

“Dare To Discipline”

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Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

**Theme: Let's give our children Love,
Security, and Discipline- LSD**

Introduction:

1. One of the most important topics we will ever study is that of child discipline.
 - a. It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
 - b. What we do today in raising our children determines what the world will be like tomorrow. We can make it a good one or a bad one.
2. Must emphasize up front our text of study:
 - a. The Bible: God is the one who created the family situation and so God's word is where we need to go to learn of his will for our families.
 - b. There are many good books on the market
 - 1) But even these have to take a back seat to the Bible
 - 2) Many bad books on the market.
 - c. When we go to books other than the Bible, we are often asking for trouble.
 - 1) Well meaning Christian parents will sometimes spend many hours reading child psychology books and not spend any time at all reading the Bible.

- 2) Woman in Norfolk, VA told me I was wrong when I said children need spanking sometimes.
 - a) She said this because she was majoring in child psychology in college
 - b) She and I studied different books-
 - c) Ill.- A man saw a boy crying greatly. "What is wrong?"
"My Moma lost her child training book and now she is using her own judgment."
3. Let me say a little about the word "discipline."
 - a. Does not just involve the physical correction of a child.
 - b. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* - "training that corrects, molds, or perfects."
 - c. A broad topic
4. Let's analyze how to be proper and successful disciplinarians.

Discussion:

- I. Must appreciate the value of God's gift.
 - A. I'm a millionaire - man in NC asked if I would take a million dollars for my baby? No!
 - B. A child is a precious gift from God.
 1. Psalm 127:3-5a - Genesis 33:5
 2. Any gift from God must be treated with great care.
 - C. Ill.- Marianne Rizzio's little girl wanting to take a picture to school - "Because I could see that you were glad to have me."
 - D. Children must know the value God and we place upon them.
 1. Children sometimes run away from home because they are looking for parents: for parents who love them, care for them, glad to have them.

2. Example - Girls sometimes give their bodies away thinking this is the only way to be popular.
 - a. They have a low self-image.
 - b. They must be persuaded of God's love and their parents' love. More valuable than houses, cars, etc.
 - c. Ill.- Little girl at laundry mat
 - 1) Running around playing as all children do.
 - 2.) The irritated mother yelled at her, "You slut!"
3. Show and Tell your children that you love them.
4. Then they will look to you for guidance.

II. Children have to be taught what is right.

A. Children are not born knowing:

1. The difference between right and wrong.
2. The difference between good and evil.

B. Children have to be taught by parents, particularly in two ways

1. Word - instruction

- a. We cannot afford to let TV, classmates, or even teachers take the responsibility of instructing our children in values and morals.
 - 1) TV promotes every kind of filth imaginable.
 - a) We are so addicted to television.
 - b) I think someday someone will come up with a little antenna that gets implanted in the head.
 - 1) Then we will just pull one ear to turn it on or off.

- 2) Pull on the other ear to change channels.
 - 2) Teachers oftentimes follow the ways of the world.
 - b. Parents must teach their children Bible stories-
 - 1) cf. Lois and Eunice who instructed Timothy.
 - 2) Ephesians 6:4
- 2. Example -
 - a. Some parents say - “My children embarrass me whenever we are in public.” - Many times our children embarrass us in public because they behave like we do at home.
 - b. We want to beat our children for telling us a lie - and yet we tell them to say we are not at home when an unwanted phone call comes through or other lies we may put them up to.
 - c. We think it is terrible if our kid takes a candy bar from a store without paying for it, yet they know we cheat on our taxes.(Over \$100 billion dollars a year - and undoubtedly most of these people have children.)
 - d. We don't put in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay and we wonder why our children turn out to be bums.
 - e. Sometimes parents sit around drinking beer and smoking cigarettes wondering if their children are going to turn out good or bad.
 - 1) Children are not as smart as we adults think we are.

