



Date: 7-29-12

Series: Broken – Repairing the Family

Session: Happy Child, Happy House

I. Introduction – Proverbs 23:13-14, 22:15, 13:24, Ephesians 6:4

By the title of today's study, it kind of sounds like a child rules the house. When you think about it, a disobedient child does rule the house. A disobedient child can affect the atmosphere of a home. A disobedient child can affect the atmosphere of a restaurant.

Proverbs 23:13-14

¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child, For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

This is not just a peace in the home situation. This is a heaven and hell situation. The reason why children, when they grow up, don't submit their will to God is because they didn't submit to their parents. This is a heaven and hell situation.

Even though not all of us have children in this class, we are all children of God. And God parents us the way we should parent our children.

Let me read you the same passage above but in The Message:

Proverbs 23:13-14

¹³⁻¹⁴ Don't be afraid to correct your young ones; a spanking won't kill them. A good spanking, in fact, might save them from something worse than death.

Now let's read Proverbs 22:15:

Proverbs 22:15

¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

I think the Devil changed the verse we are about to read. Most of us have heard the saying, 'Spare the rod, spoil the child.' Well, this isn't in the Bible. Here's what the Bible says:

Proverbs 13:24

²⁴ He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

What does this verse say if you don't discipline your child? You hate them. There's nothing wrong with spoiling your child just a little bit, but the Bible says that if you spare the rod, you

hate your child. You are not bringing up your child in love; you are in fact doing the worst thing you could ever do.

Andy finally **Ephesians 6:4**:

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

The responsibility of discipline is on the father. This doesn't mean that your wife can't discipline your children. But it does mean that if you are in the house at the time your child disobeys either you or your wife, you are the one to discipline them. You are to tell them that if they disobey their mom, they are going to get it from you, and you are stronger than their mom.

There needs to be a strong, disciplining, and loving father in the home. This is the best for a child.

So let's talk about 7 things on disciplining your children:

1. BE CLEAR

Under each point there will be 3 things that help explain it. Here are the first 3:

- Give Clear Instructions
- Give Clear Results
- Give Clear Reasons

There are a lot of parents who are not clear in their instructions and they get angry at their children. For instance, "I want you to clean your room". Then your child goes 2 or 3 days w/o cleaning their room and you get all upset about it. Children are weird and so you have to be very specific. "I want you to clean your room by 6:00 pm today. Do you understand that? What time did I tell you to clean your room by? And what did I tell you to do?" Be very specific.

Pastor Morris gives an example of when his son was outside throwing rocks into the swimming pool. He goes outside and tells his son not to throw rocks in the swimming pool. He gave clear instruction and then gave clear results by telling his son that if he threw rocks into the swimming pool again he was going to get a spanking. He didn't spank him the first time because he hadn't told him not to before. He asks his son if he understands what will happen if he throws rocks into the swimming pool again.

So a little while later Pastor Morris comes back outside and his son had thrown the lawn furniture into the swimming pool. So he took his son and told him not to throw anything into the pool. He told him not to throw rocks, furniture, his sister, anything. You have to be CLEAR in your instructions and CLEAR in your results.

Also, you need to be CLEAR in your reasons; we will talk about this a little later.

2. BE CONVINCING

- Get Their Attention
- Get Firm
- Get Control

You can be firm w/o being loud. Volume doesn't equal authority. You can kneel down beside them and have a soft voice, you don't have to yell.

Make sure and get their attention. Tell them to look at you, snap your fingers, whatever you have to so that they are paying attention to you. At the same time be firm. Don't be angry with them, but firm.

The goal is not to spank them; the goal is to get them to obey. They need to know that when you go in their room to give it to them, they know why they are getting it.

3. BE CONSISTENT

- Keep Your Guidelines
- Keep Your Word
- Keep Your Method

Keep your guidelines, whatever they are, and try to discipline the same way every time.

Remember when we talked about giving clear reasons? Say something like "Daddy doesn't want to spank you. But daddy is spanking you because you disobeyed. Daddy is trying to teach you to obey. Here's why you need to learn how to obey: because bad things happen to people who do bad things."

Don't ever tell a child that they are bad. Only tell them that bad things happen to those who do bad things, not to those who are bad.

4. BE CONVICTING (NOT CONDEMNING)

- Say It Specifically
- Say It Repeatedly
- Say It Differently

This is very important. Do you remember the difference between condemnation and conviction? Condemnation is general and conviction is specific. Satan says you are a bad person, you are a horrible person, worse than everyone else, and you'll never do anything good. The Holy Spirit says you did this, and that is why you are going through this right now.

Satan says you are a bad person. God says you did something bad. Never tell your children that they are bad or that mother doesn't love you when you are bad. God always loves us, no matter what we do. God loves us because of our relationship to Him, we are His children. That is why you love your children also. Tell your children that you love them.

Here's what you do:

"Son you need to sit down right now or you are going to get a spanking."

"Son, listen to daddy, I'm going to spank you if you don't sit down."

Son, I'm going to give you one more chance to obey because daddy doesn't want to spank you. But if you don't sit down right now daddy is going to spank you."

This makes it really easy for them to understand why they are getting a spanking.

5. BE CHASTENING (NOT CHASTISING)

- Give Correction, Not Punishment
- Give Covering, Not Embarrassment
- Give Justice, Not Fairness

Chastisement is punishment; chastening is correction. It's very important to understand this. Your goal is not to punish the child but to correct their behavior.

God does not chastise us; He can't because He already chastised Jesus. He will correct you though. He corrects those whom He loves.

Never ever correct a child in front of other people because it produces shame. Shame is a result of the fall, remember, and it never produces good fruit. Jesus bore our sin and shame on the cross. If you are in a public place, take them to the bathroom or to the car to spank them.

The Bible says to use a rod. This is essentially a wooden stick.

6. BE COMPASSIONATE

- Hold Them
- Hug Them
- Heal Them

Take them to another room and ask them why they are getting a spanking. Make sure they understand why; because they disobeyed what you told them not to do. Then spank them, and spank them to where they will not ever want it again!

Hold them. They will want to get away from you but do your best to gently hold them. You are stronger than they are. After a minute or so tell them to sssshhhh, and tell them that daddy loves them. Tell them to stop crying.

Hug them. Tell them to give you a hug and tell them that you love them.

Heal them. Tell them again that you love them.

7. BE CONFIRMING

- Release Forgiveness
- Reaffirm Your Love
- Rejoice With Them

Take their hands and tell them to ask you to forgive them. Tell them to say, "Daddy, will you forgive me for disobeying?" Look at them and tell them that you forgive them.

And then you can lead them in a prayer to ask God to forgive them.

Then make sure they know why you spanked them. They will tell you because they disobeyed you, but make sure they know it's because you love them. And tell them that daddy loves them a lot!

Finally rejoice! Do something fun with your child after you discipline them. Make them laugh.

A story from Pastor Morris:

One time after he had finished spanking his oldest son Josh, he was about 2½ years old, they got up and played. He would trip or find a quarter and give it to him; whatever he could think of to let his son know that it was over. Pastor Morris picked his son up as they were about to leave and as he was opening the door, his son reached his arm out to stop the door. His son then said to him, "Daddy, thank you for loving me".