

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

The world is affecting the mindset of parents and many of those in Christ. Modern day “professionals” are teaching us about disciplining our children, what is proper and improper. God’s teachings get pushed into the background or completely rejected. For some in Christ, they choose the mindset of the world over the teachings of God (I John 4:5-6).

God, in His great and wonderful wisdom, set forth what a child needs to help them develop. The Proverbs, a book of God’s wisdom, gives us great insight what God expects of parents in regard to the proper use of corporeal punishment. Some reject the Proverbs, saying it is Old Testament and not for us. That’s not what the New Testament teaches. “All Scripture is inspired of God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” (II Tim. 3:16) What we must keep in mind, God’s word is written to the *believing* saint, not the world. It’s to the faithful not the unfaithful.

When we bring up the idea of corporeal punishment (spanking), many cringe. Why? It’s about their mindset. I know people abuse their children but we aren’t speaking to those who do such things. They are the unfaithful! It concerns me that our minds are set more after the thinking of the world than the thinking of God. Others, because they never spanked their children, use that as the standard for raising children. We need to use God and His standard. Our minds need to be set on God and His ways so we can be transformed (Rom. 12:1-2). Without a proper mind set, we can be introducing fleshly ways or ideas to others and not even aware of where we are leading them. That’s one of the greatest struggles I’ve seen in the Lord’s church. Many times we approach things in life from the world’s mindset, a natural, fleshly mind set and not aware of the spiritual deterioration it can cause in others. We need God’s wisdom to know when, how and where to spank. God is for spanking your children according to His way despite what others may say. There are spiritual benefits to it and it’s a demonstration of true love.

The Hebrew writer speaks of God “scourges” His children. “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.” (Heb. 12:6) God disciplines His children and He uses pain to get our attention when we are wandering off the path (12:9-11). Using that same principle, we need to “scourge” our children when they leave the path of right. It trains them in righteousness and prepares their heart to receive the discipline of God as an adult.

More next week on “corporeal punishment” using the Proverbs. Think about it!!!

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