

Hebrews 12.5-17

Love, Gives Spankings?

What do you THINK about Parents SPANKING their Children?

AWKWARD! That's a great SUBJECT to Cause an Argument

Spanking Today goes w/ Words – Abuse, Monster, Cruel, Bruises, CPS!

TEXT – Teaches GOD HIMSELF administers Strong DISCIPLINE!

1. Three Proofs that Discipline comes from the Father's Loving Heart

a. Scriptures

vs. 5,6 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Pastor continues to DO what we have been Seeing him do for 12 chapters

PREACH a Sermon based on SCRIPTURE > Standard is God's WORD

Here Quoting PROVERBS 3 >> Encouragement Children >> Sons

SONS > refers to ADULT Sons, NOT Infants

God LOVES Us Too Much to be PAMPERED Babies > wants GROW

DISCIPLINE is a Sign of Maturing > Never DONE being a PARENT

Returned from 12 years in China in 2021 > Drove across USA

Visited Friends / Colleagues / Classmates / Supporters > All GEEZERS

SAD Words: "*We cannot talk to our kids about the Lord any more!*"

How is your Walk w/ God? Do they SEE it? > Is it JUST Words??

Are you INTERESTED/Engaged/Loving in their LIVES? > Lines OPEN!

Speak w/ HUMILITY and COMPASSION about JESUS!

If YOU don't talk to Family, Friends, about JESUS – Who WILL?

b. Personal Experience (2<sup>nd</sup> Proof Discipline from Father's Loving Heart)

vs. 7-10 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Writer ARGUES from Lesser to Greater > Earthly Father > God FATHER

All of us had FATHER > Even if SPERM came from a BANK

MAN helped Bring You into World > Even if he TOOK OFF on YOU

ANCIENT World > Discipline was Unquestioned DUTY of the FATHER  
 CHILD who was NOT Disciplined Considered REJECTED / Neglected  
 EARTHLY Father cares Enough Kid to DISCIPLINE > Imperfectly  
 SPANKING? Biblical Done w/ Love & Control – *I was Out of Control!*  
 ARE Terrible ABUSES – Kids Treated Terribly – Even by Christians!  
 Text – NOT Defending Bad Parents > Even Bad Parents reflect Good God

Good GOD Not CANDY MAN > Not ATM Machine OR Sugar DADDY  
 BAD Theology teaches We Always GET Miracles, Health, Wealth  
 God is SOVEREIGN and WISE > Loves too Much to give ALL WANTS

### c. Blessed Results (3<sup>rd</sup> Proof Discipline from Father's Loving Heart)

vs. 11-13 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Hard to Believe Spanking Parent says “Hurts ME, more than does U!”

My Dad hit me with BELT Once and then HE STARTED Crying

NEVER Hit me AGAIN > Belt Hurt Awhile, his TEARS hurt for Years

If he LOVED me that Much – Thought Twice before DISOBEYING

v. 11 Need to be “trained by” DISCIPLINE > NOT Negative WORD

KEY Word ‘chastening’ = ‘child training’ in Greek

Greek Boy expected to Work Out in Gymnasium until Maturity

Seen as IMPORTANT Preparation for ADULT Life

## 2. Three Responses to God's Discipline

a. Stoic – One Grimly Accepts what he Cannot AVOID

v. 5 “Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord”

DEFIANT Resignation > Without GRATITUDE > W/Out HOPE

Saw NO PURPOSE in Suffering > Never Learns its LESSONS

Seeking Simply to GET the STRUGGLE Over With

Wants to Get Thru STORM Get Back to SUNNIER Days

Seen > RUN from Lesson, God teaches same Lesson where you RUN

b. Self Pity v. 5 “nor be weary when reproved by Him”

Some REJOICE when Receiving BLESSINGS

Turn to Sullen RESENTMENT when God Blesses with TRIALS

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness... Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” James 1.2-3,12

Never make PROGRESS until See TRIALS as Part of Xtian LIFE

Not SIGN of NEGLECT > but of God’s FATHERLY CARE

c. Sons & Daughters - 3<sup>rd</sup> Response to God’s Discipline

v. 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Alexander Maclaren – Great Preacher / Reformed Baptist / Scotland

