

Administering the Grace of Discipline - *Prov 23:12-14, Gal 6:1-2, Eph 6:4*

Children of the Conquest #5

Review – A brief review of what we’ve learned:

Children of the Conquest (Gen 18:1-19) - Child-rearing is directly connected to the Abrahamic blessings and to the salvation of the world. God’s plan for the salvation of the world includes the promise of multi-generational faithfulness and so child-rearing is a central part of world evangelization.

Grace to a Thousand Generations (Deut 5:9-10, 7:9) – We saw that we are the descendants of Abraham by faith, and thus God has given us many promises as parents. Faith is a gift of God, and not of our own works. That faith is a belief in the faithfulness of God. That same faith that believes that Jesus is Lord is the faith that believes the promises of God, the grace of God, to a thousand generations.

The Covenant, the Gospel, and the Nature of Our Children (Rom 3:9-24) - We reviewed our complete need for grace for our own salvation and for our children. Therefore, bringing up children in the Lord is all of grace. And God gives grace.

Discipline is Grace (Heb 12:3-11) – When we discipline in light of God’s grace, in light of God’s covenant promises, and in the context of a home of grace, we are giving grace and not simply altering behavior.

From Instruction to Spanking (Prov 23:12-14, Eph 6:4) – The word translated “instruction,” “correction,” “training,” “discipline” and “chastisement” is a very broad. The work of training up our children involves all these dimensions. Spanking (or “beating with the rod”) is a subset of this subject and the whole subject must be understood and applied in the context of Grace. Then, there will be Grace in Discipline.

Discipline From One Qualified (Gal 6:1) – You are only qualified to correct another if it is in a spirit of gentleness, with honest humility, and with a willingness to be a neighbor, obeying the second greatest commandment.

A Home With Tanks Full (1 Thess 2:10-12) – Children need affection, and lots of it. If there is no fellowship broken because there is no fellowship, discipline will not be effective. Your home must be a place filled with grace and kindness so that repentance and restoration is always sought (Rom 2:4).

The Clutch and the Gas – Applying these two concepts (filling tanks and administering discipline) is a bit like learning to drive a clutch. Expect it to take some practice and don’t give up just because there are a few jolts (or you have to restart the car...).

Discipline in the Name of the Lord (Eph 6:1-4) – Children should understand that the primary issue is not that they have upset the home, but heaven. Disobedience to the Lord should be brought forth, using the Word. If they have disobeyed (Eph 6:1), if they have lied (Prov 6:16-19), if they have grumbled (Phil 2:14), if they have envied (Eph 5:3), if filthy talk (Eph 5:4), if stealing, resentment, rudeness, tattling, ingratitude, laziness – there is plenty of the Word to bring to bear. What about forgetfulness (Psalm 106:21-22)? And delayed obedience is disobedience.

Prompt and Consistent (Eccles 8:11) – Delayed obedience is disobedience, for both the child and the parent. Promptness is important, especially with little ones, and returning to spank again and again should not be surprising to you. Much spanking (for a time) may be a good sign, not a bad sign.

Husband and Wife – Mom and Dad must work in tandem, as a team, not as competitors. Fathers, let your children know that if Mom has said to do such and such, asking Dad if you “have to” is a great transgression.

Painful Discipline is Grace and Love – and Fruitful (Heb 12:5-11) – A well placed rod brings stinging pain, but no injury. Take time to learn the art of spanking and develop a good liturgy that they can expect and follow. It proves you love them (Prov 13:24) and it will be fruitful. It provides a picture for them of the heavenly Father’s love for His sons and daughters.

An Instrument of Instruction, not Injury (Psalm 103:13-14, Prov 29:15) – Each situation, each child and each age brings different frames and issues to consider. Discipline for sin, not for childishness or immaturity; and for little ones, don’t be fooled by how cute the sin was. Learn to consider how you may have provoked and correct your own practices. Having identified the sin with them, you apply the rod, believing the promises and seeking to instruct and restore.

Prayer, Forgiveness, Restoration (1 John 1:9, Col 3:13) – You pray with them, you pray for them, you teach them to pray. You empathize with their temptations. You teach them to confess their sins, and to receive forgiveness. You grant forgiveness with a full heart. You hug them. You talk about restitution issues. You assure them of the efficacy of the blood of Christ and thank God with them. You reject any place for self-pity. You invite them back into fellowship. And you lead the family in welcoming them back into fellowship.

Grace in Discipline – A rodless love is no love at all. And a loveless rod is not grace-filled discipline. Christian kids are too often spoiled and become the scourge of the next generation. Others are disciplined without any context of the ocean of grace and mercy offered in our Lord and Savior, nor the fellowship of the saints. Developing a home of biblical discipline requires the sacrificing of your time and the gift of your patience, prayers, and presence, your affection and your instruction. It is the giving of grace.

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