

## Teach Your Children Discipline

Colossians 3:21

PROPOSITION: The discipline of our children involves a delicate balance and four important principles.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Parental requirements and responsibilities are God-given.
2. As discussed in God's word, child rearing involves a wonderful balance.
  - a. The Old Testament instructs in the use of the rod of discipline (cf. Prov. 13:24; 29:15).
  - b. The New Testament instructs against abuse in the administration of that discipline (cf. Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).
3. Punish your children when they need it, but do so with love and care, not to discourage them.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. Discipline is a delicate undertaking.**

- A. There is a correct way of administering discipline, even when corporal punishment is needed.
- B. Here are some ways of demonstrating balance.
  1. Be careful not to be so strict that you exasperate children into rebellious anger.
  2. Do not over correct children and make it unreasonably difficult to be obedient.
  3. Do not harass your children to the point of resentment.
  4. Never drive your children to resentment by unreasonable demands and unkindness.
  5. Do not scold and nag children so as to make them resentful.
- C. Small children watch their admired parents even during the earliest ages and try to be like them.
- D. The balance in discipline we are seeking calls for respect.
  1. Children must respect their parents (Eph. 6:1, 2).
  2. Parents must respect their children.
- E. When administering discipline, parents must be in control of themselves.
- F. The Bible clearly upholds spanking rebellious children (cf. Prov. 22:15; 23:13, 14), but, just as clearly, we should not angrily and harshly scold, berate, slap, and/or beat our children.
- G. Children should be able to realize that they are being disciplined by parents who truly love them and who want them to do what is right and best for them.

#### **II. Discipline is successful with certain principles.**

- A. It is the parents' responsibility to train the child to want and appreciate having the right things.
- B. Early in life, children can be given a God-concept of all that is around them.
- C. There are at least four principles helpful to successful training (discipline):
  1. Establish and maintain the children's *complete confidence*.
  2. There is also the need for *communication* and understanding.
  3. This suggests a further need: *closeness*.
  4. A fourth principle is *consistency* (or constancy).

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God made man and made it possible for him to have children
2. He also made the regulations that govern man, marriage, and child rearing.
3. The teaching of discipline is a crying need of today.