



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 19, 2008

Heart to Heart...

We need God's insight and wisdom in order to instruct and train our children in the paths of righteousness. I pray that each and every parent has a heart for their child to be godly and a servant in the Lord's service. In order to achieve that, we need to understand God's teaching on disciplining our children, correcting them when they are in the wrong. God is for spanking! That might make some cringe but that does not change the fact. We will use the Proverbs, God's inspired book of wisdom, to teach us as parents what to do with our children in regard to spanking. Spanking understood and used properly is a demonstration of true love.

"He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently." (Proverbs 13:24)

"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15) Spanking (the rod of discipline) has great objectives. It is to remove hurtful ways from the heart of a child.

"Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol." (Proverbs 23:13-14) Spanking is done with a proper mindset. Children do wrong and it upsets us. We need to not react in anger, but realize the good for the soul of your child. The intended goal of all spankings is to rescue his soul, not lashing out at the child.

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother." (Proverbs 29:15) You watch a child that gets their own way. It may be in a form of a temper tantrum or refusing to listen until mom or dad "buys" them off with something. They learn to play the game how to get their own way and eventually that behavior will shame the parents! The rod stops all this nonsense and makes them listen.

"Correct your son and he will give you comfort; he will also be the delight of your soul." (Proverbs 29:17) The reward of discipline is a delightful child!

"Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death." (Proverbs 19:18) The spanking is to be applied before the life of the child gets out of hand. A child that will not listen or mind is shortening their own life (Ephesians 6:1-3) and by not disciplining, you are aiding to that shortness.

Remember, spanking has an intended purpose and that is not to beat or a release of the parent's anger. It is to help instruct and guide them in the ways of righteousness. It takes away harmful desires from the heart of the child. Life is too short and our children grow up too fast to raise our children through trial and error. We need godly parents willing to put in the time and effort to help their children make it to heaven. Think about it!!!

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