

"For Whom the Lord Loves, He Chastens"

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. If I told you that there is a book out on the market that happens to be the best work ever written on child rearing authored by the best Father that has ever been. This book:
 - 1. Contains the rules of perfect parenthood,
 - 2. Answers all questions; puts forth a solution to all problems,
 - 3. Written to be understood by someone with a fifth grade education
 - 4. And the chapters on discipline are direct and unmistakable.
- B. If you were to buy this book and forget what you think you know and what others have said about child rearing, and follow this book's instructions to the letter, you will be the perfect parent, too.
 - 1. Chances are, you don't need to buy a copy; you probably own several copies. The Bible
- C. God is the perfect Father.
 - 1. Matt. 5:48, 7:9-11
 - 2. God is much better at parenting than you and me; reckon maybe we ought to trust what He says on the subject?

I. HIS DISCIPLINE IS MOTIVATED SOLELY BY LOVE

- A. Heb. 12:5-7 - The word "chasten" means to instruct or train.
 - 1. Discipline means to bring into conformity with a specified standard.
 - 2. We mistakenly make these words synonymous with punishment.
- B. God has a reason for properly training His children.
 - 1. Psalm 94:8-14; 1Cor. 11:32; Psalm 38:1-5, 14-18
- C. God does not punish His children in hot anger and rage.
 - 1. I have yet to read where God screams at His children, kicks them, or abuses them verbally or physically.
 - 2. If I would be the perfect father, the only motive I may have behind discipline and punishment must be love for my children.
 - 3. I must remember that there are four beings involved in child rearing: father, mother, child, and God.
 - a. He gave us the children to raise for Him.

II. HIS DISCIPLINE IS NOT INFLUENCED BY EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. God is not embarrassed to correct His children in public.
 - 1. He often corrected them in the presence of the world.
 - 2. Joshua 7:5-12 - Israel lost at Ai before the world because they sinned before God.
 - 3. 1Sam. 12:9-12 - Saul sinned in secret, but God was going to correct him before the nation of Israel.
 - a. Children must know that some activities are shameful.
 - b. This may not be PC according to the world's view of child rearing, but the world's philosophy has produced children who, in Florida, shoot tourists for recreation.

- c. Has produced children who carry guns and drugs to school.
 - d. Has produced children without a moral conscience or respect for anything or anyone.
- B. "I'm too embarrassed to correct my children in Walmart, etc."
 - 1. The child is already embarrassing me with her behavior.
 - 2. Transfer the shame, which is a natural consequence of bad behavior, to the source of that behavior.
- C. God is not influenced by the side effects of correcting His own.
 - 1. He is not concerned about what others think.
 - a. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, people who mean well.
 - b. When someone insisted on correcting me for correcting my children, I ask myself: "Where are his or her children?" If they raised up children who are faithful to God and an asset to the community, I sit up and listen.
 - c. If their children went wrong, I ignore the advice. If they persist, I ask them outright: "Where are your children?"
 - 2. He is not influenced by backtalk.
 - a. Lev. 10:6 - He told Aaron not to even mourn his sons.
 - b. Num. 16:41-45 - He punished those who questioned His punishment.
 - c. A parent should not fear retaliation by the child: anger, screams, hitting back, "I hate you."
 - d. Retaliation should be corrected, too - Prov. 19:18.

III. HIS DISCIPLINE IS CONSISTENT

- A. God told David that if he steps out of line like Saul did, he would be punished, too. 2Sam. 7
 - 1. God follows through on all of His promises.
 - 2. If we say to our children, "How many times have I told you not to do that," and they can answer more than one, we have fallen short.
- B. Parents need to follow the "Hot Stove Rule."
 - 1. Warn them that it is hot and dangerous.
 - 2. Regardless of who touches it, they get burnt.
 - 3. Every time it is touched, they will get burnt.
 - 4. It is for their own safety and wellbeing.
 - 5. Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-2 - Why do you think God gave children parents if not to protect them from their lack of knowledge.

IV. HIS DISCIPLINE IS PAINFUL

- A. God does not soften the blow.
 - 1. If I sin, I pay the price.
 - 2. Israel wandered 40 years in the wilderness.
 - 3. Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land.
- B. When parents give children optional time outs, the child is learning in his formative years that Mom and Dad are pushovers, and that he can misbehave without real consequences.

1. In the real world, folks, sin causes pain; it has consequences. And shielding our children from the pain of their mistakes is a dis-service to the children.
 2. After living a sheltered life at home with parents who clean up their children's messes, the child will leave home for the real world and be shocked to death.
- C. The parent who knows that God is better qualified to raise children than the world will follow the Bible's instruction and dismiss the world
1. Prov. 13:24, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15

Conclusion:

- A. Before we can become better parents, we need to learn to be better children, obedient to our own Father in heaven.
 1. Heb. 5:8-9