TEXT like LIGHTHOUSE > Don’t Notice Much when SUN Shining

But when DARK, Ship caught in STORMS/Winds, Shrouded by FOG

BLAZING Lighthouse > Shows WAY to TAKE You into Safe HARBOR

Pastor wants THINK Rightly about TROUBLES they are ENDURING

Urges them Be STEADFAST During times of TRIAL

Do NOT Draw WRONG CONCLUSION > Trouble NOT Abandonment

God is SOVEREIGN Over ALL of our LIFE > GOOD and BAD

Some Parents REFUSE to Discipline Kids > Want to be Just FRIENDS

Leads to CONTEMPT Not Admiration

Parents GROW in Respect when Kids have Clear BOUNDARIES

v. 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness

Earthly Discipline has VALUE for THIS World

Discipline of Heavenly Father > Offers SKILLS that Last for Eternity

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14.17

Earthly Fathers disciplines AS SEEMS Best to THEM

Even BAD DAD makes POSITIVE Influence by Discipline

GOD Not BAD DAD > All His Intentions are HOLY & GOOD > LOVE

“In every trial, small or great; first of all, and at once recognize God’s hand in it. Say at once; My Father has allowed this to come; I welcome it from Him; my first care is to glorify Him in it; He will make it a blessing. We may be sure of this; let us by faith rejoice in it.” Andrew Murray

Sometimes God USES Chastening to PUNISH Sin in our LIVES

Fatherly Correction > Not Wrath > God-designed hardships

v. 6 CHASTISES – Gk. Mastigoi = Scourging / Whipping

Surprised God would DO That? Not Judicial, but CORRECTIVE

SAVED by Grace thru Christ > Wants us to GROW by Correction

Sometimes get STUBBORN – God gets Attention thru ORDEALS

Sometimes Shepherd BREAKS LEGS of Wayward Lamb > Carries!

“The scourges of God bear witness of His love toward us” J.C. Ryle

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is his megaphone to arouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis

### 3. Three Fruits of God’s Discipline

#### a. Endurance

vs. 12, 13 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

FERVENT Exhortation – flows from Logic of Argument

Be DETERMINED in the Struggle > Press ON thru Challenges

“The job of a coach is to make men do what they don’t want to do, in order to be what they have always wanted to be.” Tom Landry 2 Coach who won Super Bowl VI and XII.

In THAT sense God is COACHING / Good Parents should Coach

PURPOSE of this LETTER > Exhortations against Apostasy

Strong WARNINGS against DRIFTING, DULLNESS, DEATH

SOLUTION 12.2 “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith”

Fun Times w Family Recently > HAPUNA Beach

Like I taught my Sons to Catch Waves on Boogie Boards

My son taught his Sons to Catch Waves on Boogie Boards

Most Dangerous Spot > Half-way IN > Right where Wave Breaks

Get OUT Beyond the Break > Don’t go in Half-way > Pounded!

SAME with Jesus > Deny Yourself, Pick Up Cross, Don’t Look Back

## b. Peace -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fruit of God's Discipline

v. 14 "strive for peace with everyone" / Blessed are Peacemakers

How do YOU Keep the PEACE in times of Trials & Discipline

Some Church People are Looking for CAUSE for Other's Troubles

If you were TITHING > you NOT have so Many TROUBLES

If you were in CHURCH Regularly > might NOT have Calamity

Think of GOD as BAD COP ready to give SLAP DOWN on Sin

As (Jesus) he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" John 9.1-3

If GOD gave US what we DESERVE we'd be Hot, Lonely, Firey PLACE

So, BE Peacemaker > Show Kindness, Wisdom, Patience, Forgiveness

Will TEXT or EMAIL or GOSSIP spread PEACE in Church/Community?

Peacemaker NOT Fighting for OWN RIGHTS

Peacemaker CHOOSES Battles WISELY > Not ready to DIE on Every Hill

## c. Holiness – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fruit of God's Discipline

v. 14 "Strive...for holiness without which no one will see the Lord"

word for SANCTIFICATION > Process of being Made like Christ

Holiness = SET APART: FROM Sin / FOR God

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10.14

Salvation is GIVEN because Jesus Christ makes us HOLY

Salvation is GUARANTEED when Holiness of Jesus seen IN US

Saved by FAITH ALONE > Real Faith is NEVER Alone

James "faith without works is dead" > Faith shown by FRUITS

"We are to be a blessing to the world, a source of peace to those around us so far as we are able, (but) it is never by compromising with the world, or by becoming worldly. Indeed, **Christians are the most good to the world when we are least like the world**: when we are godly, when we have light to bring into the dark realm of sin. Our striving after peace and holiness go together." Richard Philips

v. 14 "strive" ESV / "make every effort" NIV

Be ZEALOUS for PEACE with People / HOLINESS from GOD

Keep BOTH – Peace & Holiness – in Mind as Go thru WORLD

How to BALANCE command Peace & Holiness > *Gay Wedding*

**1. Thanks** for INVITATION and TELL that you LOVE THEM

Honor to be INVITED to Important Event > Appreciate Kindness

CARE for them and want to INVITE for Dinner / Keep Friendship

**2. Confess** that I am GREAT SINNER > SAVED by Grace

Many kinds of SINS > I have committed many > No Righteousness

Trying to Follow JESUS who ALONE is SINLESS and HOLY

Grateful that HE has FREELY Given Me – Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness

