

*Resetting Our Parenting Paradigm*  
**Growing with Your Children**

No matter how much we would like to think sometimes, our children will not be “our little babies” for long. If we are honest we are glad that is true, but it is intimidating, because their growing up means that they are changing, which means their needs are changing, which means we cannot “parent” without changing.

Our goal never changes...but the methods do.

- Independent of me, dependent on God and responsible for their actions = godly

I. Review from last week:

A. Discipline and Instruction are inseparable.

B. Discipline and Instruction must always be given:

- i. Lovingly
- ii. Immediately
- iii. Consistently
- iv. Proportionately

C. Discipline and Instruction must always point our children to the Lord.

D. Discipline and Instruction must always be for the purpose of:

- i. Teaching our children to accept discipline.
- ii. Teaching our children to seek forgiveness from those they offend and God.
- iii. Granting forgiveness and restoring the relationship.
  - Characteristics of a godly person.

E. Questions from last week:

- i. Does God ever isolate us as part of His discipline?
- ii. Does God ever ignore our sin “hoping” it will eventually “go away?”

II. Discipline and Instruction at different ages.

A. Secular Counsel:

- “By age four...she may openly disobey family rules, talk back, or even swear at you. She’ll often behave badly just to annoy you. As irritating and embarrassing as this behavior may be, it’s rarely a sign of emotional illness and usually disappears by school age if you take a relaxed approach to it.
  - *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child* – Bantam Books, NY, 1998. The American Academy of Pediatrics, pg. 371

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- “As difficult as it may be, the best way to deal with your misbehaving toddler is to isolate her briefly. No attention. No toys. No fun. This strategy, known as “timeout,” works like this:...”
  - *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child* – Bantam Books, NY, 1998. The American Academy of Pediatrics, pg. 285
- “Extinction is a disciplinary technique that is most effective with two- and three-year-olds, though it may continue to be useful into school years. The idea is to *systematically* ignore the child whenever he breaks a certain rule.”
  - *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child* – Bantam Books, NY, 1998. The American Academy of Pediatrics, pg. 324
- This counsel is a result of an unbiblical view of our children. Secularists see our children as being born good (or for some neutral) and that a parent’s job is to “not do anything that will harm their goodness (or direct them toward evil).”

