

DISCIPLINED CHILDREN

Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1

Introduction:

- A. Parents must accept responsibility for child rearing: Care and training.
 - 1. Others may assist, but cannot shift responsibility and authority to others -not even the church.
 - 2. Nor, may others assume responsibility and authority.
- B. Parents must discipline them "in the Lord". (Eph. 6:4).
 - 1. As opposed to little or no discipline: Of psychologists, public opinion, grandparents.
 - 2. As opposed to excessive and abusive discipline: the real point of our text.
- C. Parents need to study three aspects of discipline.

Discussion:

II. It's Complex Nature. (Heb. 12:11)

- A. An element of instruction. (Paid-eia; -utees; -uo)
 - 1. Paidion = Children, young children.
 - 2. Paidia: Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 12:5,7,8,11).
 - 3. Paidutees: Rom. 2:20; Heb. 12:9
 - 4. Paiduo: Lk. 23:16,22; Acts 7:22; 22:3; 1 Cor. 11:32; 2 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Tit. 2:12; Heb. 12:6,7,10; Rev. 3:19).
- B. An element of restriction. (v. 5; cf 1 Sam. 2:12,22-26; 3:11-14).
- C. An element of affliction. (v. 6,11; cf. Lupe=pain) - Prov. 22:15; 23:14-15; 29:15).
- D. An element of affection. (v. 6; Prov. 13:24).

III. It's Compassionate Purposes.

- A. To signal love and acceptance. (Heb. 12:7-9).
- B. To correct rather than merely control. (Heb. 12:9).
- C. To insure future happiness and righteousness. (Heb. 12:11).
 - 1. Undisciplined child has problems in real world - miserable and makes others so.
 - 2. Undisciplined child has problems with disciplining himself to be faithful to Lord. (Eph. 6:4).
- D. To impress seriousness of wrong-doing by feeling pain.
 - 1. Contrary to positive alternative approach.
 - 2. Contrary to "mommy angry", but won't hurt you approach.
 - 3. Contrary to no guilt feelings approach.

IV. It's Careful Administration. (cf. 1 Tim. 3:4-5).

- A. General principles of Christianity cannot be set aside in child-discipline.
- B. Child-discipline that conforms to principles will be effective and without abuse.
 - 1. Fairness (cf. Lk. 12:47-48).
 - 2. Reasonable. (cf. Jas. 1:19; Col. 3:21; Phil. 4:5).
 - 3. Consistent. (cf. Jas. 1:8; Matt. 11:18,19) - Consistent policy w/ both parents.
 - 4. Balanced. (cf. Matt. 4:4) - firm & merciful; direction and correction.
 - 5. Humility. (cf. Gal. 6:1). If make mistake admit it, say "I am sorry".

Conclusion:

- A. Teach - Train - Discipline.
- B. His future usefulness and yours in church could depend on it.