



## ARE YOU ABUSING YOUR CHILD?

(Or grandchild?)

I guess I will really get into trouble this week! But my parents aren't around to punish me so I will go ahead with this topic. What are we supposed to do with the advice Solomon gives us about raising children?

*Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.*

Proverbs 23:13-14

*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

Proverbs 22:15

*The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

Proverbs 29:15

*He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*

Proverbs 13:24

Use the rod on your children today and you may end up in prison! Was Solomon wrong? Are we wrong today? It would appear that there were no rebellious children in Moses' day:

*"If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.*

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

If you think using the rod is brutal, how about stoning a child to death? I have never seen any evidence that

children were actually stoned to death - but the law was there!

I do not believe we need to spank children (as a rule) simply because I don't think it is very effective (it wasn't with our boys!) There are other ways to discipline children besides spanking them. Unfortunately, too many parents this day equate "no spanking" to "no discipline at all!"

Applying the "board of education to the seat of learning" is not necessary, but strict discipline is absolutely essential. Why, then, are we having problems in this country? Perhaps parents are afraid of offending their children,

*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. . . .do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21

The proper raising of our children is one of the most important things we will do in our lifetime. It is something that takes constant attention. Discipline requires absolute consistency, fairness, and sensibility.

Parents should not rely on computer chips in their TV's or computers to monitor their children's activities. They need to monitor them themselves - better yet, they need to participate in these activities. Parents need to be active on their school boards, PTA groups and in any way that Christian parents can affect the school system (public or private). Parents need to spend more time reading with their (younger) children - especially reading the Bible.

I'm not letting you grandparents off the hook - you need to contribute as well! As the palmist said, *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed.*

Psalm 127:3-5

Wayne

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