
Methods of Discipline – Spanking

Answer Key

- I. Biblical basis for the rod. The purposes of spanking.
- Prov. 13:24 “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to **discipline** him.” Here discipline means chastisement, reproof, warning, correction.
 - Prov. 22:15 “**Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.” The fool is one who is morally deficient, lacking in sense, generally corrupt.
 - Prov. 23:13 “Do not withhold **discipline** from a child; if you **punish** him with the rod, he will not die.” Punish here has the idea of smiting/striking.
 - Prov. 23:14 “**Punish** him with the rod and **save his soul** from death.” This carries the idea that there is a heart change that is anticipated as a result of using the rod.
 - Prov. 29:15 “The rod of **correction** imparts **wisdom**, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.”
 - The purpose is to inflict pain/sting for the purpose of changing the child’s heart which in turn will result in changed behavior. The purpose is **not** to simply inflict a penalty on the child. You are dealing with the child’s heart, not just the facts. You must make adjustments for heart attitudes. A small sin with a rebellious attitude is worse than a more serious sin with a repentant attitude. You would spank a child who delays, whines and complains about emptying the garbage in the bathroom. You would not spank a child who stole \$100 from a friend’s house and comes and tells you about it before you find out. (You would do repentance, restitution and related consequences – it will be a while before he can go over to friends’ houses again while you work on his behavior.)
- II. Words translated “discipline”, “punish”, “training” in Greek (NT)
- paideia (paideia, Strong’s Number 3809,3811) - instruction of children; chastening; correction; speaks of correction, educative discipline.
 - Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the **training** and instruction of the Lord.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training** in righteousness,
 - Hebrews 12:4-11 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's **discipline**, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord **disciplines** those he loves, and he punishes [scourges/whips] everyone he accepts as a son." 7 Endure hardship as **discipline**; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not **disciplined** by his father? 8 If you are not **disciplined** (and everyone undergoes **discipline**), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who **disciplined** us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers **disciplined** us for a little while as they thought best; but God **disciplines** us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

4. Luke 23:16 Therefore, I will **punish** him and then release him."
 5. Luke 23:22 For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him **punished** and then release him."
- B. kolasi\$ (kolasis, Strong's Number 2849, 2851) penal infliction, punishment
1. Matthew 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal **punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life."
 2. Acts 4:21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to **punish** them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.
 3. 2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be **punished**.
- C. timoria (timoria, Strong's Number 5097, 5098, 5099)– penalty, punishment which denotes penal retribution. It is a punishment meant to satisfy a sense of outraged justice, the defense one's honor or that of a violated law.
1. Hebrews 10:29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be **punished** who has trampled the Son of God under foot ...
 2. Acts 26:11 Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them **punished**, and I tried to force them to blaspheme.

III. When to spank.

- A. A child should be spanked when he does not **obey** your instructions.
1. "When you have given a directive that he has heard and is within his capacity to understand and he has not obeyed without challenge, without excuse or without **delay**; he needs a spanking. ... The 'when' of spanking is so simple that parents miss it. If your child has not obeyed, he needs to be spanked." p. 171
Shepherding a Child's Heart.
 2. The child who runs away when called.
 3. The child who says "no" to you when you tell them to do something.
 4. The child who does **not** stop bickering when instructed.
- B. Examples of when **not** to spank.
1. You have not given them any **instruction** in that area. You cannot hold them accountable if you have not taught them what you expect.
 2. They did not **hear** or understand the instruction. It is your responsibility to get their attention and make your instructions clear and age-appropriate. Make sure that they look at you when you are talking to them. (It is an obedience issue worthy of spanking if they don't.) Teach them to respond with "yes mom" or a similar reply to confirm that they heard you and understood your instructions.
 3. Your child **comes** to you and confesses sin on their own. (Note that there are still consequences for this – repentance, restitution and related consequences. However, you would never spank them.) Spanking your child at this point will exasperate them and result in them not bringing their problems/sins to you in the future. The heart has already been changed. They do not need a spanking to change it.

IV. How to spank.

A. Spanking procedure.

1. You've given your child an instruction which they heard and understood.
2. They have failed to **obey**.
3. You go and get them and take them to a **private** place.
4. **Tell** them clearly what they have done wrong. "You did not come when I called you."
5. **Spank** them. (I disagree with the author's suggestion on p. 173 that their drawers be removed. I think that you need to preserve their dignity.) Make sure that it is felt. Especially through diapers. Use your hand or an object that is flexible and lightweight such as a dowel rod, wooden spoon, etc. The pain from the spanking should outweigh any pleasure they gained from committing the sin.
6. **Tell** them what you expect of them the next time.
7. Hold them as they cry (often times they are as crushed by your disappointment in them as by the spanking itself). Don't lord their disobedience over them. Remember your own sinfulness. Do not push them away. **Love** on them. This is a corrective process, not a penalizing process.

B. When spanking becomes **abuse**.

1. When it causes **bruising** or cutting. This is typically from using the wrong instrument. I recommend your hand, a dowel rod, a wooden spoon, etc. I do not recommend large paddles or other large/heavy instruments or belts.
2. When you spank some place other than their **bottom**. Do not hit them, kick them, slap them on the face, etc.
3. When it is done in anger that is out of **control**.
4. When anything other than the **palm** of the hand is used if you spank with your hand (fist, karate chop, etc.).
5. Using any process **other** than spanking which causes physical pain for the child is abuse. Kneeling on heat registers, forcing them to take cold showers, locking them in a closet or basement, etc.

V. When spanking seems to **fail**.

- A. **Inconsistency**. Spanking sometimes but not all the time. Sometimes when they disobey they get spanked. Other times they get a warning. Other times it is ignored. You must learn to recognize disobedience and react.
- B. Failure to connect spanking with **behavior**. Instead you have connected it to your anger level. This is where the expectation of first time obedience is so important. If you don't expect them to obey the first time, you will exasperate your children and train them to respond to your anger, not their sin.
- C. Not spanking hard enough for the pain of the spanking to **outweigh** the pleasure of the sin. Spanking decisively will result in fewer spankings.

VI. Common questions.

- A. "What if I can't tell whether they have sinned." If it's not clear what happened, **don't** spank, even if you think they are lying. There will be other times when it is clear. Act decisively then. Preserve the relationship and trust.
- B. "My child says he didn't hear me." Get his attention. If he doesn't give you his full attention he is being disobedient. **Teach** him to listen to you.

Role Playing.

The child runs away when called.

The child does not stop bickering when told.

“Go, clean your room.” “Do I have to?” “Yes, right now.” The child goes back to playing with toys.

The child puts his hands in front of the projector. What will you do? Did the child already know it was wrong? Is it their habit?

Paul goes up on the stage.

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Student Worksheet

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 - E. Prov. 29:15 “The rod of **correction** imparts **wisdom**, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.”
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