

## Home Builder's

### Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

#### Lesson 13: Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World. Part 5

- I. Embracing the Biblical method of the rod. (Proverbs 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, 29:17, Hebrews 12:3-11)
  - A. Corporal punishment has fallen on hard times.
    1. Many resist corporal punishment because of bad experiences they had as a child.
      - a. They desire to avoid repeating mistakes is not bad.
      - b. The disregard of the Bible to placate culture is bad.
    2. The opinions of the world sway back and forth.
      - a. We cannot sway with the world.
  - B. Getting to the root of the problem—human nature.
    1. The problem with children is that they have sinful hearts/natures.
    2. Their problem is not a lack of information, it is sin.
    3. Children (like all people) are born with foolish hearts.
    4. Throughout Proverbs, folly and foolishness are used to describe a person who does not fear God, does not hear reproof, will not submit to authority, and mocks the way of God.
    5. A fool's life is run by his desires, fears, cravings, and lusts.
    6. A child who is a fool is in grave danger. (Proverbs 23:13-14)
    7. The rod has been given to us to remedy this foolishness.
    8. A parent's use of the rod should be a means of rescuing a child from themselves.
    9. The rod is not a means for an angry parent to vent, the rod is a faithful parent's tool for rescuing a child's soul.
    10. A child's heart must be confronted.
  - C. What is the Biblical use of the rod?
    1. "The rod is a parent, in faith toward God and faithfulness toward his or her children, undertaking the responsibility of careful, timely, measured, and controlled use of physical punishment to underscore the importance of obeying God, thus rescuing a child for continuing in his foolishness until death."
    2. The use of the rod is reserved for the parental relationship.
      - a. Removing the rod from the parent-child relationship is dangerous.
    3. The use of the rod is an act of faith.
      - a. God has mandated its use, but parents are often hesitant to use it.
      - b. We must trust the means that God has given us.
    4. The use of the rod is an act of faithfulness.
      - a. Loving discipline brings hope.
      - b. Refusing discipline brings death.
      - c. The use of the rod is an expression of commitment to the child.
      - d. A failure to spank is unfaithfulness to your children.
    5. The rod is a physical punishment.
      - a. "The rod is the careful, timely, measured, and controlled use of physical punishment".
      - b. The rod should never be used in anger.
      - c. The rod is not a way to make a point.

- d. The rod is not a way to remind the child “who is boss”.
  - e. It is a careful, measured, and controlled use of physical punishment.
  - f. The child should know what to expect.
6. The rod is a rescue mission.
- a. The rod is designed to rescue a child from foolishness.

D. What are not Biblical uses of the rod?

- 1. Not the right to unbridled temper.
  - a. The rod must be used carefully.
- 2. Not the right to punish however we wish.
  - a. Misuse the rod and you will embitter your child.
- 3. Not venting or frustration.
  - a. The rod should not be the overflow of pent-up frustration.
- 4. Not retribution or vindictive.
  - a. The rod is not the patent “getting back” for wrongs done by the child.

E. Common objections:

- 1. “I love my child too much to spank.”
  - a. While this sentiment is understandable, it is not biblical.
  - b. Who benefits if you do not spank your children?
    - i. Spanking a child is difficult and uncomfortable.
    - ii. You do. You are freed from this discomfort.
    - iii. Your child does not benefit, he is allowed to continue in his/her behavior.
    - iv. Proverbs 13:24
- 2. “I’m afraid I will hurt my child.”
  - a. Often those who object to corporal punishment experienced wild, angry, and uncontrolled spanking as a child.
  - b. That spanking was wrong and sinful.
  - c. The Bible calls us to controlled punishment that will not hurt physically endanger a child.
- 3. “I’m afraid it will make him rebellious and angry.”
  - a. As a parent, you want your children to love you (you should, at least).
  - b. However, the fear that spanking will bring out the worst in a child is not what the Bible states.
    - i. Proverbs 29:17, Hebrews 12:3-11
- 4. “I am afraid of teaching them to hit.”
  - a. Children hit when they are angry or don’t get their way.
  - b. If you follow the Biblical way of spanking your child, it is never an expression of anger.

F. Reasons spanking can be ineffective.

- 1. Spanking in anger.
  - a. Children may obey out of fear an out-of-control parent, but they will never willingly place themselves under the authority of a parent filled with wrath.
- 2. Inconsistent use.
  - a. A child should know what will elicit a spanking.
  - b. If a parent can be tested, they will be.
- 3. Failure to persist.
  - a. Training a child is a slow process.

- b. If you give up after a day or two, bad behavior will persist.
4. Failure to be effective.
  - a. Spanking over a diaper or in a manner the child will not feel.
  - b. The child must feel the spanking.

G. The fruit of the rod.

1. The rod teaches a child outcomes of behavior.
  2. The rod shows God's authority over mom and dad.
  3. The rod trains a child to be under authority.
  4. Used Biblically, the rod yields a harvest of peace and righteousness. (Hebrews 12:11)
  5. The rod returns a child to a place of blessing by delivering him/her from themselves.
- Your children need both Biblical communication and the Biblical use of the rod.
  - Authoritarian parents tend to lack kindness.
  - Permissive parents tend to lack firmness.