.” (p. 209, *Child Outcomes of Nonabusive and Customary Physical Punishment by Parents: An Updated Literature Review in Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review 2000, 3(4):199-221*)

# Get The Facts Straight!

- These studies do not distinguish between parents who spank their children and parents who abuse their children. They begin with the assumption that spanking is by definition child abuse. This unwarranted assumption skews the stats, as they include parents who inflict physical damage (burns, broken bones, lacerations), sexual abuse, punishment with frequency and severity, verbal abuse, and abuse by abandonment. When parents who spank are considered apart from these, the incidence of juvenile delinquency, emotional disorders, and adult functional disorders among their children is lower than that of the children of non-spanking parents, and considerably lower than the national norm.

# Get The Facts Straight!

- “In published evaluations of Sweden's 1979 spanking ban, Dr. Durrant's data sources indicate an increase in physical child abuse (4.1% of Swedish parents compared to 1.9% of American parents) and of criminal assaults by juvenile delinquents since the ban (519% increase by minors under the age of 15). Although these increases cannot be proven to have been caused by the spanking ban, the increases cannot be easily explained away.” (*IBID*)

# Get The Facts Straight!

- “Methodologically strong studies have not established that normative physical punishment is a causal risk factor for the detrimental child outcomes with which it may be associated; a blanket injunction against disciplinary spanking is not warranted by causally relevant scientific evidence.” *(Dr. Diana Baumrind, University of California, Berkeley, address at the 109th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, August 24, 2001)*

# Get The Facts Straight!

- Den A. Trumbull, M.D. and S. DuBose Ravenel, M.D. (both practicing board-certified pediatricians) responded to various objections to the use of corporal punishment and offer guidelines for disciplinary spanking. They point out that most articles in this area are ***“merely opinion-driven editorials, reviews or commentaries, devoid of new empirical findings.”***

# Get The Facts Straight!

- “If spanking conveys the message to the child that violence is permissible to resolve conflicts, the same could be said of other forms of discipline. Thus, putting a child in time-out would convey the message that it is permissible to restrict the liberty of a person who displeases one. Likewise, fines would convey the idea that it is ok to take something away from another person when one was unhappy with them, etc. There is a difference between a responsible adult authority legitimately punishing wrongdoing and individuals indiscriminately beating up those who frustrate them. Children are capable of understanding this difference in context.” *(David Benatar, Corporal Punishment. Social Theory & Practice, Summer 1998, Vol. 24 Issue 2, p.237)*

# Wisdom In Raising Children

- Old formula for children who misbehave in worship, re-stated by Gary Ogden... “After trying briefly to get things under control (emphasis on briefly), then here is what you do:
  - Take them out.
  - Wear them out.
  - Bring them right back in.”

# Wisdom In Raising Children

- “Well, you say, suppose that does not work? Then the next thing you do is:
  - Take them out.
  - Wear them out.
  - Bring them right back in.”

# Wisdom In Raising Children

- “If that fails a second time, then you must:
  - Take them out.
  - Wear them out.
  - Bring them right back in.”
- Repeat until the child learns that it is unacceptable to misbehave during worship

# Children, Obey Your Parents

- The value of obedience
  - It is well-pleasing to the Lord, since it is what He did
  - Luke 2:51-52 - “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, *and was subject to them*, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

# Children, Obey Your Parents

- The value of obedience
  - It confers an important promise
  - Eph. 6:1-3 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

# Children, Obey Your Parents

- The seriousness of rebellion
  - 1Sam 15:22-23 - “Then Samuel said: Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

# Children, Obey Your Parents

- The seriousness of rebellion
  - Deut. 21:18-21 - “If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, 19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. 20 And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' 21 Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.”

# Inspired Wisdom In The Use Of Corporal Punishment

- Proper discipline is an expression of genuine love
  - Prov. 13:24 - “He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
  - No, “the rod” is not a metaphor for a time out.

# Inspired Wisdom In The Use Of Corporal Punishment

- Proper discipline has proper objectives
  - To remove foolishness from the child
    - Prov. 22:15 - “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.”
  - To save the soul of the child
    - Prov. 23:13-14 - “Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.”
  - To impart wisdom and to avoid shame
    - Prov. 29:15 - “The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

# Inspired Wisdom In The Use Of Corporal Punishment

- Proper discipline has rewards
  - Prov. 29:17 - “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.”

# Inspired Wisdom In The Use Of Corporal Punishment

- Proper application of corporal punishment
  - Prov. 19:18 - “Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”
- Rules:
  - To be applied before the situation gets out of hand, while there is hope for improvement
  - To be applied under controlled circumstances; do not put it off until you strike in anger
  - Corporal punishment should never be an expression of parental frustration; rather, a controlled method of discouraging bad behavior

## Proper Understanding of a Familiar Verse

- 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 occasionally leads to the common interpretation in which a child's future depends entirely on his training, especially in spiritual matters
  - If the child is brought up right by godly parents, the child must turn out all right
  - If a child is not a faithful Christian, it must always be due to a failure of the parents

## Proper Understanding of a Familiar Verse

- Does not account for the influence of the world around him
- Does not acknowledge the child's free will
- Incorrectly credits parents whose children do well
- Does not explain why children of bad parents occasionally do well
- Indicts God, who often loses His children to the world

# The Duty of Fathers

- Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
  - Don’t provoke children to wrath (i.e., discipline without love)
  - Do bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (i.e., discipline tempered with love)

# The Duty of Fathers

- In the world, people usually fall into two wrong extremes of child raising:
  - Discipline without love (physical child abuse)
  - Love without discipline (spiritual child abuse)
  - And both of them are sins

# God Manifests Love for His Children by Means of Discipline

- Heb. 12:5-11 - “And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

- We all want to leave a legacy in this world. Children raised in the Lord are the greatest legacy we could possibly leave behind.
- Gen. 18:17-19 - “And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

- Are you going to trust the shifting, changing fashions of contemporary philosophy in raising children?
- Or are you going to trust God who has given the children to you?
- Psalm 127:3-5 - “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”