

BALANCING LOVE AND DISCIPLINE

servants meeting

2.2.14

Discussion

- God's love and discipline
- Methods of communicating love
- Why do children misbehave?
- Maintaining discipline
- Discouraging thoughts in the mind of a servant



God's Love

- Created us in His image and likeness
- Jn. 3:16 — “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Rom. 5:8 — “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 1 Jn. 4:8 — “God is love.”

God's Discipline/Chastening

- What does it mean to chasten?
- Prov. 3:11-12 — “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; **For whom the Lord loves He corrects**, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”
- Some adults who were treated harshly as a child internally vow not to do the same and thus become pushovers.

God's Discipline/Chastening

- Rev. 3:19 — “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”
- Adulterous man at Corinth
 - 1 Cor. 5:5 — “...deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”
- The purpose is to draw a person to repentance
- Some believe to discipline children in a Sunday School setting is wrong under the pretense that God loves everyone, even sinners.

How does the Lord chasten?

Instructive chastening

- Most often seen in the form of teachings, warnings, and admonitions
- Jn. 15:2-3 — “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”
- Church of Laodiceans
- Rev. 3:16-17 — “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

Instructive Chastening

- Tribulations
 - Job
- Rom. 5:3-4 — “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”
- Jam. 1:2-3 — “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

Corrective Chastening

- 1 Cor. 11:31-32 — “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”
- For those refusing to repent

Why does the Lord chasten?

- Does He delight in chastening?
 - Lam. 3:32-33 — “Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.”
- Heb. 12:9-10 — “Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, **that we may be partakers of His holiness.**”
- Chastening is a sign of God’s love

Methods of Communicating Love

- Communicating sincerely
- Words of encouragement
- Quality time
- Involved in their life
- Touch where appropriate
- Guilt free conversations



Why do children misbehave?

- **Desire to belong**

- A child's greatest desire is to connect to peers
- They think inappropriate behavior will gain peer recognition

- **Lack of direction**

- Unclear rules
- Inconsistent enforcement
- Lack of consequences



Why do children misbehave?

- **The Environment**

- Sometimes the room arrangement may be a distraction

- **Boredom**

- If children are not engaged in learning, they will be engaged in something else.
- An unprepared leader is a doormat just waiting to be stepped on.

Maintaining Discipline

1. Plan

- *“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”*
(Benjamin Franklin)
- Plan thoroughly, not “playing it by ear”
- Foresee the problems and have solutions ready
- Be organized

2. Check Environment

- Discomfort causes restlessness and lack of concentration
- Clean and attractive room
- Seat children in a way to minimize distractions

3. Establish clear expectations

- Communicate rules clearly
 - Consider posting in the class if needed
 - Keep it simple and attainable
 - Steady reinforcement
- Establish appropriate disciplinary actions
 - Consequences are necessary

4. Consequences are essential

- Consequences help children own their behavior
- Establishing consequences
 - Three strikes
 - They are teachable moments
 - Must be fair
- **Follow through with consequences**

Discouraging thoughts in the mind of a servant

- “I can’t do it. I’m uncomfortable disciplining kids.”
- “I’m just a volunteer.”
- “I feel like giving up.”
- “Can I really make a difference?”
 - *“The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated.”*
(William James, Psychologist)

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?