- 2) They do not understand the difference between booze and barbiturates or a weed or a Winston.
 - f. Some parents don't take their children to Sunday school and worship and then wonder why those children turn out to be thieves, drunkards and murderers (and then they come running to the preacher like he is supposed to snap his fingers and make it go away.)
- C. Training must begin very early-
1. If we teach them while they are in the high chair, maybe they will avoid the electric chair.
 2. If we work with them while they are in the playpen, just maybe they will never end up in the state pen.

III. Proper discipline will involve the physical correction of our children.

- A. Some people show more care toward their pets than they do their children.
1. They tie up their dogs
 2. But they let their children run wild
- B. Some parents seem to think that all their children need is a little pat on the back.
1. That's all right if it is administered early enough, often enough, low enough and hard enough.
 2. Children are like ketchup bottles- sometimes you have to hit them on the bottom a few times to get them doing like they should.
- C. People are so concerned about the children today-
1. How wild they are, how disrespectful they are, how much trouble they get into.

2. But why should we be surprised- a generation of children now has reached adulthood that grew up in a time in our society where parents were being told it is a terrible thing to spank a child.
 3. Used to children worried about being taken out behind the woodshed.
 - a. But not anymore.
 - b. In our quest for luxury we have turned our woodsheds into garages.
 - c. Everyone wants to drive big cars - and now the parents can't reach around and slap the children and make them behave. (Maybe need to carry a fly swatter for extra reach.)
- D. I think that sometimes parents are afraid to physically correct their children because they are afraid the children will not love them anymore.
1. Ill.- Larry Campbell's daughter - "I don't love you no more!" - that has to tear a parent up.
 2. But children get over that quickly and understand that their parents really love them and that that is why they are disciplined.
 - a. Illustration with school report cards: Children "brag" about the discipline they receive concerning bad grades.
 - b. They really string this bragging out (my dad is going to ground me, beat me, not feed me and disown me, etc., etc.
 - c. This is just another way of the children taunting each other with "My parents love me more than yours do you."
 3. What does the Bible say?
 - a. Must use the "Proverbs" approach.

- b. Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15,17
- E. Of course, we are not talking about child abuse-
 - 1. We are talking about reasonable physical correction of the child.
 - 2. Child abuse has negative effects - cf. Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
- F. Two contrasting cases-
 - 1. Peggy - allowed to get away with everything
 - 2. Nancy - certain demands and punishments

IV. Praise of our children is a very important part of discipline.

- A. Praise does wonders for opening the ears of children
- B. Children love to have praises from their parents-
 - 1. It makes them happy.
 - 2. It builds up their self-esteem.
 - 3. Dying preacher told his daughter on his death-bed
 - a. "You have brought my life much joy."
 - b. She will remember that about her father as much as anything.
 - 4. Praise is like garlic on a good salad - a little goes a long way.
 - 5. Children want praise from their parents more than anything else.
 - a. More so than from his teacher for a good grade.
 - b. More so than from the coach for a home run.
 - 6. Undoubtedly somewhere in the world is the worst child of all.
 - a. Hopefully that is not your child.
 - b. But even if it is, no matter how bad your kid is, he does something every now and then deserving of praise.

- c. Don't miss that opportunity to really impact him and become so forceful in his life.
5. God praised His Son - "In whom I am well pleased."

Conclusion:

1. We have no guarantees of an absolute nature about our children-
 - a. There are many influences upon them in their lives.
 - b. I have known some great Christian parents who have had to grieve over their rebellious children.
 - 1) It is not always the parents' fault.
 - 2) Children have a mind of their own.
 - c. But, Proverbs 22:6 - is a good general truth.
 - 1) It puts the odds on our side.
 - 2) Let us do the best we can.
2. And let us not be deceived into thinking that our children would never do such and such.
 - a. They will, if enough influence is brought to bear upon them.
 - b. Just like you in that respect - Let's not expect more from our children than we expect from ourselves.
 - 1) Consider the spiritual giant David who sinned greatly.
 - 2) I Corinthians 10:12,13
3. It is so important that Christian parents encourage each other and pray for each other. It is an awesome responsibility to raise children.

Invitation:

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