

Godly Child Training (Part 2)
Methods of Godly Training
February 21, 2016

Introduction

When God made man, He created a boundary for man and woman to live in. That boundary was that they could eat anything from any of the trees except one. He warned them that to eat of the tree is to die. God did not place this boundary to frustrate them or tease them. He placed it for their protection, and within that boundary, God gave them good things to eat and enjoy. God then extends that boundary creation responsibility to the parents.

Parents erect boundaries around children for their protection [**slide 1**]. If we are living in the fear of God and want to train our children God's way, then the boundaries we set up are God's law. Within the boundaries is the fear of God or faith in Christ. As long as we stay within the boundaries and enjoy God's good gifts, we are safe. This is what parents need to teach and train their children—how to stay within the boundaries of God's law and live in the fear of YHWH.

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.* [**slide 2**]

Solomon tells us how the parents are to keep their children within the boundaries: the rod and rebuke.

I. The Rod

- What is rod? [**slide 3**]
 - Literally
 - Hebrew—*shebet*
 - Instrument used for various purpose—usually a piece of wood (or stick)
 - Weapon (**2 Samuel 23:21**)
 - Used as a rod to herd or protect sheep (**Ps 23:4**)
 - Used as correction (**Prov 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15**)
 - Symbolically [**slide 4**]
 - Think sword in Romans

Romans 13:4 *For he [governing authority] is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*

- Government's legitimate power to enforce punishment for lawbreakers
- Rod = God-given authority for parents to discipline children to enforce house law
 - Can include spanking (by hand or by instrument)
 - Can include grounding, time-out, chore, etc
 - Rod is wide-ranging in use of discipline
 - Rod includes punishment and/or enforcement of restrictions
- Parental authority
 - God has given Dad and Mom the authority as one unit to hand out discipline
- Why do we need to use the rod? [**slide 5**]
 - Keeps children within the boundaries
 - In context of fear of God means to live within the boundaries
 - To cross over the boundary is to break the law and that is sin (trespass) [**slide 6**]

Leviticus 5:15 *If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of YHWH, then he shall bring to YHWH as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering.* [**slide 7**]

- The use of rod is to teach children that crossing the boundary is wrong [**slide 8**]
 - The necessity is that it will save children from *sheol*
- Save children from *sheol* [**slide 9**]

Proverbs 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. [sheol]*

- *Sheol* means “grave” (where we go when we die)
 - It is ambiguous—can be either physical death or eternal death
 - By crossing the boundaries and continuing past it leads to death [**slide 10**]
 - Discipline protects children from death
 - Discipline is for their good
 - It is not always easy to discipline (for the parents and for the children)
 - However withholding discipline or correction is to remove boundaries [**slide 11**]
 - We are telling children that there are no consequences for their actions
 - Children believe they can get away with anything
 - They become fools and/or serial lawbreakers
 - They do not respect authority
 - By resisting authority, they can end up poor, incarcerated, or dead
- Foolishness is bound in heart of child [**slide 12**]

Proverbs 22:15 *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

- Because of sin, all children want to rebel against the Authority—God [**slide 13**]
 - This is total depravity
 - Foolishness is knit to the soul (it is part of their nature)
 - They want to do what they want, not what God wants
 - Example: a child saying no to a parent’s command
 - They say no because they do not want to do it
 - The sinful nature wants to go past the boundaries set up by God
 - By not disciplining the child, foolishness reigns unchecked
 - God commands parents to help drive out foolishness at a young age [**slide 14**]
 - This is applying pressure from the outside and teaching and pray that the inside will change
- Love is the motive for discipline [**slide 15**]

Proverbs 13:24 *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

- This is why we discipline our children—love [**slide 16**]
 - We are doing it for them, not for us
 - Discipline is not for the parents’ selfish gratification
 - Love your neighbor as yourself
 - We want them to remain in the boundaries so they can experience peace, joy, and security within God’s world
 - We do this to protect our children
 - By refusing or neglecting to discipline children, the parent(s) are showing that they do not care about children’s future or soul [**slide 17**]
- New Testament principle [**slide 18**]

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

- How can we provoke anger in children?

- By not disciplining our children to the fear of God
- By seeking approval from children to satisfy their ego
- By having unreasonable, excessive rules
- Punishing children based on unrealistic rules
 - Example: having a 2-year-old take out the trash and if they fail, then they are punished
- Punishing children excessively (abusive)
- Punishing children with harsh words (psychological abuse)
- Tips on godly training [**slide 19**]
 - Doing it early and on time

Proverbs 13:24 *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

- Consistency [**slide 20**]
 - Say what you mean and mean what you say
 - You are telling the child that you are using your God-given authority to give the following order
 - And enforce the order if it is not followed
 - Not saying what you mean [**slide 21**]
 - Bluffing
 - Example: I will take your phone for one week—not following through
 - Contradicting orders
 - Example: Dad says one thing and Mom says another
 - Parents are not to contradict each other
 - Parents are not to let the child use one against another
 - Parents are not to use children to use against another
 - Changing rules
 - Example: Do not eat on couch (however on Fridays popcorn allowed when watching movie)
 - What happens when we do not say what we mean?
 - Equated with lying
 - Communicating that they can ignore God-given orders
 - Communicating that disobedience is safe and there are no consequences
 - Communicating by saying things and not meaning it
- Age-appropriate discipline and requirements [**slide 22**]
 - Boundaries and law are small when children are young
 - Punishment start small as well
 - Boundaries and law expand as child grows older as their understanding increases [**slide 23**]

II. The Rebuke

Proverbs 29:15 *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. [**slide 24**]*

- Rebuke = instruction, correction [**slide 25**]
 - Parents must teach, evangelize, guide, rebuke and encourage a child
 - All that we have studied in Proverbs
 - The key is fear of YHWH [**slides 26 and 27**]

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Proverbs 14:27 *The fear of YHWH is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.*

Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of YHWH teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

- Discipline and instruction [**slide 28**]
 - Parents are to instruct before and after the use of the rod
 - We cannot separate discipline from instruction [**slide 29**]
 - Parents are always to use discipline for the purpose of teaching the child
 - We should not be disciplining children if they do not know the rules
 - Example: Daughter (5 years old) washed phone with water because it was dirty
 - What we are to do is to teach them at that moment why that is not appropriate—establish the law
- Creating the boundary [**slide 30**]
 - We teach our children that within the boundary is the fear of God
 - The boundary is God's law [**slide 31**]

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 *Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. 10 Remember the day you stood before YHWH your God at Horeb, when He said to me, "Assemble the people before Me to hear My words so that they may learn to revere Me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children." [**slides 32-33**]*

- We are to use God's word to teach our children [**slide 34**]

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. [**slide 35**]*

- Training and admonition (counsel)—what training?
 - Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

- The whole counsel of God's word [**slide 36**]

Acts 20:27 *For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

Coram Deo

There will be parents who may realize that they have not been able to be the parent God wants them to be. Is it too late? No, it is better late than never. Start today to be the godly parent that God calls you to be. It starts with the attitude that we are training our children to be God-fearers not good moral people. We are training children for their good and benefit so they can grow to fear God. It takes much time, energy, and dedication. We do this because we love God and we love our children