

## **“Parents, Discipline Your Children!”**

*Ephesians 6:4b*

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*“fathers...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (NASB, ESV) [A+]*

*“bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (NKJV) [B-]*

*“bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (KJV) [C-]*

*“take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master” (The Message) [D-]*

*“in the chastening and admonition of the Lord” (AT Robertson) [A+]*

### **1. The parents are responsible for bringing up their children**

*“fathers...bring them up”*

### **2. Be balanced in your parenting**

*“discipline and instruction” (Ephesians 6:4b)*

*“the rod and reproof give wisdom” (Proverbs 29:15)*

*“strike...reprove” (Proverbs 19:25)*

#### **A. ‘Discipline’ is the word *paideia* and means ‘chasten,’ ‘strike,’ ‘smite’...‘spank’**

*“If you endure **chastening** [paideian], God deals with you as sons; for what son is there whom a father does not **chasten** [paideuei]?...Now no **chastening** [paideia] seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:7, 11, NKJV)*

*“we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, **smitten** [Heb makka=‘beat’] of God and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the **chastening** [paideia] for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5, NASB, LXX)*

*“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of **discipline** [paideia] will remove it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15, LXX)*

#### **B. ‘Instruction’ is the word *nouthesia* (nous/mind + thesia/to place) and means ‘counsel, teach, instruct, admonish, exhort,’ with the emphasis on **verbal** instruction addressing the way a person **thinks****

<b>C. <u>Discipline</u> = <i>paideia</i></b>	+	<b><u>Instruction</u> = <i>nouthesia</i></b>
-physical/corporal		-verbal/intellectual
-addressing the body		-addressing the mind
-external		-internal
-negative		-positive
-corrective		-preventative/preparatory
-‘chasten’		-‘counsel’

### 3. Implement biblical chastening

- A. The NT advocates physical chastening  
*fathers...discipline* (Ephesians 6:4)  
*"chastening...yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness"* (Hebrews 12:11)  
*"Shall I come to you with a rod"* (1 Corinthians 4:21)
- B. God mandated corporal punishment in the OT  
*"if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of stripes according to his guilt"* (Deuteronomy 25:2)
- C. Jesus condoned corporal punishment  
*"that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few"* (Luke 12:47-48)
- D. Scripture mandates biblical chastening  
*"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently"* (Proverbs 13:24)  
*"Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death"* (Proverbs 19:18)  
*"Penalties are prepared for mockers, and floggings for the backs of fools"* (Proverbs 19:29)  
*"Blows that wound scour away evil, and strokes reach the innermost parts"* (Proverbs 20:30)  
*"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him"* (Proverbs 22:15)  
*"Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from the grave"* (Proverbs 23:13-14)  
*"A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools"* (Proverbs 26:3)  
*"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother"* (Proverbs 29:15)

### 4. Chasten according to biblical guidelines

- A. Spank while your children are young  
*"Discipline your son while there is hope"* (Proverbs 19:18)  
*"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a **child** (neou = 'fresh, new, young'); the rod of discipline will remove it far from him"* (Proverbs 22:15)
- B. Spank for foolishness, not childishness  
*"floggings are for the backs of fools"* (Proverbs 19:29)
- C. Spank with the correct implement  
*"A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools"* (Proverbs 26:3)

- D. Spank on the designated area  
*"In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back" (Proverbs 14:3)*  
*"floggings are for the backs" (Proverbs 19:29)*  
*"a rod for the back" (Proverbs 26:3)*
  
- E. Spankings should sting  
*"Blows that wound scour away evil" (Proverbs 20:30)*  
*"chastening [is]... painful" (Hebrews 12:11)*  
*"There is an appointed time for everything...A time to weep" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)*
  
- F. Spank with the correct motive  
*"beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from the grave" (Proverbs 23:14)*  
*"scour away evil...reach the innermost parts" (Proverbs 20:30)*  
*"foolishness...remove it" (Proverbs 22:15)*  
*"it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11)*  
*"he who loves him disciplines him" (Proverbs 13:24)*
  
- G. Don't spank in anger  
*"do not sin in your anger" (Ephesians 4:26)*
  
- H. Spank in private  
*"in private" (Matthew 18:15)*
  
- I. Parents do the spanking  
*"what son is there whom a father does not chasten?" (Hebrews 12:7)*  
*"Discipline your son" (Proverbs 19:18)*
  
- J. Give verbal reproof with each spanking  
*"the rod and reproof give wisdom" (Proverbs 29:15)*
  
- K. Give comfort after spanking  
*"forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow; wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him" (2 Corinthians 2:7-8)*
  
- L. Spank consistently  
*"discipline him diligently" (Proverbs 13:24)*
  
- M. Spank for specific, few and known offenses  
*"foolishness" (Proverbs 22:15)*  
*"eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot" (Exodus 21:24)*
  
- N. Teach your child that God requires spanking

For further study I recommend: 'You and Your Child' by Charles Swindoll; 'The Heart of Anger' by Lou Priolo and 'Shepherding a Child's Heart' by Tedd Tripp