

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

We need God's insight and instruction in training/teaching our children to be godly and faithful to Him. God's wisdom gives us direction in the proper use of spanking our children when they are on the wrong path. We will use the Proverbs, God's inspired wisdom, to teach us as parents what to do with our children in regard to this. Spanking used properly is a demonstration of true love.

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

"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him." (Prov. 22:15) Spanking (the rod of discipline) has proper 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." (Prov. 23:13-14) Spanking is done with a proper mindset. It's not to be done out of anger or lashing out, but understanding the intended goal.

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother." (Prov. 29:15) You watch a child that won't listen to the voice of the mother or father. They are used to getting their own way and that behavior will shame the parent. The "*rod*" stops all of this.

"Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also be the delight of your soul." (Prov. 29:17) This is the reward of all discipline! "Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death." (Prov. 19:18) The spanking is to be applied before the life of the child gets out of hand ("*while there is hope*"). A child who won't mind or listen is shortening his own life (Eph. 6:1-3) and by not disciplining, you can be aiding that.

When we speak of spanking as discipline, we need to be careful that we use it for the intended purpose. It's not to release your anger, but help to instruct and guide. It takes hurtful ways out of the heart of the child. Again, as stated last week, we aren't speaking of abuse or to those who abuse. They will be held accountable to the Lord. We are speaking to the sincere parent, who humbly walks with the Lord, trying to please Him in all aspects and raise godly children. Life is too short and families grow up too fast for us to raise our children through trial and error. It's not about how you were raised and dealt with. It's about God and His ways we need to conform to. Think about it!!!

Brent