


**Parenting - Discipline**  
Biblical Soul-Care Workshops

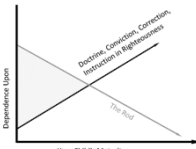
Week 9  
Session 3



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**I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline**

A. Correction alone is enough. Exercising strong discipline alone will not result in a heart that pleases God. **Correction may alter behavior, but will not change the heart, nor will it prevent a wrathful lifestyle.**




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**I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline**

B. Firm discipline doesn't work  
"I've seen kids turn out badly from homes of firm discipline, it doesn't 'work'"  
"Why did that happen? What other principles were neglected or wrongfully used?"  
1. Some "firm discipline" is simply reactions of uncontrolled anger.

for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. (Ja. 1:20)



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**I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline**

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)

2. Some parents discipline because their children bother them.

"I'm sick and tired of \_\_\_\_\_  
Knock it off!"

"I'll knock you into the middle of next week" Bill Cosby




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**I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline**

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)

3. Some parents discipline their children without ever praising them.

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (Rom. 13:7)

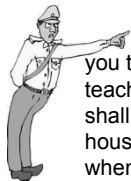


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**I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline**

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)

4. Some parents discipline without teaching.




And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut. 6:6-7)

**Discipline without teaching produces rebels or legalists**

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### I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)  
 5. "We tried spanking, but it just teaches our children to hit" or "it doesn't work."




a. **Unbelief:** If you're not convinced that God's instructions are true and superior to your own wisdom, you will not carry them out.

b. **Inconsistency:** A "double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8); An inconsistent discipline plan (or lack of a plan) **trains children** "My parents discipline live by feelings, not by biblical absolutes".

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### I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)




c. **Improper methods:** Spanking in uncontrolled anger, punching, swatting a diapered bottom, focusing on punishment -- these methods are ineffective (in terms of godly goals) because they are incorrect. Improper methods do not promise the benefits of Prov. 22:15. Additionally, at times the spanking may be done right, but the teaching or "admonition of the Lord" is inadequate or incorrect.

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### I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline

B. Firm discipline doesn't work (continued...)

d. **Faintheartedness:** Parents must be "in it for the long haul." Persistence is required, regardless of immediate results. This may be true of an isolated discipline encounter, or the long term. Commit to "doing the right thing, for the right reason, regardless of the outcome".





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### I. Unbiblical Ideas about Discipline

C. Firm discipline hinders a child's creativity and potential.

D. Firm discipline warps a child's personality.  
 What helps us to properly address this wrong idea about discipline?

*The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. (Ps. 58:3)*

Mold  vs.  Unfold

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### II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline

Think biblically about your responsibilities - teach others to think biblically. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

A. The Lord corrects those He loves, for their benefit.

<sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? <sup>6</sup>"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (Heb. 12:5-7)

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### II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline

B. Be convinced that God's way is best!  
 Few parents delight in administering discipline, especially the "rod" or spanking, yet God instructs parents to use of that form of correction.

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. (Prov. 22:15)

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (Prov. 13:24)

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

B. Be convinced that God's way is best!  
(continued...)

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol. (Pr. 23: 13-14)

Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death. (Pr. 19:18)

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb 12:11)

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

C. Biblical discipline is for correction, not punishment.

Punishment looks back, correction looks to the future. Parents seek to develop Christ-likeness so that, when the child is independent from you, he/she will make the right choices based on internal convictions.

Past (Punishment) Offense (Correction) Future

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

C. Biblical discipline is for correction, not punishment. (continued...)

Past (Punishment) Offense (Correction) Future

Which focus do you read in the following statements?

- I told you not to do it, and now you're going to pay!
- I've had it, you're grounded!
- You did not listen to your Mother. Instead, you chose to disobey. You must learn to obey. Now, what does God expect your Mother to do when you disobey?

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

D. Plan ahead, learn biblical communication to *correct* and to set our children on a God-honoring *path*.

God clearly communicated with Adam in the Garden of Eden before he was placed in the Garden. Christ-like parenting communicates clear expectations ahead of time.

If a parent was God, he/she could administer the perfect discipline at the perfect time to the perfect degree, to the correct person, with pure motives. Since parents are not God, they should plan in order to avoid and minimize sin.

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

D. Plan ahead, learn biblical communication to correct and to set our children on a God-honoring path. (continued...)

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. (Pr. 18:13)

And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. (Mk. 3:25)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Gen. 2:24)

Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.. (Pr. 19:18)

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

D. Plan ahead, learn biblical communication to *correct* and to set our children on a God-honoring *path*. (continued...)

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. (Pr. 22:15)

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (Matt. 18:15)

Caution: Discipline and spank in private; avoid embarrassment, shame, intrusive involvement from others

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

D. Plan ahead, learn biblical communication to *correct* and to set our children on a God-honoring *path*. (continued...)

Caution: "*Slow to anger*" (Ja, 1:19-20) means not reactive or not impulsive; seek to honor God by avoiding excessive force or abuse; develop a discipline plan and routine, then carefully and thoughtfully carry it out.

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your [child's] eye. (Matt. 7:5)

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

E. What Scripture above would be helpful in the following situations?

Situation	Scripture
"Just wait until your Father gets home!"	
"Do you intend to obey right away with a happy, submissive spirit?"	
"I don't care what you did, you're all going to get a spanking, NOW!"	
"You can't spank a child his age... He's too young."	
"Mommy never spanks me for that."	

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**II. Cultivating Biblical Attitudes about Discipline**

E. What Scripture above would be helpful in the following situations?

Situation	Scripture
"I don't know what happened... I just started to spank him and I couldn't stop..."	
"That spanking had to hurt- my hand hurts"	
"OK- you want to throw a fit in public? You're gonna get a whipping right here."	
"Nobody's going to tell me what to do- I'll raise my kids my way."	