B. Biblical Counsel:

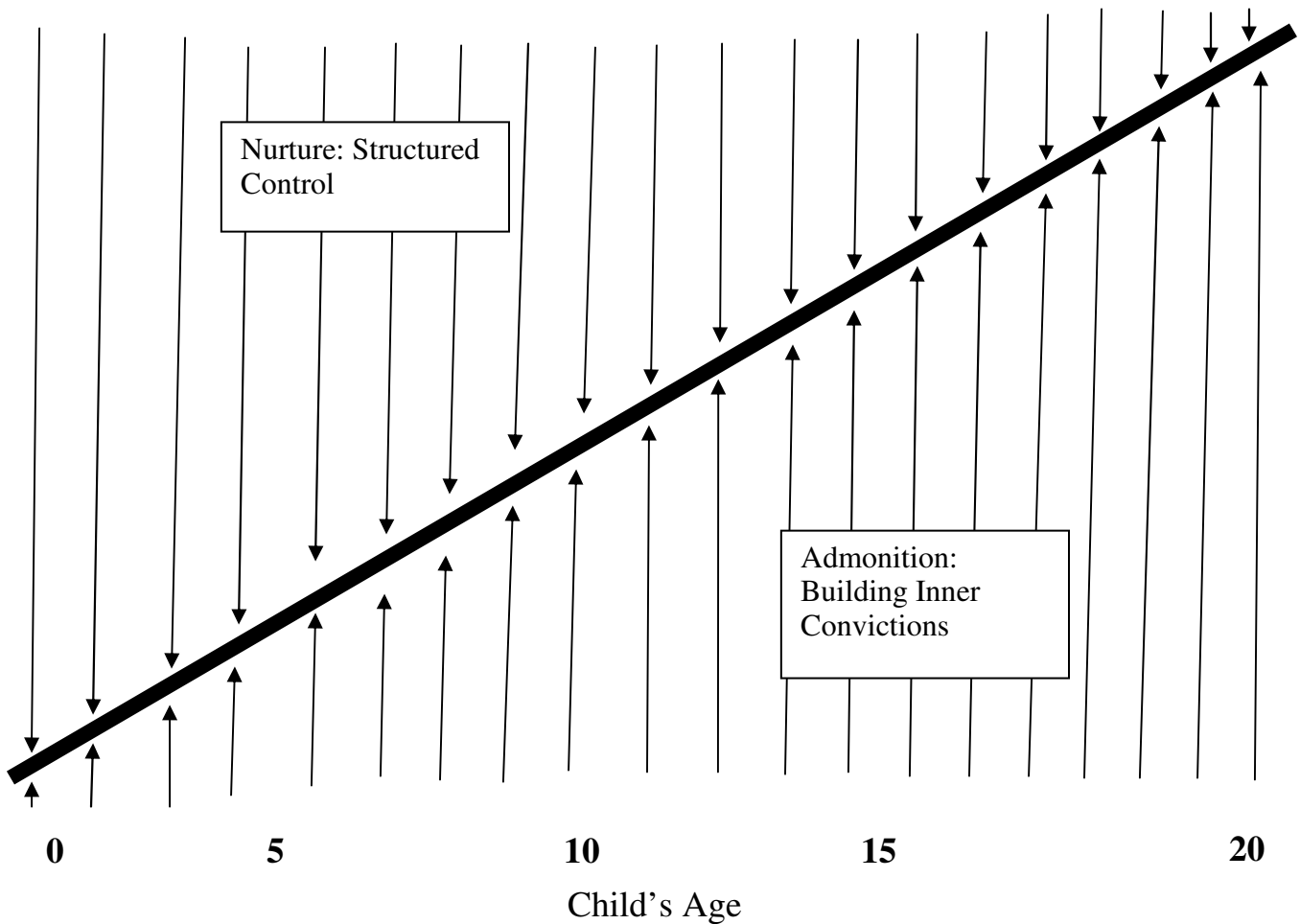
1. God’s Word is never changing. His methods do not change with popular opinion.
  2. Our question is not “what works,” but rather what does God say?
- God views our children as born sinners. Separated from God. Doomed to spend eternity in Hell. It is our responsibility as parents to train our children so that they will have a “biblical self-understanding.” They will see themselves as sinners in need of a Savior and see in us a pure relationship with God.
    - i. Use of the Rod (primarily, but not exclusively from age 0 – ~5).
      - a.) Proverbs 13:24
      - b.) Proverbs 22:15
      - c.) Proverbs 23:13,14
      - d.) Proverbs 29:15
  - Observations:
    - a.) It is a rod and not your hand.
      - Your hands should be associated with warm affection.
      - Protects you and your child from “not knowing your own strength.”
    - b.) 13:24 => God says that not using the rod is the same as hating your child.
    - c.) 13:24 => The rod is to be used early and promptly (“betimes”).
    - d.) 22:15 => The rod is one of God’s tools to drive foolishness (not childishness) out of our children.
    - e.) 23:13 => God promises protection when the rod is applied properly.
    - f.) 23:14 => The rod is one of God’s tools to bring eternal benefit to our children.
    - g.) 29:15 => The rod is one of God’s tools to train our children in wisdom.

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- Application (drawn from today and last week):
  - a.) Use of the rod is the biblical method for discipline given by God for the purpose of training our children to be godly.
  - b.) The rod should be used lovingly, immediately, consistently and proportionately.
  - c.) When used this way there will be a gradual decrease in the need for discipline of this kind and a gradual increase in the type of instruction they can comprehend.

CHART:

Ephesians 6:4



Admonition with no Nurture = No Structure  
 Nurture with no Admonition = No Convictions

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- ii. Loss of Privileges (For ages ~5 - ~Teen).
  - a.) Deut. 30:9-20
  - b.) Jeremiah 25:4-11
  - Observations
    - a.) Deut. 30:9-20
      - God gave a positive blessing for obedience and a loss of privilege (loss of the Land) for disobedience)
      - The expectations were clearly spelled out, along with the positive and negative consequences.
    - b.) Jeremiah 25:4-11
      - God kept His promise. It was not an empty threat.
      - God's desire was to see them repent
      - God sent the Prophets to confront them with their sin to bring repentance.
  - Application
    - a.) As our children grow the amount of information and explanation needs to increase.
    - b.) Our children need to clearly understand the positive blessings for obedience and the consequences for disobedience.
    - c.) When they disobey we must show them their sin for the purpose of repentance and reconciliation.
- iii. Teach, Talk, Conversation...Time...Time...Time! (Teen years)
  - a.) Hebrews 3:12,13
  - Observations
    - a.) We are to be observant enough to see if there is anything in another brother's life that is drawing them away from the Lord.
    - b.) There is to be daily encouragement/exhortation.
    - c.) For the purpose of preventing hardness of heart.
    - d.) The other will not see their need, since sin is deceitful.
  - Application
    - a.) A teen's heart is solidifying into what it will be for the rest of his/her life.
    - b.) You have to know your teen's hearts and what they are dealing with.
    - c.) You must spend time daily talking to them about real life issues.
    - d.) Not in a tone of rebuke, but encouragement and genuine care for their souls!