

Child Training

Rom 12:1-3 — The closer we get to YHWH we must purify ourselves more to be able to hear from Him. We need to hear from YHWH. We need a revelation of discipline. Pr 4:23 — Every man that has the hope that Messiah will return soon purifies himself (Lk 21:34-36; Mt 24:42-44; Lk 12:37-47). We don't know the exact hour Messiah returns, but we know it is soon. We must be ready.

We must not only guard ourselves, but our children. They are top priority. From sunrise to sunset we must train them in the way they should go. We must lay a good foundation, one that won't fall, even to "deprogramming." We must put into practice the words of Messiah.

1 Sam 2:1-36 — the story of Eli. He lost his priesthood because of his unruly sons. If we don't train our children they will disinherit us. Our children give us credibility (Lk 6:43-44). Our children are extensions of ourselves. In the same way YHWH is preparing us for His kingdom, we must prepare them for the same kingdom. The way is found in Heb 12:6-11. We discipline our children as children because when they grow up they won't be disciplinable.

Heb 2:10; 5:8-9 — Messiah was perfected through suffering. We also must learn obedience through suffering. The suffering we endure is for the sake of obedience. YHWH doesn't make any big deal about hurting someone for discipline. We need not be afraid of discipline (Pr 10:13; 13:24; 20:30; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; Ps 119:67-71).

YHWH disciplines us that we might respect Him and fear Him. We must hate evil. We must look beyond to see results. We must desire to be disciplined. We must fear YHWH more than we fear man. YHWH wants us to respect Him, to hear and obey. YHWH wants His discipline to make us cling to His love and grace. Our children need many things, but the rod is foundational to everything else. YHWH is authority. Everything *must* submit to Him. He is the "I AM," the potter, the author – Creator of all

things. 1 Cor 4:20 — The Kingdom is a question of authority. Whom do you serve? Obedience is essential to enter the Kingdom of YHWH (Mt 7:21).

Headship

Headship of the Edah belongs to YHWH. Headship of the family belongs to the father. Eph 5:22-30 — The lord of the family is the husband (1Cor 11:3; Eph 6:1-4). It is the father's priority, aim, goal, *responsibility* to properly raise his children. He establishes his authority with his wife by loving her as his own body, flesh, not by coming over her or against her. He establishes his authority with his children with the rod and reproof. The rod represents authority (Isa 11:1-4; Rev 2:27; 12:5; 19:15-16). If a king didn't have a rod, he had no authority. The father in the family carries the weight of discipline because he carries the rod. The parents carry the bulk of the responsibility for child-rearing. There is no substitute for the parent-child relationship. Let us not shy away from our children. Don't rely totally on others to discipline your children.

Child-rearing is a life-transference. From your innermost being comes the child. The child's spirit must be communicated, shaped through discipline. What we communicate to them is what they are and become. It must be love coming from you to them. A lot of this is done through the rod. Pr 29:15 — Rod *and* reproof. Discipline is only effective to the degree that you love your child.

Child-rearing is also "follow me," "do as I do," "be as I am." If you see a problematic child, the problem is in the parents – yourself. We don't have perfect children, they will be disobedient. Parents *must love discipline*, not because it is pleasant, but because they see the fruit of it (Ps 50:16-17). Roots of rebellion linger in us. Pray that YHWH will deal with us so that we will have strength to make it through the times ahead. We must continually pray for grace to rear our children properly. This poses a question – how is our relationship with YHWH, with our brother?

Wives, authority over your children comes from your husband. Anxiety and strife between husband and wife is passed on to the children. Eph 6:1-4 — The father in the family is lord. He has YHWH's authority. He receives his authority from Messiah. The wife receives her authority from him. The children must be brought to respect their parents. Respect because respect brings with it honor and submission. Submission is something wrought in the heart of a child, just like it is in ours. Eph 5:21 — Our children will be subject to us out of a fear, a reverence. This is to train them to fear and respect YHWH. The transference from parents to YHWH will be easy. Authority that does not command respect is dead, useless. The husband is the pillar of authority. We must be examples to our children. We must communicate the life of YHWH to them. The Holy Spirit. We don't want to prepare them for anything but that (Gal 5:22).

Attitudes

YHWH deals with our hearts and our children's hearts. YHWH looks for an obedience that comes from a cheerful heart that gives gladly.

Discipline + rod + instruction = training. All go together.

Respect eventually replaces the rod. Eventually a word will hurt more than the rod. The child will be so sensitive, so respectful that a word will bring immediate repentance. They will hate to displease us. All the time we are communicating our mind to the child. If we have the mind of Messiah, they will have the mind of Messiah. They will become like us, have our mind. The rod brings respect, respect opens the door for authority – all authority.