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**III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline**

A. Commit to parenting biblically.

- Many people desire to have children, but refuse to be biblical parents.
- Parenting begins with a surrendered heart to biblical truths and righteous standards.
- Parenting requires wisdom from God, hard work and perseverance in many trials and pressures.

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**III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline**

A. Commit to biblical parenting (continued...)

- Parenting requires attention to details and intentional commitment to nurturing a teaching environment of correction and guidance.
  - Rules should be reasonable
    - Even God's commands are reasonable for us For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 Jn. 5:3)

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**III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline**

B. Commit to biblical convictions

- That children are a gift from God.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. (Ps. 127:3)

- You are God's ambassadors and will someday give an account for your parenting.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor. 5:10)

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### B. Commit to biblical convictions (continued...)

3. You have access to all the wisdom you need for parenting.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (Ja. 1:5)

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, (2 Pet. 1:3)

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### B. Commit to biblical convictions (continued...)

##### 4. Love sets limits

Placing limits on a young person's life (from a small infant to teens) does not cause or heal a problem. Limits provide a culture for teaching. Limits develop habits in thinking and behaviors. Children who are not trained to live within limits are trained to become more effective idolaters and will fail in begin productive in their culture.

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### C. Discipline with clearly defined rules

1. Rules should be biblical (Jer. 17:5-6; Is. 5:20)

2. Rules must be **reasonable**

a. Because Gods commands are reasonable - "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 Jn. 5:3)

3. Rules must be **defined to be understood by the child.**

a. Define "clean room" so your child knows clearly what that looks like in their vocabulary

b. Define consequences for failing to obey rules? Get the child's input when setting consequences

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### C. Discipline with clearly defined rules (continued...)

4. Rules must be **enforceable.**

a. "Go to your room. You're grounded for life!"

b. "Don't ever talk that way again."

c. "Sit in that chair; don't you move 'till I come back."

What rules might be more effective in looking forward towards correction, vs. punishment?

What rules might be more effective in providing clear, enforceable consequences?

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### D. Using "cause and effect" for correction

1. Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. (Eccl. 8:11)
2. Small children need to learn this early
3. Focus on habits that show rebellion, even with very young children
4. Early focus on behavior is important, however addressing proper motives that produce change can be done much earlier than many think

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

#### E. Rules without follow-through is sinful (Eph. 6)

1. Creates frustration and anger
2. Models hypocrisy and disrespect.
3. Teaches that authority can't be trusted
4. Teaches disregard for authority
5. Teaches children to ignore God's word
6. Teaches children that God doesn't need to be feared and obeyed
7. Teaches children to lie

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

- F. Teach biblical repentance
1. Model a balance of Grace and truth; your actions speak louder than your words! "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim. 4:12)
  2. Repentance isn't simply saying "I'm sorry" teach them to take responsibility for the sin committed.

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### III. Essentials of Biblical Discipline

3. Address God first
  - a. Teach the Gospel according to 1 Jn. 1:7-:2:1
  - b. Reassure the child of your love for them and your commitment to help them be pleasing to God.
  - c. Sometimes a warning (if not abused by overuse) can be a teaching tool to remind the child that you want to help them to obey God.
4. Then the appropriate person(s)

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#### Suggested steps when spanking:

1. Give clear expectations ahead of time. Do not repeat warnings. If a single warning is given don't threaten- rather *inform*.
2. Determine if an offense has been committed. If so, proceed to private setting. En route parent is to check self control, review discipline plan, and pray. (*"Remove log"*)
3. Discuss *"What was the expected behavior, attitude?" "What did you do?" "What should you/could you have done?" "What does the Bible call what you did?" "Who chose to do wrong?" "What does the Bible tell Daddy to do when you disobey?"*

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#### Suggested steps when spanking:

4. Have the child assume a proper position. For the smaller child across the lap is appropriate, for the larger child leaning over a bed is safe. For a child who is out of control restraint by the parent may be necessary until control is achieved.
5. Slowly, lovingly, prayerfully, and thoughtfully proceed with the spanking. Use a rod, predetermine the number of spanks, use the wrist rather than a full arm swing, see that contact is made with the child's hindquarters.

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#### Suggested steps when spanking:

6. Stop, and give the child an opportunity to regain composure. Then discuss with the child how they did with the spanking- *"You did a good job"*, *"You did not stand still"*, etc. Ask the child the diagnostic questions in question 5, and assess for a "change in direction". If he is still rebellious, disrespectful, belligerent, and without repentance discuss that the facial expressions, tones, words, or actions are not showing the fruit of repentance and that another spanking will be necessary. Repeat the above steps.

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#### Suggested steps when spanking:

7. If repentance is evidenced discuss plans for forgiveness and restoration, pray for forgiveness and give thanks. If repentance is not evidenced pray that God will bring conviction, and that the child will be protected from danger. Encourage the child to choose to please God by obeying. Be careful to not bring up the disobedience wrongly when forgiveness has been granted.
8. Lastly, show love to the child. Hug, give a kiss, remind them of the purpose of discipline.  
*"Don't just keep slapping them back on track, go ahead of them and lay some good track."*

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**Encourage a right attitude about discipline:**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pr. 1:7)

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. (Pr. 12:1)

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (Heb. 12:7-8)

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:11)

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## Going Deeper

<p>Withhold not correction Teach them Diligently Don't make me count to three Shepherding a Child's heart The Heart of Anger Your Family God's Way Age of opportunity</p>	<p>Bruce Ray Priolo Plowman T. Tripp Priolo Mack P. Tripp</p>	