**3. Lord God** who SAVED Me is ‘Boss’ > LOVE defined by HIM

He CREATED Men & Women / Marriage / Sex

DESIGN Marriage: 1 Man – 1 Woman for Life > Sex in Marriage M & W

Your Ceremony DIFFERENT Standard > NOT Support > My Presence

What would be GOOD EVENING we could INVITE you 2 for Dinner?

“Real Christianity leads to Jesus Christ. And that means the Holy Spirit comes to live within the Christian, giving the person a new nature, creating love for God and a desire to obey him, and providing the ability to do what God requires.”  
James Boice

#### 4. Three Dangers to Christians

a. **Failure** v. 15 “See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God”

Couple weeks ago FRIENDS came into Kona on CRUISE Ship

Picked Up and had NICE Visit > Got back to Dock by 5 pm

Ship SAILED at 5:30 pm > WITH or WITHOUT You!

Next STOP was Ensenada, Mexico > 5 Days Sail > Not Coming Back

Your Family, Friends, Neighbors, In-Active Members > SEE TO IT!

Theme of Hebrews: Jesus is BETTER > Only Hope, Savior, Future

Get on SHIP > Ark of Salvation > Jesus Christ - before Great STORM

2<sup>nd</sup> Danger b. **Bitterness** v. 15 “See...that no root of bitterness springs up”

EASY to get Bitter – Stew on Troubles – ‘life not fair’ / ‘I missed out’

If don't GROW in MATURITY, Will grow in BITTERNESS

Are you KNOWN for GRATITUDE or GRUMBLING?

Most of the Time CUP is Half EMPTY & Half FULL > Where FOCUS?

“Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit”  
Deuteronomy 29.18

Too many CHRISTIANS give World Reason Not to Follow CHRIST

Xtians MAD, GRUMBLING, UNFORGIVING, JOYLESS, BITTER

v. 15 “see to it...that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many people become defiled”

BITTERNESS will EAT YOU UP and DEFILE Everyone Around YOU!

3<sup>rd</sup>Danger c. Sensuality v. 16 “that no one is sexually immoral or unholy”

Profane Attitude of Life – Sensual, Earth-bound, Carnal Cravings

Internet, Entertainment, Society > built on SENSUAL Attraction

NEED Forgiveness of SINS and FILLING of Spirit – Every Moment!

REAL Dangers – Lose Grace of God, Bitterness, Sexual Sin  
NEED Friends, Fellowship, Faithful Walk w God – CAN DO This!

Not ONLY CAN You do THIS > We MUST do THIS!  
Strong Warnings – Are you Bastard not Son? Holy? Bitter? Grace?

Final Example > OT Hero NOT listed in Chapter 11 > Anti-Hero  
Firstborn Son of PATRIARCH Isaac > Renounced Birthright  
Not INTERESTED in Birthright > Things of God Lost ALL  
THOUGHT he could CIRCLE Back and Get GOD LATER!

When Reach Out to People on Membership List > Family Members

Hey! I know what you're saying > Been There, Done That, T-Shirt!

When TIME Right for ME “I will be Back and Come to Jesus!”

That is what ESAU thought > Lost Birthright, STILL Firstborn  
 When TIME to Get Father's Blessing > He LIKES Me Best!  
 Get the MEAT > Hey! That's my Wheelhouse! Esau the Hunter!

Mom & Brother played TRICK on BLIND Dad & Big BROTHER  
 FOREVER Word of GOD Spoken > Blessing to JACOB  
 Word of God IRREVOCABLE, Cannot be TAKEN BACK!

v. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

No Matter how MANY TEARS Esau Cried > Lost, Lost, Forever  
 GRACE Never Fails > But we can FAIL to REPENT & RECEIVE It  
 ESAU > Covenant Son but LIVED for the WORLD and Not for GOD  
 Even TEARS could Not RESTORE the Birthright Esau FORFEITED  
 Lesson to LEARN from Long Ago > Don't MISS the Grace of GOD

Hebrews 12.<sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.