In a sense, lack of communication is our greatest downfall. Inconsistency is insecurity.

This is called restraint and the narrow road. It has definite boundaries. It confines and restricts our behavior. We are subjected to the discipline of YHWH. We are restrained, confined, held back. We cannot do everything we want to do. YHWH

disciplines us until we need no further discipline, because we are self-disciplined.

YHWH's goal is to conform us to His image. The Holy Spirit's work in us is progressive. YHWH tolerates less and less and expects more and more. This is true child training. An unrestrained child is just as bad as a disobedient child.

Lk 16:10 — YHWH wants us to be faithful in small things so that He can give us greater things, so He can trust us with His purpose. It's a small thing to watch over your heart with diligence (Pr 4:23).

Wives are the husband's healing. Their love gives him confidence, identity. You can't wait for the husband to become perfect, ideal, before giving yourself totally in submission to him. Do not judge each other's motives. Believe one another. Husbands be a best friend to your wife. Speak much, speak your life to her.

In discipline we set a precedent – a course of action that sets a rule for future similar actions. The precedent we set is one of restraint. Discipline begins when the child begins to act on what he knows. Restraint means that you limit your child on what he can do. We restrain them reasonably, depending on their age. We don't expect a child to do something he is not capable of. What we watch for in our children is not specific acts, but the rebellion that is in them. Attitudes.

One command, then discipline. They have to hear what you say. But, at the same time listen to them when they call for you. Instruction and reproof goes with the rod. Attitudes – rebellion. If rebellion isn't dealt with, then disobedience isn't being dealt with.

An attitude that expresses itself as whining, pouting, excessive crying, in grown-ups is grumbling (Ex 16:2-8; 17:2; 32:1-11; Num 11:1-2; 14:2-9,11,18). One thing YHWH hates is grumbling and complaining. Our children need to know that we know what is best for them. If YHWH did not accept the grumbings of the Israelites, we should not from our children. We discipline them after a command to stop. We don't want them to grow up with these attitudes. Grumbling is an effort by the child to control the parent,

just as it is our effort to control YHWH. The parents must not be manipulated by the child. We cannot let our children have their own way at any time. They must operate within the sphere we set for them. We not only discipline but reinforce proper behavior. Lawlessness is to have your own way (Pr 29:15). Our children will miss the Kingdom if they grow up lawless.

What do we want our children to be like? That's how we mold them. We restrain their attitudes that are outside of this. When we discipline for attitudes it helps (enables) our children to overcome their feelings.

We don't discipline immediately for misbehavior due to immaturity. We discipline for disobedience.

Be gentle in the area of potty training.

Many of us don't expect enough from our children. They need commands. (Don't ask your children to do something, but command them. *Understand this in the right spirit.*) Positive reinforcement comes only after obedience. Don't encourage rebellion. If they show signs of obedience then we can encourage them.

We must restrain our children from bizarre behavior, teaching them appropriate behavior in all situations.

Don't mistake compromise¹ and mercy.²

Proper discipline conveys a spirit — that of the parent. You cannot raise a child above the level of the parent. Improper discipline creates arrogance, haughtiness, and disrespect. Discipline cannot be done by the letter. It will fail every time. It is not

¹ *Compromise* – a mutual promise or contract of two parties in controversy, an amicable agreement between parties in controversy to settle their differences by mutual concessions.

² *Mercy* – That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. Mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being. (from Noah Webster, 1828)

something done to a child, but is communication. (Beware of form responses.) One can only communicate to the depth that communication comes from. We can't behave abnormally when we discipline, nor can we accept abnormal behavior. That is escaping their discipline. We should reprove³ and admonish⁴ before, during and after, requiring responses.

Things to avoid: work as a punishment; saying you won't love them if they're disobedient; saying they'll go to hell if disobedient; call them names, threaten, prettier than or uglier than.

Spanking with the rod is the best form of discipline, the norm. Other supplements exist — standing in a corner when hardened to spanking or unwilling to take their discipline. Patience is most important. Unless we plan to stick it out, don't discipline at all. Communicate with composure throughout. Hand spanking can be used to control problems with their hands. This brings immediate judgment. We must be thorough in our discipline. The rod is an ordeal.

Discipline cannot substitute for affection and love. All their spiritual needs must be met, balanced. Constantly train them to accept other people in the Body. Don't insist they accept people outside the Body.

³ *Reprove* – to charge with a fault to the face; to reprehend; to convince of a fault; to excite a sense of guilt.

⁴ *Admonish* – to reprove with mildness; to caution or advise, instruct or direct.