

March 4, 2020

Disciplining Love - Part 2

Prov. 3:11-12, “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in.”

Remember that we tend to think that love must always feel good and that discipline always brings about pain. This passage reminds us that those that are loved are also disciplined by the one that loves them. Prov. 23:13 says: “Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.” Now you might think, wow, you have opened up a huge can of worms here talking about corporal punishment. I don’t think I have because God’s Word is always right. Now believe me when I say that a child should never be punished out of anger. That goes against what our passage for today says. The Lord doesn’t discipline us because He is full of anger towards us; instead it is because He is full of love.

This reminds me of an illustration that Gary Smalley uses in his book, “The Key to Your Child’s Heart.” He tells of an example when he was on the phone with a long-distance call and his five-year old son let out a bloodcurdling scream. He was so loud that Gary couldn’t even hear the other person’s voice. He motioned for his son to be quiet or he would get a swat, but his son continued to scream. Gary quickly ended his call and grabbed his son’s arm and demanded to know why he would break the family rule of being quiet while Dad was on the phone. He told him to get to his bedroom right now. He grabbed the paddle that they used for spanking and he told his son to lie down on the bed and then gave him a couple of hard swats. It was their custom after a spanking to hold the child & reaffirm their love for him; but this time his son looked at his father and said “I hate you.” He backed away because he didn’t want to be held. Gary knew that something deeper was wrong. His son’s spirit was closing toward his father. Gary became tender and asked his son why he was screaming. With his voice trembling he said, “I fell and hit my ear on the bathtub.” He showed him his ear and it was swollen and bleeding. He immediately apologized to his son and said that he was so wrong for lashing out and spanking his son, and that he was the one who needed the swats and not his son. Needless to say, the son’s spirit was opened back up and they were able to love on each other for a while.

While be as earthly parents are flawed, we have a Father that is not. God never punishes us out of anger towards us, instead He disciplines us because of His great love for us because (now get this!) He delights in us! God delights in you! He loves you so much and you bring Him great joy!

Father, help me to realize that Your love is always there and that You only discipline me because You delight in me and have a wonderful plan for me. Thank You for loving me that much. I need Your discipline in my life. I love You Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen