

TWO BIBLE GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE

If you understand these two guidelines you should know how to apply discipline to any situation.

- a. In a home where discipline is properly administered everyone is relaxed and comfortable in each others presence. The better you are at disciplining the less you will have to do it.
- b. Remember illustration comparing discipline to the fire on a gas stove. We can be relaxed around it as long as we don't cross certain lines. If you ever cross that line you will get burned. Successful parents discipline like the fire on a gas stove. Children can be relaxed around them but they know where the lines are and they know the consequences for crossing the line.
- c. How do we achieve the same consistency the fire has

I. NEVER REPEAT A CLEAR ORDER (Except after punishment)

- a. **Every time you give your child an order you draw a line and imply there will be punishment for disobedience** even if you don't specifically state the consequences before hand (I recommend you do).
- b. **Illustration** (Ethan and the High Chair): "Ethan don't stand up in the high chair."
 - (1) Don't remind
 - (2) Don't Beg
- c. **Repeating an order implies YOU ARE NOT SERIOUS.**
 - (1) You are lying.
 - (2) You are bluffing.
 - (3) You Don't Really Mean What You Say.
 - (4) You are Playing A Game (Amanda)

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. ([Jas 5:12](#))

- (5) Swearing Implies you are serious: "I swear, I will spank you if you stand up again Ethan."
- (6) Actions speak louder than words. By doing what you say you will do, you will not need to swear.
- (7) "Let your yea be yea." Let you no be no.

d. **The degree to which your child obeys you is the degree to which your child believes he will be punished for disobedience.**

- (1) Ethan should be told not to stand up and he should be spanked every single time he crosses the line.
- (2) Forgetting is no excuse for disobedience. I guarantee if you cross the line and put your hand in the fire you will get burnt. When a child has gotten burned he will never have to be reminded again.
- (3) How can you spank a small toddler? A swift pat on the backside followed by verbal correction and comforting can not be compared to what happens when a child falls from a high chair. (Shawn and Toddler).

e. **Children should be disciplined early in life so it will not be as necessary as they grow older.** (Some don't begin to spank until 8 or 9)

Whoever refuses to spank his son hates him, but whoever loves his son disciplines him from early on. (Pro 13:24 GW)

(1) From Early on means when they are young (toddlers)

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. (Pro 13:24 KJV)

- (2) Chasteneth him betimes" – Every time he disobeys.
- (3) Other versions says the parent that loves the child "is careful to discipline him."
- (4) This implies responsibility. Paul speaking of church discipline said,

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2Co 10:6)

Or, rather as a parent or minister you will discipline every act of disobedience if you are obedient to Christ yourself.

- (5) Discipline every time disobedience occurs. (Joe and Drew & the consequences of not following through)
- (6) The consequences for not following through is much more severe than if each act of disobedience was taken care of when it happened.

Transition: **How do you know where to draw the line?** We try to define what bad is and avoid it. Discipline should never be based upon the negative. It should be based upon the positive. So Guideline Number Two:

II. EXPECT YOUR CHILD TO BE A DELIGHT AND BRING PEACE

a. To you and Others: Parents used to be concerned about how others viewed their children. They were careful to ensure their children were not being a nuisance to others. That may not be the case today so I will take the liberty to remind parents of their responsibility for keeping their kids under control.

b. So where does a parent draw the line?

- (1) Bad is so subjective. Different definitions for bad.
- (2) Sleeping during the sermon is bad.
- (3) Sleeping during the sermon is good.
- (4) I've seen parents totally unconcerned that their toddler, allowing them to run loose in church.
- (5) I've seen some parents grab a kid up and take them out for touching something that belonged to someone else without asking.

c. Illustration: Friends with little hellions.

- (1) They get into everything.
- (2) They break things.
- (3) They make messes the parents won't clean up.
- (4) Are you wrong for not wanting them back?

d. A parent and others should expect children to be a delight. This is where we get the old saying, "I child should be seen and not heard."

Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. ([Pro 29:17 KJV](#))

Correct your son, and he will give you peace of mind. He will bring delight to your soul. ([Pro 29:17 GW – God's Word](#))

e. If your child is not being a delight and bringing peace to you and others he or she has crossed the line.

f. Expect your child to be a delight and bring peace to you and others.

CONCLUSION:

- Never repeat an order: Follow through.
- Expect your child to be a delight and bring peace.

Next Week: Could discipline get out of hand. Could discipline lead to abuse? Yes.

Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

Techniques for Successful Disciplining.