

Resetting Our Parenting Paradigm
Discipline vs. Instruction – Is it an either or?

- I. God's Discipline of us – Our Model for Our Discipline of Our Children.
 - A. Why Does God Discipline us (His Children) – Why should we discipline our children? Hebrews 12: 1 - 11
 1. For what reason(s)?
 - Sin (vs. 1, 4 – 9)
 - Not for annoyance, embarrassment, etc.
 2. For what goal?
 - Holiness (vs. 10)
 - Peaceable fruit of righteousness (vs. 11)
 - B. How does God discipline us (His children) – How should we discipline our children?
 1. Lovingly (Hebrews 12:6)
 - God never disciplines out of anger.
 - Application: No need to raise our voice as part of discipline. (Prov. 22:15; 29:15)
 2. Immediately (Acts 5:1 – 5)
 - Often we do not sense immediate affects, but our relationship is immediately broken.
 - Application: Not after a warning(s). (Prov. 13:24)
 3. Consistently (Acts 5:7 – 10)
 - Does God ever overlook sin? Just once?
 - Application: Each and every time with each child. (Prov. 13:24)
 4. Proportionately
 - God is always fair. He never lets His wrath get the best of Him, causing Him to over discipline. He never grows complacent causing Him to under discipline.
 - Application: Proportionate with the sin and proportionate between children. (Prov. 23:13,14)

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C. How does God expect us to respond to His discipline – How should we expect our children to respond?

1. We are to accept it. (Proverbs 3:11,12)
2. We are to ask forgiveness. (I John 1:9)

D. How does God respond when we accept His discipline and seek forgiveness – How should we respond to our children when they accept discipline and seek forgiveness?

1. He forgives us. (I John 1:9)
2. He chooses not to remember our sins against us. (Jer. 31:34)

II. What does this look like in real life?

A. Ephesians 6:4

1. Notice the order of the commands.
 - a. The command to “not provoke your children to wrath” comes first.
 - i. How does a parent provoke his/her child to wrath?
 - 1) Be unloving in your discipline.
 - 2) Be inattentive in your discipline.
 - 3) Be inconsistent in your discipline.
 - 4) Be disproportionate in your discipline.
2. Discipline presupposes Instruction.
 - Remember discipline is for sin. Your child needs to be taught what sin is. (Not how to sin, they are born with that perfected.)
 - i. The most tangible evidence of sin in a young child’s life is disobedience.
 - ii. The primary lesson a child needs to learn from 0 – 5 is: “Cheerfully and immediately obey mommy and daddy.” They will then be ready to listen to and obey everything else you will teach them throughout their lives.
 - iii. This puts the responsibility on the parent. A child of any age cannot disobey something they have never been taught.
3. Discipline is always within the context of Instruction.
 - a. The act of discipline itself is to include instruction.
 - b. The act of discipline should include a step to confirm they have learned the instruction.
4. Discipline and Instruction are to point our children to the Lord.
 - The real goal in parenting/discipline is to get to their heart!

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B. Proverbs

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