

The Facts of Life & Parenting: PARENTS, PRIESTS, & PRAYER

Exodus 40:34-Leviticus 1:5

REVIEW

1. Spanking CANNOT change a child's heart nor can it give the child a new nature. The parent must be born again, and trust God's Spirit to work in the heart of their child also.
2. Painful discipline is an act of faith, hope, and love (Prov.13:24).
3. Discipline for disobedience to parental authority must be painful (Heb.12:11).
4. The rod is the instrument spoken of most frequently in Scripture with reference to disciplining children for their disobedience to parental authority (Prov.10:13; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; **23:13,14**; 29:15,17).
5. The rod however, is not the only method of administering painful discipline for disobedience to parental authority (cf. Exodus 21:18-25).

I. PARENTAL DISCIPLINE IS A PROCESS

- A. Discipline includes explaining to your child what the Bible says (**PROPHET**).
Discipline is painful when your child disobeys the boundaries you have set (**KING**).
Discipline is restorative (**PRIEST**)
- B. Children, for the most part, turn out the way they do because of their parental training, or lack thereof (Prov.29:15,17).

II. THE THIRD PROCESS OF PARENTAL DISCIPLINE IS "PRIESTLY" (Lev.1:2-5)

- A. In the Old Testament, when a person sinned, they were to offer up a sacrifice (**Burnt Offerings**: Lev.1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24; **Sin Offerings**: Lev.4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22).
 1. For the burnt offering, the sinner would then place his hands on the head of the offering representing the transfer of guilt (Lev.1:4; cf. Lev.3:2,8; 16:21; Num.8:12)
 2. Afterward, the sinner would cut the throat of the sacrifice (Lev.1:5)
 3. The sacrifice offered had to be without defect (Lev.1:3; cf. Mal.1:13)
 - a. The Bible says that Jesus "committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).
 - b. God will not accept a person into His presence if he or she is unholy (Lev.1:3; cf. Heb.12:14).
- B. In the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, there was a transaction. The sacrificial animal died in place of the sinner.
- C. Before parents can restore their children back to God, parents must first be restored to God (Matt.15:14; Luke 6:39). The only way that parents and parenting can be made acceptable to God is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- D. Parents, your job as priests is to point your children to Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (cf. John 1:29).

- E. *If Jesus already died as a substitute for our sins, then why should parents discipline their children?*
1. There is a difference between the suffering of Jesus on the cross and the parent's painful discipline of their child.
 2. The suffering of Jesus was His offering up of His own body to take away God's wrath because of our sin.
 3. On the cross, Jesus was forsaken by the Father, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Psalm 22:1; Matt.27:46; Mark 15:34)
 4. When parents discipline their children, they are not trying to make them atone for their sins. Parents are not acting in wrath against their children (Heb.12:9-11).
 5. When a parent physically disciplines their child, it is for the purpose of setting the child on the right path (Gen.18:19; Deut.4:9; Psalm 78:3-6; Prov.22:5).
 6. Painful discipline is also a reminder to the child that if they do not repent of their sin, that God will pour out His infinite wrath on them (Prov.23:13,14).

REVIEW OF PARENTING PRINCIPLES:

1. Parenting is impossible! Parents must rely humbly upon God's grace.
2. The Biblical worldview must shape our understanding of parenting:
 - *WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM?* Children are a possession of God, entrusted to the care of parents. Therefore, parents must learn what God says about how they are raised.
 - *WHY DO CHILDREN DISOBEY?* While different answers have been given to this most important question, the answer is as old as Adam and Eve: Children are disobedient because they are conceived sinners.
 - *WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR CORRECTING A CHILD'S MISBEHAVIOR?* Your goal for your children is not ultimately that they obey you, but that they obey God from the heart (Ephesians 6:4).
3. Discipline is a three-step process that is related to our being made in the Image of God:
 - Parents are prophets/BIBLE
 - Parents are kings/ROD
 - Parents are priests/KNEES

