



Discipline

Sunday 10:30am - June 16, 2024

in the Christian Family

A Bible study on the basis, boundaries, blessings, and bread of the Christian home.

Basis

Pr 13:24

1. What is the motive behind Christian discipline?

1 Corinthians 5:1-6

2. What is the two-fold purpose of Christian discipline?

Ephesians 6:1-4

3. Describe how God wills the Christian family to function.

Blake tells you that he found out that his two daughters, ages 14 and 16, are smoking. He thinks they may also have friends giving them marijuana at some parties. Blake says to you that he can't expect his kids to listen to him about drugs since he took them when he was a teenager. It bothers him to think that he is such a hypocrite and that he doesn't deserve to be their father. "I can't tell them it's wrong when I did it myself" he reasons. "And I grew out of that phase when I got older." What could you tell Blake to help him with his parenting struggles?

Boundaries

Ephesians 5:1-9

1. How will a Christian parent determine what behavior is acceptable for their children?
2. What is the motivating force to adhere to this standard?

Pr 3:11-12, 13:24

3. When we fail to discipline, what are we really failing to do?

1 Samuel 2:12ff

4. Take note of who is held accountable. At what age should Christian parents stop disciplining their children?

Colossians 3:21

5. How can parents avoid making the mistake which Paul speaks about here?

2 Corinthian 2:5-11

6. What are some good ways to reaffirm love after discipline? How could someone fail to reaffirm love after carrying out discipline?

7. Discuss the two opposite dangers which Luther warns against regarding discipline.

1. *“The first destroyers of their own children are those who neglect them and knowingly permit them to grow up without the training and admonition of the Lord. Even if they do not harm them by a bad example, they still destroy them by yielding to them. They love them too much according to the flesh and pamper them, saying: They are children, they do not understand what they are doing. And they are speaking the truth. But neither does a dog or a horse or a mule understand what it is doing. However, see how they learn to go, to come, to obey, to do... These parents will, therefore, bear the sins of their children because they make these sins their own. {What Luther Says vol. 1: #410 p.139}*
2. *“Chastise them when they deserve it, but accompany the correction with affectionate words so that they do not become disheartened and expect nothing good from you. It is very bad if a son loves someone else more than his father. The father should give some sort of proof that there is no intention entirely to crush the child. The Law alone serves no good purpose; in fact it is intolerable.” {What Luther Says vol. 1: #417 p.142}*

Blessings

Heb 12:5-11

1. What is the result of God’s discipline? For what reasons do earthly fathers discipline their children?

Eph 6:2-3.

2. Paul reapplies this promise to all who keep the fourth commandment. In what ways is this blessing evident?
3. How can you make this evident to children of all ages?

Molly says she can’t stand her parents. She plans to move out of the home when she turns eighteen and move in with her boyfriend, Max. Everyone gets along when they have family get-togethers. But she says she “has to get out of the home” because they are driving her insane. Max says she can stay with him for as long as she wants.

What might you say to Molly to help her see the blessings of having her Christian parents? What might you say to her parents if they said they weren’t going to discipline her anymore because they didn’t want to “lose her any more than they already have”?

Bread

1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Chronicles 22:3; 2 Timothy 1:5

1. Parents have a great influence on their children. In what ways is that seen in the examples above?

Deuteronomy 6:5-8

2. What is being impressed on the hearts of children today? What does God’s instruction for the people of Israel say to today’s Christian family?
3. Discuss the role of the Church in parenting.
4. What godly advice would you give to a parent who is having trouble bringing up their children in the ways of the Lord?