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

*Discuss a **specific** biblical game plan for disciplining your children. The outline could look something like:*

I. BOUNDARIES WE (PARENTS) WILL EXPLAIN TO OUR CHILDREN (PROPHET)

II. CONSEQUENCES FOR WHEN OUR CHILDREN DISOBEY (KING)

III. RESTORING OUR CHILD AND POINTING THEM TO JESUS (PRIEST)

Be as specific as you can be in addressing the particular sins that your child seems to struggle with. For example, "When our child throws a temper tantrum when he doesn't get what he wants, we will take him into the bedroom and explain what he did wrong. Then

we will explain that because he disobeyed he is going to be spanked five times on the bottom. If I (the parent) am out of control, I will leave the child in the bedroom until I regain control. Then I will spank him, and pray with him asking Jesus to forgive him for his sin. After the prayer, I will tell my child that he also needs to ask me for forgiveness. After I will say, "I forgive you" and then give him a big hug and kiss and tell him, "I love you." If you need help for specific problems, feel free to talk to Pastor Aaron or attend the women's Bible study where practical issues are always being discussed!

Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (2/24/2002). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16.
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ILLUSTRATION:

Roald Dahl's *book*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is the story of five children who were allowed into Mr. Willy Wonka's chocolate factory.

One of the winners was Veruca Salt, the very demanding daughter of a successful man in the peanut business. Veruca told her dad that she simply *had* to have one of the Golden Tickets. Mr. Salt obediently purchased hundreds of thousands of candy bars and had them loaded onto trucks and sent directly to his own factory and paid his workers to open the candy bars and look for a Golden Ticket. After days of no luck, and Veruca's kicking, yelling, and screaming, "Where's my Golden Ticket! I want my Golden Ticket!" a ticket was finally found by one of the workers on the evening of the fourth day.

While in Willy Wonka's factory, Veruca decides that she has to have one of the squirrels that shells walnuts for Willy Wonka.

"Hey, Mummy!" shouted Veruca Salt... "I've decided I want a squirrel! Get me one of those squirrels!"

"Don't be silly, sweetheart," said Mrs. Salt. "These all belong to Mr. Wonka."

"I don't care about that!" shouted Veruca. "I want one. All I've *got* at home is two dogs and four cats and six bunny rabbits and two parakeets and three canaries and a green parrot and a turtle and a bowl of goldfish and a cage of white mice and a silly old hamster! I want a *squirrel!*"

Mr. Salt, Veruca's father, stepped forward. "Very well, Wonka," he said importantly, taking out a wallet full of money, "How much d'you want for one of these crazy squirrels? Name your price."

"They're not for sale," Mr. Wonka answered. "She can't have one."

"Who says I can't!" shouted Veruca. "I'm going in to grab me a squirrel this very minute!"

"Don't!" said Mr. Wonka," but it was too late. Instead of shelling walnuts the squirrels stopped their shelling and decided to test Veruca to see if she was a bad nut. Then all at once, the squirrels pulled Veruca to the ground and started carrying her across the floor toward the garbage shoot.

Mr. Wonka said, "...she is a bad nut after all...Her head must have sounded quite hollow." After the squirrels threw Veruca down the garbage shoot, factor workers, called Oompa-Loompas sang a song:

*...And this is the price she has to pay
For going so very far astray.
But now, my dears, we think you might
Be wondering – is it really right
That every single bit of blame
And all the scolding and the shame
Should fall upon Veruca Salt?
Is she the only one at fault?
For though she's spoiled, and dreadfully so,
A girl can't spoil herself, you know.
Who spoiled her, then? Ah, who indeed?
Who pandered to her every need?
Who turned her into such a brat?*

Who are the culprits? Who did that?

Alas! You needn't look so far

To find out who these sinners are.

They are (and this is very sad)

Her loving parents, MUM and DAD....

(Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* [Alfred A. Knopf: New York, Revised Edition 1973] pp.116-125)